(خصح بخاری: مدیث نمر 5998) **Barkat Rice Mills**

25th death anniversary of Shaheed-e-Pakistan

In the early morning of 17th of October 1998, Hamdard Pakistan's founder, an acclaimed physician and social reformer, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, embraced martyrdom at the entrance of Hamdard Matab Arambagh Karachi. On the very place, from where he began the exceptional journey of Hamdard Pakistan back in 1948. (See Special Report on Page 3)

Only 14 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

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

Rabius Sani 1, Tuesday, October 17, 2023



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'hird BR Forum

BEIJING: Mr. Wang Zhigang, Minister Of Science and Technology receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival on Monday



≥ 2,800 Palestinians martyred

Pakistan to send humanitarian aid to Gaza

FM Jilani phones Egyptian, Iranian counterparts over situation in Gaza

ISLAMABAD/GAZA: Pakistan will send humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the besieged Palestinians who are facing the brunt of Israel's oppression, the Foreign Office (FO) announced Monday.

More than 2,800 Palestinians have been martyred with over 10,000 wounded due to Israel's ongoing aerial bombing of the Gaza Strip.

"In view of the human tragedy unfolding in Gaza, the government of Pakistan has decided to immediately dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza, to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian brothers and sisters," the FO said while denouncing Israel's indiscriminate aggression and siege of the densely populated Gaza Strip.

The FO also apprised that Pakistan is collaborating with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, relevant United Nations (UN) agencies, the government of Egypt and the country's foreign missions abroad to deliver aid to the Palestinians.

CPEC achieves

says Solangi

major milestones,



Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani spoke with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian with both agreeing upon urgent steps to be taken for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Jilani also spoke with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri blown ground invasion.

The development comes as earlier, assuring the latter of Pakistan's

More than one million people have fled their homes in Gaza in scenes of chaos and despair as Israel bombarded the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip and continued amassing troops Monday in preparation for a full-

Israel declared war on the group a day after waves of its fighters broke through the heavily fortified border on October 7, shooting, stabbing and burning to death more than 1,400 people, most of them civilians.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Office has raised alarm over the humanitarian situation in the besieged Palestinian enclave, calling for an "urgent need" to halt hostilities to allow humanitarian aid into

"The access to water, access to food, the forced evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people into southern Gaza has created a very, very difficult humanitarian situation in southern Gaza as well." UNHRO spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told CNN on Monday.

US President Joe Biden — while speaking to CBS News's 60 Minutes has also backed a humanitarian corridor to let people flee the war-hit area as well as allow the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food and water, into Gaza. Agencies

11 journalists killed in Gaza since Oct 7

Group documents 'violent escalation' in targeting of journalists since start of war on Gaza Strip on Oct. 7



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved major milestones in successful execution of road infrastructure and power projects as well as the establishment of Special Economic Zones worth over 62 billion dollars.

Addressing an event, jointly organized by the Bahria University and the China Media Group, in Islamabad on Monday, he said CPEC has expanded from Government to Government to Business to Business mode and is now reaching hearts and minds through enhanced people to people contacts. He said it is a very established fact that hearts and culture have deeper impact on human lives.



According to the report released Sunday by the Freedom Committee, affiliated with the Palestinian Journally, said the report. This led to injuries ists Syndicate, 11 Palestinian journal-

ists have been documented as killed by Israeli airstrikes since Oct. 7. A statement by the group provided "documentation of the targeting of journalists" from the start of the war on the Gaza Strip until the evening of Oct. 15. It also decried "the violent escalation in the targeting of Palestin-

ian journalists." Over 20 injuries were also observed, the most serious of which occurred in the Gaza Strip. Following the announcement of the complete or partial shelling of approximately 20 homes belonging to journalists, the Israeli army escalated by targeting the residences of several journalists direct-



and the tragic loss of family members. In addition, approximately 50

headquarters and media institutions were destroyed as a result of shelling, including Al-Aqsa Media Network, Ma'an News Agency, Al-Quds newspaper, Baladna Radio, Zaman Radio. Al-Quran Radio, the Al-Jazeera Network office, Palestine TV, and the AFP offices, according to the report.

In the occupied West Bank, the report also documented several Palestinian journalists being injured and the assault, detention, blocking of coverage, firing on journalists, and confiscation and destruction of journalists' equipment by Israel forces.

IHC disposes of plea against jail trial of PTI chairman

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday disposed of the plea against the jail trail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in the cipher case, observing that apparently there was no dishonesty as the petitioner himself had expressed security concerns several times. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq wrote the verdict in the petition of the defence in the said matter.

The court, in its decision, said the PTI chairman could approach the trial court if he had reservations about the jail trial. Earlier during hearing, the petitioner's counsel Sardar Latif Khan Khosa said that the trial court had dismissed the request of physical remand on August 16, and jail trial was started on August 30. He alleged that the cipher case was made with the intention of malice. Special Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi apprised the court about the chain custody of the cipher. Agencies

PM arrives in China to participate in 3rd BR Forum

Caretaker PM Kakar also orders cut in essential services prices after reduction in fuel prices

Spokesman Report

BEIJING/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has arrived in China to participate in the '3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation beginning in

He was received by Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and Pakistan's Envoy to China Moin-The Prime Minister is undertaking the

visit at the invitation of China's President Xi Jinping. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials. The Prime Minster will attend the open-

ing ceremony of the BRF and address the High-Level Forum titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' tomorrow. The Prime Minister will hold bilateral meet-

ings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of the Communist Party of China Mr. Li Xi. $The \ leaders \ will \ discuss \ all \ facets \ of \ bil a teral$

relations, with particular focus on strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They will exchange views on major regional and global developments.

The Prime Minister will also meet with other leaders of countries participating in the BRF. He will meet with leading Chinese entrepreneurs and preside over an interactive

roundtable on CPEC to explore new avenues for strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and China.

To further strengthen regional connectivity, trade, investment and people-to-people contacts between the neighbouring regions of Pakistan and China, the Prime Minister will pay a two-day visit to Urumqi in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

In Urumqi, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will meet with local leadership and business persons and deliver a speech at the Xinjiang University. The visit of the Prime Minister comes in the backdrop of ongoing celebrations marking the ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Meanwhile, after the substantial cut in fuel prices, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered the reduction in the prices of essential commodities and services accordingly in an effort to provide relief to the masses.

For the current fortnight, the government has revised petroleum prices to provide much-awaited relief to the common man, reducing the per litre price of motor spirit oil (petrol) by Rs40 and high-speed diesel (HSD)

As per the Finance Division's notification, the reduced prices of petrol and HSD would be applicable from October 16, and remain in effect for the next fortnight, with petrol available at Rs283.38 per litre and HSD at

Pakistan committed for economic dev, climate resilience: Dr Shamshad

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has reinforced Pakistan's commitment to sustainable ed for the most climate-vul- Morocco.

Minister for Finance, Reve- economic development and nerable economies, on the

nue, and Economic Affairs climate resilience. She was sidelines of annual meeting speaking at the "V20 Minis- of World Bank and Interterial Dialogue X" conduct- national Monetary Fund in

Hakim Mohammed Said

9 January 1920 - 17 October 1998 Physician. Educationist. Visionary. Philanthropist.



Did you have life easy? No. But you made it your mission To make it a little easier for others.

Orphaned at two. You opened your heart to all children, Giving them respect, education, care, Making sure their little voices didn't go unheard.

As an adult, you had to start life twice: Once in your birthplace, once in your land of choice. You wore holes in your shoes, But your spirit of service stayed intact.

Two rented rooms, pieces of rented furniture: You started small, but your heart was big. Your God-given gifts, you used in God's name, And He blessed you hundredfold.

Many men's pride is swelled with success; Yours increased your humility. So you turned your institution over to Allah -

Its profits to profit the poor.

All men have dreams - a thing apart from life. You said Why not? and worked to make them real. Free clinics and dispensaries on wheels, Hospitals, schools, colleges, even a university!

You married modern science to ancient medicine, And bred respect for hikmat in doubting hearts. Journals, books, societies, and conferences, Assemblies, think-tank - all bear witness to your drive.



One morning a gun spoke, to silence you forever. O, vain attempt! Your words, your works live on. The gun but gave you a martyr's immortality!

You spoke the truth, unwavering, unafraid.

Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan · Hamdard Foundation Pakistan · Madinat al-Hikmah · Hamdard $University \cdot Bait \ al \cdot Hikmah \cdot Faculty \ of \ Eastern \ \ Medicine \cdot Dr \ Hafiz \ Mohammad \ Ilyas \ Institute \ of \ Pharmacology$ & Herbal Sciences · Faculty of Pharmacy · Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences · Faculty of Management Sciences \cdot Faculty of Engineering Sciences & Technology \cdot Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities \cdot Faculty of Law · Shifa-ul-Mulk Memorial Hospital · Hamdard University Hospital Taj Medical Complex · Hamdard University Dental Hospital · Naimat Begum Hamdard University Hospital · Hamdard Intermediate College for Science and Commerce · Hamdard Public School · Hamdard Village School · Idara-e-Said · 41 free Hamdard Clinics (Matab) · 20 Free Mobile Dispensaries · Shura Hamdard · Naunehal Assemblies · Hamdard Publications $Hamdard\ Naunehal \cdot Hamdard\text{-}e\text{-}Sehat \cdot Historicus \cdot Hamdard\ Islamicus \cdot Hamdard\ Medicus$

The Spokesman

Called on

RAWALPINDI: Commander Royal Army of Oman, Major General Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.



Ashrafi, Erbas urge immediate halt to Gaza bombardment

UN, int'l community should play a more active role in immediately halting the brutal bombardment

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Monday held a meeting with the President of Religious Affairs of Turkey, Dr. Ali Erbas. Both the leaders vehemently condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestinian territories, including Gaza, and called upon the United Nations and the international community to play a more active role in immediately halting the brutal bombardment, said a state-

They emphasized that Israel's actions constitute the mane atrocities inflicted upon the people of Gaza, including attacks on schools, hospitals,



in accordance with the United Nations' resolutions. They worst war crimes, with inhu- advocated for restoring the of Israel's encirclement. pre-1967 status of Palestine. Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi and Dr. Ali Erbas also expressed and relief teams. Both the deep concern over the dire

tinian issue must be resolved ly the shortage of essential called for an immediate halt to supplies like food and water, the bombardment of Gaza and arising from the consequences

"This situation is a clear violation of international agreements and the United Nations Security Council's leaders stressed that the Pales-situation in Gaza, especial-resolutions," they added. They ing concerns of the Muslim of the recent Israeli hostilities.

the end of the unjust blockade, allowing international aid to reach the affected people.

Both the leaders stated that the issues of Palestine and Kashmir were long-stand-

Ummah, which should be resolved in the light of the United Nations' resolutions.

They condemned the bloodshed and oppressive occupation in Kashmir and Palestine by India and Israel, respectively. The resilience and sacrifices of the Kashmiris and Palestinians in their struggle for freedom were acknowledged, they

Both leaders emphasized the need for Pakistan Ulema Council and the Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs to enhance cooperation to address the issues facing the Muslim Ummah and work collectively toward their resolution.

Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi also thanked the Turkish government for its steadfast stance against Israeli aggression and expressed gratitude for their timely condemnation

Oman lauds Pakistan's achievements against terrorism

RAWALPINDI: Commander Royal peace and stability, an Inter-Ser-Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

The visiting dignitary lauded in the fight against terrorism and

Army of Oman, Major General vices Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed. Earlier on arrival at the GHQ, the Commander Royal Army of Oman laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuthe Pakistan Army's achievements hada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the continued efforts for regional guard of honour to the dignitary.

Info Minister vows level-playing field to political parties

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said it was the caretaker's government responsibility to ensure level-playing for all the registered political parties during the whole electoral process. In a meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Minister, Solangi said "it was a shared responsibility of the caretaker set up to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in carrying out the whole electoral exercise across the country".

Both the Information Ministers discussed matters related to mutual interests including the upcoming general election, media cooperation between federal and provincial information departments and pathways for capacity building of journalists. They also discussed a plan to train Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's information officers in the Information Services Academy (ISA) here at Islamabad.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister said it was the need of hour to tackle current era challenges by imparting trainings to the officers and officials of the information departments on modern lines. The scope of the Ministry of Information has widened in the new era, and it is of journalists, he added. The careessential to harness the full potential of modern information systems in contemporary times, he added.

Solangi said his ministry would cial minister stressed. APP



strengthen the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Relations Department along new lines. In accordance with the mandate of the caretaker federal government, all-possible cooperation would be extended for better working environment with the provincial departments, he added. Journalists' Welfare Endowment Fund rules were crucial for the welfare of journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murtaza Solangi said, adding the fraternity had to perform duties in tough situ-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Minister Firdous Jamal Shah, on this occasion, said trainings were being imparted to the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding the use of social media. All-out efforts would be made for the welfare taker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would ensure election in the conducive environment, the provin-

Power sector experts urge energy efficiency policies in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The experts for growth and innovation. mentioned that while enerto formulate and implement tor Industry, NEECA; Asad national policies that would encourage energy efficiency and affordability of electricity for all customers. These al Organizations: Amer Zia, comments were made at a Advisor to CEO, K-Electric; be about saving energy but the webinar on Energy Conser- and Dr. Naveed Arshad Asso- cost of it. Therefore, standardivation, powered by K-Electric as part of Nutshell Communications' webinar series on the Future of Energy (FOE).

The discussion centered on addressing prevailing challenges and prospective solutions. The FoE series aims to dissect the current chalgy sector while emphasizing the immense potential (MEPS) were met. Amer Zia part of K-Electric's vision. He Feroze Baig highlighted the

including Feroze Baig, Direc-Mehmood Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Expert at National & Internation-(NCBC) at Lahore University of Management Sciencstandardization of consum-

from the power sector In attendance were experts gy-efficient products were essential, their availability held importance for the general public.

He stated, "For most people earning close to minimum wage, the concern would not ciate Professor and Director zation is essential while ensurof the National Center in Big ing that the products are Data and Cloud Computing cost-effective at the same time. Echoing the need to amplify awareness, Amer referred to es (LUMS). Asad Mehmood K-Electric's initiative of Roshdeliberated on the need for ni Bajis, which had brought a visible change in not only the er end products and ensur- consumption patterns of eleclenges facing Pakistan's enering that Minimum Efficientricity and recovery but also in an innovative tariff design for cy Performance Standards upholding the values that are the sector to become efficient.

ny's Rs 484 billion Investment Plan along the transmission and distribution value chain. which included the use of renewables for sustainable generation to enable access to affordable energy for all.

Dr. Naveed Arshad, while stressing the need for indigenization and creative solutions said, "It becomes challenging to implement innovative solutions in the absence of a framework that compels it. We need legislation at the national level that removes hindrances in embracing innovation." He also proposed moving towards

also spoke about the companeed for data-driven efficiency, stating, "Respective bodies need to focus on monitoring devices that can help in breaking down data in a timely manner instead of relying on sources providing obsolete numbers."

While conveying optimism despite the current challenges faced by Pakistan's energy sector, the panel drew focus on opportunities at hand in the energy efficiency domain, especially for harnessing the potential of carbon credits. All experts agreed that the indigenization of fuels and embracing energy efficiency as a culture could help the country in addressing its energy crisis. Agencies

SC orders RO to share employees info with applicant ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court access to information. The American

on Monday directed the Registrar Office to share the requested information about the SC employees with the applicant within seven days. The top court issued a 10-page written order into the case. The order was written by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa.

The order said that the Right to Information Act was not applicable to the SC. It said that access to information was right of people under Article 19 of the Constitution, and it was necessary for the person requesting the information to give reasons for it.

The court ordered the Registrar Office to refund the fee deposited by the applicant in connection with the intra-court appeal and the appeal in the Supreme Court. It said that the decision of the top court should also be issued in Urdu language. The order noted that the citizen had requested 100 countries have laws pertaining ents. APP

Australia beat Sri Lanka

by 5 wickets at WC2023

court has declared access to information in line with democracy, accountability and protection from corruption.

Giving an Islamic reference, it said there was no objection to asking Hazrat Umar about the clothes. The decision on access to information would be viewed in the context of Article 19A of the Constitution. The decision to deny the access to information must be based on reasonable grounds by the institution, person or authority, it added. In the present case, the registrar did not give any justification for not providing information to applicant Mukhtar Ahmed.

It may be mentioned here that the Pakistan Information Commission had asked the Registrar Office to share the requested information to the citizen. However, the IHC had terminated the decision of PIC, which was challenged before the top eight different informations from the court. The SC's bench had reserved Registrar Office about the employees its verdict on September 27, after of SC. It further added that more than hearing arguments from respond-

Pak-Indonesia to strengthen ties in diverse sectors

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia have reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen bilateral ties in diverse sectors particularly in trade and investment. The resolve was expressed during a

meeting between Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio in Islamabad on Monday. During the meeting, Chairman

Senate stressed the need for encouraging Indonesian businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

On Palestinian issue, Chairman Senate urged world to exert pressure on Israel, emphasizing the need to halt its aggression against Palestinians.

He also emphasized the significance of unity and consensus among Muslim

Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio commended Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and expressed Indonesia's keen interest in advancing bilateral relations in various domains.

AJK President lauds Kashmiri Diaspora for raising Kashmīr issue

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that overseas Kashmiris, especially Kashmiris living in the United States, have always played an important role in raising the issue of Kashmir at the international level.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Kashmiri expatriates led by Syed Aftab Shah at Jammu Kashmir House in a federal metropolis on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Kashmiris living in the United States have always been at the forefront in highlighting the plight of their Kashmiri brethren and exposing India's nefarious designs in the region.

Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the president said that there has been an immense increase in the incidents of bloodshed and violence in the IOK since the Modi government

stripped the region of its special status on August 5, 2019. The occupation forces, he said, have broken all records of barbarism and brutality.

He said that human rights violations taking place in the restive region were a challenge to the world's conscience. He said that given the precarious situation in the region, there was a dire need for the Kashmiri community to settle in the USA and should gear up their efforts to highlight the atrocities being committed by Indian forces in Kashmir.

Sultan said that the Kashmiri American citizens must use their influence and pursue the US government to play its proactive role to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully.

Barrister Chaudhry also appreciated Syed Aftab Shah for their struggle and service to the Kashmir cause. On this occasion, Shah invited President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry to visit America. APP

AmbAmna, German PRto EU agreeon expanding bilateral ties



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Permanent Resident of Germany to Europe-Clauss on Monday met with Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Amna Baloch in Brussels and international developments. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

an Union Ambassador Michael and discussed views on regional in as many games, with their semi-final qualification hopes hanging by a Beaten by India and South Africa in the first two matches, Australia showed some urgency with the ball and bundled out Sri Lanka for 209 inside 44 overs with Adam Zampa

Lanka, their first win of the World Cup

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa returned

figures of 4-47 to help bowl out Sri

Lanka for 209, a total the five-time

winners overhauled in 35.2 overs at

in three matches while former cham-

Australia registered their first win

Lucknow's Ekana Stadium.

2023 on Monday.

leading the rout on figures of 4-47. At 157-1 near the halfway stage, Sri Lanka looked poised to reach the

LUCKNOW: Half centuries by both 300-mark before the wheels came off Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis steered their innings and they had to settle for Australia to five-wicket victory over Sri a below-par total.

 $\overline{\mbox{After strong winds delayed the start}}$ of their chase, Australia made heavy weather of a small target before Josh Inglis made 58 and Glenn Maxwell (31) stayed put to see them home with nearly 15 overs to spare.

The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

pions Sri Lanka slipped to a third loss The top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

The winners of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 will earn US\$4 million. The runners-up will receive $US\$2\ million, while\ the\ losing\ semi-fi$ nalists will earn \$800,000 each from the total prize pot of US\$10 million.

PTI leader Farrukh Habib joins Tareen's IPP

He laments Imran Khan's policies that led to May 9

saf's (PTI) senior leader Farrukh Habib Monday decided to part ways with Imran Khan and joined the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), lamenting the ex-prime minister's policy of Ali Abbasi and Usman Dar, parted "violence".

The IPP was formed on June 8 by estranged PTI leaders Tareen and party due to severe disagreements, while several Imran loyalists have also joined hands with them.

Habib, announcing the development during a press conference at the against those involved in the events, IPP's head office in Lahore alongside the party's top leadership, said the May 9 events were condemnable and he was taken aback by them. "It will be remembered as a dark day," he said.

Habib, who was one of the pioneer members of PTI's student organisation, said: "I wasn't at my house for the past five months [...] and for the last few weeks, I wasn't even in contact with my family," the former state minister for information told journalists.

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-In- the past five months, I was constantly pondering whether I joined politics for this reason?" he said.

This setback to PTI comes weeks after two prominent leaders, Sadaqat ways with the former ruling party due to the May 9 events.

PTI Chairman Imran was arrest-Aleem Khan, who had left ex-PM's ed in a graft case on May 9, triggering strong protests from the party across the country in which state installations were targetted.

A crackdown was then launched leading to the arrest of hundreds of party workers and leaders — including Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood

Slamming Imran's narrative, Habib said PTI's "war" with the state institutions was "not a war between believers and non-believers", lamenting that the ex-premier brought the country to the verge of violence.

In the presser later, Habib mentioned that Imran's government was removed through constitutional "Since May 9, we did not face the law means, but the former prime minister and were away from our houses. For did not accept the reality.

Imran was ousted as the prime minister through a no-confidence motion — backed by the Pakistan Democratic Movement — in April last year. But Imran kept he was removed from office through a US-backed

"conspiracy" Habib said after the no-trust vote, Imran did not let his party members sit peacefully. The ex-minister said instead of adopting a policy in line with the laws of the land, Imran preferred

"Sometimes people become so emotional that they go far away from reality. I wanted to make Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan, but we kept moving farther away from it. I kept asking myself the same question over and over again: what are we resort-

"But instead of [promoting the struggle through ballot, Imran pushed people to opt bullet," Habib said, noting that the ex-prime minister used people as human shields to avoid arrest on multiple occasions.

Moving on, the ex-state minister said on the cipher issue, a joint statement was issued after the National

Security Committee meeting during Imran's tenure.

The statement mentioned that there was no conspiracy, but an intervention," Habib said, slamming Imran for using the cable for his political motives and not thinking about national interest.

Imran, who was originally arrested in a graft case in May, is still behind bars in the cipher case as a court tries him for revealing details of the secret

Habib said that PTI leaders were made to defend Imran when it came to the Toshakhana case — in which he was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

We were made to defend the undefendable. We did not know that the PTI chairman has also taken watches from Toshakhana," Habib said. He questioned Imran: "Whilst claiming high moral ground, how could you take watches from the Toshakhana?"

He said the PTI chairman, on the very first day when the controversy arose, should have said that he had bought watches from the Toshakha-

IIUI, Bank Alfalah ink MoU

№ Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University, Islamabad Pakistan and Bank Alfalah Limited have joined hands by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for free of cost digital banking.

The MoU is part of the efforts of IIUI President's vision of Students Facilita-



As per MoU, the Bank Alfalah will provide facility of mobile banking through its app for deposit of dues at IIUI. The students will also be given a facility of Afalah wallet that is an E wallet service to make banking and transactions more easy. The bank will also install special cash deposit machines to facilitate the IIUI community for payment of dues.

Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President IIUI and Adnan Nasir, Head Digital Payments Bank Alfalah signed MoU on behalf of their respec-

Dr. Hathal said that IIUI is committed to promote education and adopt the latest techniques. He opined that the student's centric approach is the cornerstone of the university's leadership's vision.

President IIUI further added that the university provides a sound intellectual and scholastic foundation for the ideological, moral, intellectual, social, economic and technological development of the Muslim Ummah within the framework of the values, ideals, principles and norms of Islam. The signing ceremony was also attended by Dr. N. B. Jumani, Vice President A&F IIUI, Bank Alfalah's Saqib Ali, Manager proximity, Muhammad Adeel, Asfand yar Khalid Butt, Ayaz Ali, Additional Director Finance and Mudassir Ahmed, Deputy Director Finance/ In-charge fee, IIUI.

On the occasion, Adnan Nasir said that he is an IIUI alumnus from the faculty of computing and it is a proud day that he is part of the project that is focused on IIUI students' service. The Honorable IIUI President said that IIUI Alumni are the varsity's true ambassadors who are bringing fame to this institution

Schools in Punjab 'not to be closed this Wednesday'

LAHORE: Interim Punjab Education Minister Mansoor Qadir said Monday that the government decided that educational institutions in the province would not be closed this Wednesday (October 18).

The caretakers were considering a proposal to shut down schools and offices on Wednesdays apart from the usual weekly offs in light of

But in recent days, due to the rain, the air quality has improved in the provincial capital of Lahore, which is most affected by smog, prompting the rulers to delay the decision. "On this Wednesday, schools will not be closed. Every week, we will

conduct meetings on the smog issue [and then take future decisions]," the interim education minister added. $During the same presser, caretaker Information \, Minister \, Aamir \, Mir$

said every year people get sick due to smog. "It is important for people to have awarness about it."

He said the government has imposed Section 144 to curb smog and restricted cars on the road that might lead to the further spread of smog.

SMBR issues guidelines for supply of equipment to rural centers

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Senior Member Board of Revenue Nabil Javed presided over a meeting about the provision of facilities in rural centers. Director PDMA Nazia Jabeen, DGPLRA Saira Umar and other officers attended the meeting. DGPLRA Saira Umar briefed SMBR on facilities in rural centers.

Director Nazia Jabeen said that PDMA has distributed furniture in all the districts as per the demands. The SMBR issued instructions for immediate supply of available equipment to rural centers. SMBR directed the inspection committee to verify the furniture and equipment distributed. Nabil Javed instructed Secretary Board of Revenue Shafqatullah Mushtaq to inspect the provision of facilities in rural centers and prepare a complete report on the condition of furniture in rural centers through Tehsildars and Patwaris. SMBR Nabil Javed said that according to the demand of the districts, supply of more furniture and equipment will be ensured. Any malpractice in the procurement and supply of furniture will not be tolerated. In case of corruption, strict action will be taken against those responsible. DGPLRA Saira Umar gave a briefing on e-registration, inheritance and online registration of property for foreign nationals. SMBR congratulated Saira Umar for her excellent performance.

CM Naqvi reviews progress of band road controlled access corridor project

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a morning inspection of the ongoing Controlled Access Corridor project on Band Road. He meticulously assessed the progress of this significant endeavor, spanning from Niazi Chowk to

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of ensuring smooth traffic flow on the closed road throughout the construction phase. He emphasized that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) should personally oversee operations and recommended deploying additional traffic wardens.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi promptly ordered the relocation of street lights and poles from the closed roads. He further directed that the poles be removed and repurposed elsewhere. The Chief Minister set forth a clear directive for the timely completion of the controlled access corr dor project. He highlighted that this project would grant immediate motorway access from any corner of Lahore upon its completion.

poised to yield substantial savings, both the 7.3 km long controlled access corriin terms of time and fuel, benefiting Minister received a comprehensive age One spanning 3.65 km from Niazi



briefing, underscoring the round-the-The Controlled Access Corridor is clock efforts being made to complete dor within four months. The project the economy significantly. The Chief encompasses two packages, with Pack-

to Sagian Interchange, and Package and the contractor, provided detailed Two covering an equivalent distance from Sagian to Babu Sabu Interchange.

Commissioner Lahore Division and along with the Chief Engineer LDA man Planning and Development Board

updates to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi regarding the project's progress. The event was attended by Provincial DG LDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa Information Minister Amir Mir, Chair-

Italian Embassy hosts immersive digital art exhibition

sy in Pakistan on Monday organized heritage with new and creative arts, an immersive digital art exhibition, dispelling the notion that the counbringing an innovative art form to the Pakistani audience. Speaking on the occasion, Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese expressed his pride in presenting the unique showcase of digital art to the public, highlighting its versatility and wide range of possi-

Italian Embassy in Pakistan hosts immersive digital art exhibition that every era had its unique artistic The ambassador acknowledged the artwork of Stefano Fake, one of Italy's celebrated digital artists. He praised said, "The purpose of art is, after all, to

try was solely associated with its past. Stefano Fake, in his address, delved into the journey of digital art, which he began nearly 30 years ago. He described his transition from traditional art to digital tools in 1997, culminating in the establishment of his studio in 2001, dedicated to creating immersive art experiences. Fake underlined tools, and digital art represented the current period's creative expression. He

ISLAMABAD: The Italian Embas- Italy's capacity to blend historical create original and imaginative forms of aesthetic expression shared with a community through experiences and events." Stefano Fake's early work in this field was initially met with skepticism, often being associated with music or youth-centric events. However, over time, digital art gained recognition and acceptance. His exhibitions now span the globe, from Germany to Colombia, and even recent showcases in Berlin and Shanghai. This transformation reflects the growing appreciation for new media art worldwide. One of Kake's groundbreaking approaches was to immerse audiences in a digital

environment, using video projection to transform spaces and even people. He dispelled early concerns about safety and emphasized the combination of physical reality with digital art, creating immersive experiences that evolve and transcend traditional static forms of art. The term "immersive art experiences" emerged, capturing the essence of their work, as it blends physical spaces, bodies, and digital artworks, making it a unique and ephemeral experience. These art experiences offer a fresh perspective, bridging the gap between contemporary culture

Nawaz's politics will be over if he comes to power via deal: Khursheed Shah

PPP leader casts aspersions on Nawaz's return to country

KARACHI: PPP leader Khursheed the PPP leader said the PML-N was Shah lambasted former prime minispowerful quarters to return to power through a backdoor.

Speaking to a private tv channel, the senior PPP leader cast aspersions on Nawaz's return to the country on October 21.

"If Nawaz Sharif comes to power by dealing with powerful circles at this age then what would be left of his politics?"

he said rhetorically. "The red carpet for his return is not being rolled out by the PML-N but by

someone else," Shah added. Despite facing a lot of difficulties,

still doing "backdoor politics". Shah ter and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif further said that he told the PML-N for what he said striking a deal with chief that he was committing a mistake once again by attempting to return to power "by climbing on someone else's shoulder".

Shah also questioned how could Nawaz who he said is a convict and an absconder could address a rally in Lahore after landing in Pakistan.

"This is a dangerous trap in which the PML-N is trapped. What was the difference between PTI chairman

[Imran Khan] and Nawaz Sharif?" Shah claimed that Nawaz is being brought to power in the same manner as the PTI chief handed over the reins

of the country in 2018. The three-time prime minister,

Nawaz Sharif, will return to Pakistan on October 21 after four years of self-exile (in London) with the status of a convicted criminal as he has been sentenced in two graft cases.

The former premier will have to get the sentences awarded to him in two National Accountability Bureau (NAB) cases suspended upon his return to the country by filing appeals in the respec-

He will have to file the appeals all over again, as for the first time, when he had filed the pleas for his acquittal and nullification of the sentence, they were thrown out by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) due to his status as an absconder and also owing to non-pursuance on the case.

Besides getting the convictions in both cases suspended, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo will also have to take the legal option for protection from arrest till he reaches a court. In this regard, some legal experts are

of the view that being an absconder, Nawaz will not be able to get any relief without having a trip to the prison.

Meanwhile, some others oppose this point and believe that whenever a convict surrenders before the court, it gives him a chance to face the law.

World Food Day

FAO, PepsiCo advocate sustainable agri water use

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: As part of World Food Day 2023 celebrations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) KP Office in collaboration with PepsiCo Pakistan, a leading global food and beverage corporation, hosted a cross-sectoral panel discussion at University of Agriculture in Peshawar. The panel discussion focused on the Living Indus Initiative, highlighting the theme, "Water is life, Water is food. Leave no one behind," aiming to raise awareness about food security, sustainable agriculture, and the fight against global hunger and poverty. Senior representatives from World Food Programme, UN Women, PepsiCo, and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as academics, were in attendance.

This theme harmoniously aligns with the goals of the Living Indus Initiative, a collaborative venture between the Government of Pakistan and UN agencies, dedicated to repairing and restoring the ecological health of the Indus River Basin, especially in the face of pressing climate challenge.

Farrukh Toirov, FAO's Head of Office in KP, highlighted the nexus between the mighty Indus River and the region's agricultural prospects. He emphasized the importance of water for agriculture and food security. He stressed the need for responsible and efficient water management to support sustainable agriculture through initiatives like the Living Indus Initiative. This approach helps build resilience in the face of climate challenges and ensures access to balanced and nutritious food for all.

Haseeb Malik, Director of Agriculture Operations at PepsiCo Pakistan, discussed the company's efforts in the panel. He focused on restoring the Indus Basin, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting farming communities, particularly women. Malik highlighted PepsiCo Pakistan's commitment to sustainable water management, equipping farmers with knowledge and technology for sustainable water use. He also mentioned their dedication to water conservation in company operations and communities. He also added that the scope of the Living Indus Initiative aligns with PepsiCo's global pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) sustainability agenda and aspirations for creating a more resilient agricultural system that benefits both people and the planet.

Dr Rizwan Ahmed Registrar Agriculture University Peshawar moderated the panel discussion. While other panelist included, Dr Abdul Bari, DG Agriculture Research, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Jan Mohammad, Director General, Agriculture Extension and Zainab Qaiser Khan, Head of UN Women, Sub Office in KP and Louis Sowe, World Food Programme (WFP) Head in KP. They highlighted critical issues that held the key to Pakistan's in particular Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's agricultural future. Panelists also discussed ensuring equitable water access for small farmers, sustainable farming practices championed by women for food security,

25th death anniversary of Shaheed-e-Pakistan

Hakim Mohammed Said (Shaheed)

(1920 - 1998)



ratories (Wagf) Pakistan

- Chancellor, Hamdard University
- President, Hamdard Public School
- Waqif Mutawalli, Hamdard Bangladesh Chief Physician, Hamdard Clinics
- President, Pakistan Historical Society, Kara-
- President, Institute of Health and Tibbi Research, Karachi
- President, Institute of Central and West •
- Asian Studies, Karachi Federal Minister / Advisor to the President
- of Pakistan on Tibb from 1979 to 1982 Governor of Sindh, from 1993 to 1994
- mic Qualifications: BEMS from The Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbi College, Delhi, 1940
- DSc. "Medician Altermative", The International Multidisciplinary Scientific Society on • Alternative Medicine - 1984

- Urdu and English
- Working knowledge of Arabic and Persian
- Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan 1966
- "Sadiq Dost Award" from the people of

Bahawalpur through commissioner of Bahawalpur, Pakistan

- Certificate of Merit from the Institute of History of Science and Technology, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey 1981
- Islamic Medicine Prize, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait,
- Winner of the Novosti Press Agency's Abu Edi Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna) International Prize for 1989, U.S.S.R.
- World No-Tobacco Day Medal, World Health Organization, 1965
- Award by the Pakistan League of the United States of America, New York, for the services in the fields of health, education and social
- Outstanding Pakistani Award from the Rotary Club Islamabad Cosmopolitan, 1996
- Commemorative Postage Stamp, issued on 17th October 1999 on 1st anniversary of Martyrdom of Hakim Mohammed Said
- Nishan-i-Imatiaz (Posthumous), in the field of Medicine (Hikmat) conferred by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on

the occasion of the Independence Day, 14th August, 2000

torship (Urdu):

- Hamdard-i-Sehat (Monthly)
- Hamdard Naunehal (Monthly) Akhbar-ul-Tibb (Monthly)
- Payami (Urdu version of UNESCO's Courier)

- Hamdard Medicus (Quarterly)
- SPEM, Bulletin of the Society for the Promotion of Eastern Medicine
- Medical Times (Fortnightly)
- Hamdard Islamicus (Quarterly)
- Endeavour, Newsletter of Madinat al-Hik-

Author and editor of more than 189 books both in Urdu and English languages

- Has written more than 500 articles on
- science, medicines History and Islam Treated more than 5 million patients
- Participated in more than 92 international conferences round the globe and presented

Shaheed

Hakim Mohammed Said

an exceptional Pakistani

President, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan

Founder-President, Madinat al-Hikmah





n the early morning of 17th of October 1998, Hamdard Pakistan's founder, an acclaimed physician and social reformer, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, embraced martyrdom at the entrance of Hamdard Matab Arambagh Karachi. On the very place, from where he began the exceptional journey of Hamdard Pakistan back in 1948.

With his passing, came an end of an extraordinary life. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said was not only a highly skilled Hakim but also a dedicated social reformer, a successful entrepreneur, and a forward-thinking educator. He dedicated his life to serving Pakistan to the best of his abilities. His remarkable achievements and accomplishments have solidified his status as one of the most influential figures in Pakistan's history.

He was born in 1920 to Hakeem Abdul Majeed and his wife Rabia Begum. Abdul Majeed was also a well-known herbalist and Tabib in Delhi. However, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said lost his father at a young age. His determined mother and his elder brother Hakim Abdul Hameed took charge of Hamdard Dawakhana. Through their exceptional skills and management, they transformed Hamdard into a well-established pharmacy in Delhi.

Yet, the political landscape in colonial India was evolving. Like many young men, Shaheed





Hakim Mohammed Said was inspired by the 1940 resolution for an independent homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

After the partition in 1947, Hakim Said migrated and encountered persistent challenges. His determination to overcome these difficulties grew stronger, and as a result, Hamdard in Pakistan transformed from two small rented rooms with borrowed furniture into a significant Eastern Medicine industry.

It was reorganized into an Islamic irrevocable trust dedicated to serving the healthcare and education needs of Pakistan.



Almost all of Hamdard Pakistan's profits were channeled into the trust for the advancement of healthcare, education, national, and philanthropic initiatives.

Hamdard University is another remarkable institution that upholds the fundamental principles of Hamdard Pakistan. With two campuses in Islamabad and two in Karachi, it is widely recognized as among the top institutions in the field of Unani/ Herbal medicine. Furthermore, Hamdard University hosts a comprehensive research center specializing in this field. It also provides much-needed financial support to deserving students,



ميرك نونها لؤميس ابجئ تمهارك سانقهون



is not limited to those with finan-

Hakim Mohammed Said to ed service to the nation.

ensuring that quality education Pakistan and its people is of immense significance. His legacy will endure, and these institu-The contribution of Shaheed tions will continue their dedicat-

Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Mohammed Said spent whole life in service of nation

Maveed Ahmad Khan

oday the 25th death anniversary of a prominent scholar, medical researcher, philanthropist and former governor of Sindh Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. Hakim Mohammed Said was born on January 9, 1920 in Delhi and migrated to Pakistan with his family. He established Hamdard Dawakhana and later spread its branches all over Pakistan. Later, he succeeded in founding Hamdard University in 1991.

He authored several books on religion, Tibb, health and sciences, literature, social and scientific topics and travelogues. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said was a patriotic Pakistani. In his age of 78 years, he made a great contribution in almost every field. He was a man of principles and extraordinary courage. He spent whole of his life in the service of his nation. He established a lot of institutes. "IDARA-E-SAEED" is one of famous among them. This is famous for its literary journals, educational work, scientific and medicine works.

Another great establishment was "MADINAT-E-HIK-MA". It comprises Hamdard University with such institutes as Hamdard College of Medicine and Dentistry, Hamdard Al-Majeed College of Eastern Medicine, Hafiz Mohammed Ilyas Institute of Herbal Sciences, Hamdard Institute of Education & Social Sciences, Hamdard Institute of Management Sciences, Hamdard Institute of Information Technology, Hamdard School of Law, Faculty of Engineering Science & Technology, Hamdard Public School and Hamdard Village

Hakim Said participated in various international confer-



ences on medicine, science, education and culture and travelled widely to many countries of the world. While in Pakistan he organised numerous international and national conferences on topics of prime importance. He created two widely attended national forums, Hamdard Shura (for leaders of public opinion) and Naunehal Assembly (for children). Hakim Said was an exponent of Eastern medicine who had treated patients from all over the world including Pakistan, Europe, Africa and the Middle East by the time of his death in October 1998. He helped get alternative medicine recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

After a fifty-year career as a practitioner of Greco-Arab medicine, he was posthumously awarded the Nishan-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan in 2002. Hakim Mohammed Said was shaheed on 17 October 1998. Several persons were arrested and subsequently sentenced to death by an anti-terrorism court. On 26 April 2014, The Supreme Court upheld the verdict of Sindh High Court (SHC) regarding acquittal of all accused in Hakim Said murder case. An anti-terrorism appellate bench of the SHC had acquitted all nine people accused of murdering Hakim Mohammed Said in 2001. The verdict was challenged by the then provincial government.

A Research and Documentation Center named Idarae-Saeed has been set up. It is a joint venture of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan, Hamdard University, and Hamdard Foundation Pakistan. Idara-e-Saeed will project and focus the life and works of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, most particularly in the field of science, education and research, medicine and health care.

The project is aimed at the collection of Shaheed Hakim Hakim Mohammed Said was awarded to Mr. Javed Swati Mohammed Said's speeches, writings (both published and un-published), personal memorabilia, photographs and artefacts. After the collection of materials related to his life and works, all records will be preserved and displayed in a scientifically arranged and properly managed museum. Idara-e-Saeed will also initiate research projects leading to the award of post graduate (MPhil and PhD) degrees on the contribution of Hakim Mohammed Said to Islam, education, medicine, sciences and culture.

Idara-e-Saeed will also patronise publications of literature and books written by different authors on the life of Hakim Mohammed Said, his personality, leadership and his endeavours for the propagation and promotion of education and learning. The first MPhil degree on the life and works of



at the Hamdard University convocation in 2002. His topic of research was Education Ideas and Perceptions of Hakim Mohammed Said. Hakim Mohammed Said left behind a daughter, Sadia Rashid, who is heading the Hamdard Foundation and the Hamdard Lab, and three granddaughters, Dr. Mahenaz Munir Ahmed, Amena Mian (who is married and settled in the United States with four children), and Fatema-Tuz-Zahra Munir Ahmed, who has joined her mother at Hamdard. Hakim Mohammed Said also served as Governor of Sindh Province from 1993 until 1996. Hakim Mohammed Said Shaheed left behind a daughter, Sadia Rashid and three granddaughters. This great Scholar was assassinated by a group of unknown assailants while he was on his way to Hamdard Laboratories in Karachi.

Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

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Funding appeal for Afghanistan's quake-hit families

N agencies Friday appealed for urgent funds to assist the hundreds of thousands affected by deadly earthquakes in western Afghanistan. The region was struck by two massive earthquakes on Saturday, followed a series of aftershocks, including a major one on Wednesday that flattened several homes spared by the original quake.

Women and children make up over 90 per cent of the victims, according to UN agencies.

Making matters worse, on Thursday, a dust storm struck many affected villages destroying hundreds of tents, including many at the Gazergah Transit Centre, where many displaced families were sheltering.

Families impacted were moved from the Centre to a school in Herat city where they will require food and nonfood relief items, according to UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) launched a \$14.4 million humanitarian appeal to provide shelters, heaters and warm clothes to survivors sleeping out in the open, ahead of the approaching bitter winter.

The UN agency will also provide legal assistance and counseling, including helping recover and process key documents so that households, including refugees and internally displaced returnees, can exercise their civil rights.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) issued an initial appeal earlier this week for \$20 million to deliver emergency and trauma care for newborns and children, repair schools and healthcare facilities, and provide psychosocial and mental health support to children and families.

According to the UN agency, communities in the region were already reeling from the effects of years of conflict, insecurity and climate-induced disasters.

"These deprivations have now collided, creating an unprecedented humanitarian emergency for children," said Rushnan Murtaza, acting UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan.

"UNICEF and our partners have been on the ground since day one, providing life-saving assistance for children, but we need additional support to bring children the healthcare, protection, and clean water they desperately need." UN agencies and partners, meanwhile, continue relief efforts and assess the scale of damage, following Wednesday's af-

OCHA said that damage to heath facilities is of particular concern, as over 580,000 people have been cut off from medical care.

Several schools have also sustained damage and are not operational.

In response, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) supplied over 95 tons of food rations and food commodities to thousands of affected people, while UNICEF, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered shelter, food and non-food assistance to over 550 families in 15 affected villages.

Significant visit of OIC Special Envoy in context of current situation in Occupied J & K - I

concerning Jammu and contentious matter between India and Pakistan for over seven decades. This conflict traces its origins back to the partition of India in 1947 when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was presented with the choice of aligning with either India or Pakistan, in accordance with the principles of the partition that allowed these princely states to determine their own fate. The then-Maharaja Hari Singh of 370 and Article 35A of Jammu and Kashmir, a Hindu ruler, decided to accede to India in October 1947 amid a backdrop of political insta- cle 370 granted special bility and tribal incursions, which eventually escalated into a full-blown conflict. Pakistan, as well as the Kashmiri populace on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC), contend that this accession was coerced and did not genuinely reflect the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The United Nations became involved, and several resolutions were passed, proposing the conduct of a plebiscite to ascertain the future status of the region.

The Shimla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan was an

protracted dispute emphasizing the significance of the Line of violence, sexual assaults, mass deten- of justice and reconciliation. Achievof Control (LoC) as an established de facto Kashmir has remained a border. India has consistently rejected the UN resolutions regarding Kashmir and has not agreed to grant the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Throughout the years, the Indian government has undertaken a series of forceful actions in Jammu and Kashmir that have been perceived

as acts of aggression. These measures include the revocation of Article the Indian Constitution in August 2019. Artiautonomous to Jammu and Kashmir, while Article 35A allowed the state legislature to define permanent

residents and extend special privileges to lishment of accountability measures and them. The people of Kashmir believe that the unilateral abrogation of these articles without the consent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir was a provocative move. Furthermore, the Indian government has deployed a substantial number of troops in the region, leading to allegaattempt to resolve the Kashmir issue tions of human rights violations, such as through bilateral and peaceful means, curbs on freedom of expression, instances

tions, and communication shutdowns. These actions have further exacerbated the discontent among the local population. Human rights organizations have expressed profound concerns regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The situation in the region of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has captured the attention and raised concern

on a global scale. A variety of human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have issued reports documenting the abuses occurring in the area. The United Nations has also voiced its apprehensions and

has called for the estab-

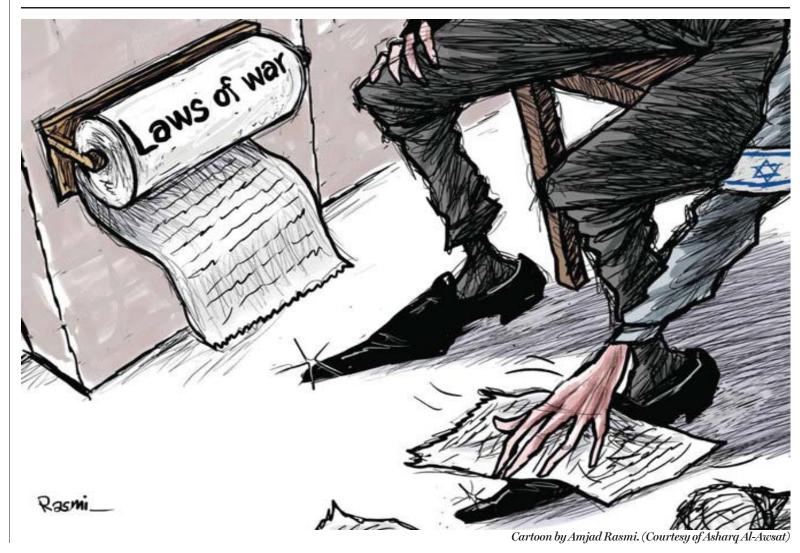
inquiries into suspected violations. Addressing human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir necessitates a comprehensive strategy, involving several critical steps. There is an immediate and pressing need for impartial investigations into allegations of human rights abuses. Holding those responsible accountable is essential for the sake

ing a lasting resolution to the Kashmir conflict should prioritize open dialogue and engagement with the region's residents, addressing their concerns and aspirations. Safeguarding fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, assembly, and access to information, is pivotal for restoring a sense of normalcy in the area. Urgent endeavors should be undertaken to provide humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict, especially concerning healthcare and education.

India under the regime of Modi is now openly following Hindutova which believes in supremacy of Hinduism. Instead of giving rights to minorities, India intends to see at Pakistan with dirty eyes. The Chief Minister of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh recently said that India should take the Sindh region back from Pakistan. Earlier, the Indian Defense Minister had also talked about the integration of Azad Kashmir into India. Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, said that if Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya can be taken back from the Muslims after five hundred years, then there is no reason why India should not take 'Sindhu' i.e. Sindh prov-

ince of Pakistan.

To be continued



Abdul Basit Alvi

in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications - I

lives of individuals, businesses, a persistent challenge, with multifacet- such as monetary policies, fiscal defied causes and significant consequenc- cits, global oil prices, and geopolitical es for the economy and society. This tensions. Inflation's impact extends research paper aims to comprehensively analyze the dynamics of infla- distribution, poverty, access to serviction in Pakistan, examining its causes, es, and political stability. consequences, and policy implications.

policy evaluation, this paper provides valuable insights into the factors contributing to inflation in Pakistan and offers policy recommendations to address this complex

Inflation, defined as

services over time, is a macroeconomic phenomenon that affects economies worldwide. It has far-reaching impliincluding households, businesses, and challenge with significant economic measure inflation, with the Consum-output, leads to inflation. Central banks

nflation is a critical economic diverse population, reliance on agriculphenomenon that affects the ture, and fiscal and monetary issues make understanding inflation crucial. and governments worldwide. Pakistan has experienced fluctuating In Pakistan, inflation has been inflation rates, influenced by factors beyond economics, affecting income

Inflation, as a fundamental concept Using a combination of quantitative in economics, represents the sustained data analysis, literature review, and increase in the general price level of goods and services

over time. Inflation is characterized by rising prices, which means that consumers need more money to purchase the same basket of goods and services over time. As prices rise, the

Abdullah Anwar purchasing power of in the general price level of goods and money declines. This means that the same amount of money can buy fewer goods and services. Inflation can be caused by changes in both demand cations for various economic agents, and supply. Demand-pull inflation occurs when demand for goods and governments. The dynamics of inflation services exceeds their supply, leading are complex, and driven by a multitude to price increases. Cost-push inflation, of factors, and its consequences can be on the other hand, results from rising both positive and negative, depending production costs that are passed on to on the rate and stability of inflation. consumers in the form of higher pric-In Pakistan, it has been a persistent es. Economists use various indices to

and social consequences. The country's er Price Index (CPI) and the Producer Price Index (PPI) being common tools. These indices track the prices of a representative basket of goods and services over time. Inflation can be categorized into different types based on its magnitude and persistence. Mild inflation, often considered beneficial for economic growth, is called "creeping inflation." When inflation rates become excessively high and volatile, it can lead to "hyperinflation," which has devastating effects on an economy. Understanding the concept of inflation is essential for policymakers and economists when formulating monetary and fiscal policies.

Theories of inflation are pivotal in explaining the underlying mechanisms and driving forces that lead to changes in price levels within an economy. The demand-pull theory says inflation results from excessive demand outstripping supply. Factors like increased spending or government expenditures can lead to demand-pull inflation. Central banks use tools like interest rates to manage it. Cost-Push Theory explains how inflation arises from higher production costs, like wages or energy. These cost increases get passed on to consumers. It's driven by supply-side factors and is challenging to control with monetary policy alone. The monetary theory also known as the quantity theory of money states that increasing the money supply, without a corresponding rise in economic

Analyzing the Dynamics of Inflation 'Charting a Greener Path: Strategies to Prevent Climate Change' - I

Fatima Mazhar

limate change is having significant impacts on Pakistan disturbing the economy, environment and society. This is affecting the agricultural dynamics to a great extent. Rainthe last year are all leading to reduced crop growth which fresh water is strongly needed. But, due to political situafurther affects the food security to a horrifying extent. Up tion and the internal problems that Pakistan is facing, the

ent districts. Our country is home to more than 7000 glaciers. Pakistan depends heavily on the Indus River for its supply of water, but this supply is being compromised by shifting precipitation patterns and melting Himalayan glaciers. This causes a rise in water scarcity, which has an impact on domestic water accessibility and productivity in agriculture. Moreover, the melting of glaciers at such a quickening rate increases the possibilities of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF's) that can again prove to be very dangerous. In addition to this, cities such as Karachi, Jacobabad, Sibi and Multan have experienced life-threatening heatwaves. The electricity shortage in Pakistan makes it even worse to deal with. Diseases like dengue and malaria are making headlines again. As of lately, many cases

have been reported in Rawalpindi and Lahore. The chang- our leaders and officials. ing temperatures and weather conditions are all leading to this. According to Sky News, Pakistan will become more vulnerable to climate change in the next 80 years. Overpopulation is a major aspect that needs to be considered. The more the people, the more the deforestation and the usage of land and hence, more environmental pollution would be seen. When more energy would be consumed, more emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon diox-

ide, methane and nitrous oxide would result. The percentage of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere has been increasing since 1950. It has heightened from 0.03% to 0.04%, which though, is not a big percentage but it might prove to be a considerable one in the coming years. It is also said by experts that Pakistan is among the top 20 countries that are most susceptible to climate change and its disastrous fall patterns and alarming floods, as seen in effects. Building of dams and reservoirs and the storage of



(Image taken from Climate Change | Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC) (house.gov))

It is our responsibility to take measures in order to address these problems before it is too late. On a smaller level, there are a few things that we can do. First of all, educating ourselves and the people around us about the drastic effects of climate change is important. We should create awareness in the younger generation too.

To be continued

The Spokesman 5

Ceasefire plans stall as Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza

Palestinian death toll climbs to 2,750; Israel masses thousands of troops in the desert near Gaza border

GAZA: Hopes for a brief ceasefire in Monday and ambulances at the facility long-blockaded enclave of 2.4 million southern Gaza to allow foreign passport holders to leave the besieged Palestinian enclave and aid to be brought in were dashed on Monday, with Israeli bombardments intensifying ahead of an expected ground invasion

Authorities in Gaza said at least 2,750 Palestinians had so far been killed by Israel's brutal retaliatory strikes, a ment had been reached to open the quarter of them children, and nearly 10,000 wounded. Another 1,000 be under rubble.

Residents of Gaza said the overnight strikes were the heaviest yet in nine days of conflict. Many houses were flattened and the death toll rose inexorably, they

Israeli aircraft bombed areas around Gaza City's Al-Quds hospital early on

were unable to move due to the strikes, Palestinian media reported.

Diplomatic efforts have been underway to get aid into the enclave, which has endured unrelenting Israeli bombing since October 7.

Earlier on Monday, Egyptian security sources had told Reuters that an agreecrossing to allow aid into the enclave.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjapeople were missing and believed to min Netanyahu's office said in a statement: "There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out."

Chief military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also said there was no Gaza ceasefire and that Israel

was continuing its attacks.

in preparation for what the army has said would be a land, air and sea attack involving a "significant ground oper-

"We are at the beginning of intense or enhanced military operations in Gaza City," spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Jonathan Conricus said.

Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq told Reuters that there was "no truth" to the reports about the opening of the crossing with Egypt or a temporary ceasefire.

Egypt has said the crossing remained open from the Egyptian side in recent days but was rendered inoperable due to Israeli bombardments on the Pales-

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Monday that the Israe-Israel has massed forces outside the li government had yet to take a stance

that allowed the crossing to open. He izen Palestinian-Americans in Gaza at called the situation faced by the Pales-

tinian people in Gaza "dangerous". The situation remained unclear at the Rafah crossing, the only one not controlled by Israel. Reuters journalists said a small crowd of people had gathered there waiting to enter Egypt.

The United States had told its citizens in Gaza to get close to the crossing so they can move out. The US government estimates the number of dual-cit-

500 to 600.

Washington is also seeking to secure the release of 199 captives that Israel claims were taken by Hamas back

US President Joe Biden has sent military aid to Israel but also stressed the need to get humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians and urged Israel to follow the rules of war in its response to the Hamas attacks.

More than one million people have fled their homes in Gaza in scenes of chaos and despair as Israel bombarded the besieged territory and continued massing troops Monday in preparation for a full-blown ground invasion.

Following an Israeli order to move to the south of the Gaza Strip, people have fled their homes in the north of the enclave to seek shelter wherever they can, including on the streets and in UN-run schools.

Gaza aid stuck as Egypt says Israel not cooperating

'There is an urgent need to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, says Egypt's FM

ISMAILIA: Egypt said on Monday that Israel was not cooperating with delivery of aid into Gaza and evacuations of foreign passport holders via the only entry it does not wholly control, leaving hundreds of tonnes of supplies

Cairo says the Rafah crossing, a potentially vital opening for desperately-needed supplies into the besieged Palestinian enclave, is not officially closed but is inoperable due to Israeli air strikes on the Gaza side.

"There is an urgent need to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza," Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told reporters, adding that talks with Israel had not been fruitful.

"Until now the Israeli government has not taken a position on opening the Rafah crossing from the Gaza side to allow the entrance of assistance and exit of citizens of third countries."

More than 2 million Gazans have



ade in retaliation for an assault by the Hamas Fighters.

Two Egyptian security sources had been under siege since Israel launched told Reuters a ceasefire in southern an intense bombardment and block- Gaza to last several hours had been

agreed for Monday morning to facilitate aid and evacuations at Rafah. Read also: Ceasefire plans stall as

Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza However, Israel denied that.

"There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out," a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq told Reuters the same.

On the ground at Rafah, one source said that there had been no bombardments on Monday and that the Egyptian side of the crossing was ready. Shoukry said Egypt aimed to allow normal flow through the crossing, including for Palestinians seeking medical treatment or normal travel.

Hundreds of tonnes of aid from NGOs and several countries were waiting on trucks in the nearby Egyptian town of Al-Arish for conditions to allow entry to Gaza, according to two sources there and a witness.

Separately, Reuters video showed UN-flagged fuel trucks appearing to leave Gaza for Egypt through the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing.

BRI promotes trade, coop among countries: Iran

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can help boost trade and expand economic cooperation among the countries along



He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in the Iranian capital Tehran, while answering a question about the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be hosted in Beijing on Oct. 17 and 18, and the 10th anniversary of the BRI

Proposed in 2013, the initiative aims to build trade and infrastructure networks on and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes. It comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Kanaani added Iran has welcomed the BRI and contributed to its implementation, stressing that the country believes such initiatives pay attention to the common regional and global interests and can safeguard the interests of participating countries and partners.

He noted that Iran has good communication and exchanges with

Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani will take part in the upcoming forum. Xinhua

Amid tremor shocks, 1/3rd of Afghans face 'acute' food insecurity

'15m people don't know where their next meal comes from,' says World Food Program

of the Afghanistan population is facing acute food insecurity, which has been tion," it added. further aggravated by a recent series of earthquakes ful deadly earthquakes that is yet another disaster on top that struck the war-torn jolted north-western Herat of an already dire humaninorth-western

released by the World Food of the Afghan population – Program (WPF) on World needed humanitarian aid Food Day, over 15 million and protection in 2023. people face acute food inseemergency levels (one step 18.4 million in 2021. away from famine).

their next meal comes from,"

KARACHI: About one-third the global body said in a of around \$7 billion Afghan mately \$4.1 million) landed statement on X on Monday. "That is 1/3 of the popula-

Even before the powerprovince which borders neighbouring Iran, nearly 29 According to the figures million people — two-thirds

The number is up from curity, with 2.8 million in 24.4 million in 2022 and Since the Taliban returned

"We remind the world that to power over two years ago, in Afghanistan, 15 million Afghanistan has been facing people don't know where grave economic challenges. It comes amid a blockade

foreign reserves by the US since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021.

The Herat earthquake(s) tarian crisis. Afghans need urgent support," the WFP added.

Humanitarian aid continues to pour in

As the country is struggling to cope with the post-earthquake situation, humanitarian assistance continues to pour in.

A Chinese plane carrying humanitarian aid for 30 million yuan (approxiin Kabul on Monday, staterun Bakhtar News reported. Read also: Magnitude

6.3 earthquake jolts western Afghanistan The Afghan government

has revised the death toll to over 1.000. The UN Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Afghanistan, however, put the death toll at 1,384, with 853 injured. Over 2,500 houses have been completely destroyed.

Some 3,067 houses were also affected by the tremors, earthquake victims worth including 2,499 completely destroyed.

Russia stops US drone from violating airspace over Black Sea

reported that the Su-27 fighter jet thwarted an attempt by a US RQ-4B Global Hawk surveillance drone to breach Moscow's airspace Sunday, forcing Washington's plane to "turn away".

According to TASS report, the Russian Ministry of Defence stated: "Airspace surveillance equipment detected an air target approaching the border over the Black Sea on October 15."

The statement added: "A Su-27 fighter jet was scrambled to prevent it from entering Russian airspace."

The crew of the Russian fighter jet identified the aerial target as an RQ-4B Global Hawk surveillance from the Defence Minis-

As the Russian fighter jet approached, the foreign surveillance UAV turned away from the Russian state border," the statement quoted by TASS read.

Moscow's forces have earlier barred Western planes from entering into the country's territorial spheres.

"The Russian aircraft returned safely to its home airfield. A violation of the Russian state border was averted," the Defence Ministry said Sunday.

In June, Russia also intercepted British warplanes that approached its border above

According to a statement

jets approached, the foreign warplanes turned around and distanced themselves from the Russian border."

The ministry had said at that time that the planes involved were two British Typhoon jets accompanied by an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft.

"The Russian planes safely returned to their airfield. There was no violation of the Russian border," said the

ministry.

Incidents involving Russian and Western aircraft have multiplied over the Black Sea and Baltic Sea in recent months, as Moscow pursues its special military operation against Ukraine.

In May, Moscow also said it had intercepted four American strategic bombers above the Baltic Sea in two separate incidents in the space of one week. Russia also scrambled warplanes to intercept French, German, and Polish aircraft.

In April, an American Reaper MQ-9 military drone crashed in the Black Sea after a confrontation Washington blamed on two Russian fight-

On June 9, the British Royal Air Force warplanes were twice scrambled over the course of 24 hours to intercept Russian aircraft flying close to NATO airspace, the Ministry of Defence in London had said. TASS

☼ Xi Focus-Feature

A decade of BRI: Xi's response to global challenges

The post-pandemic year of 2023 has seen a flurry of diplomatic activities in China

BEIJING: The post-pandemic year of 2023 has seen a flurry of diplomatic activities in China, prompting headlines in Western media claiming that "All roads lead to Beijing."

The embellishment doesn't seem too far-fetched. This week, representatives from more than 140 countries will be in the Chinese capital to attend a high-level forum held as part of the events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping consecutively proposed building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The pairing later came to be known as Xi's signature project for global cooperation in

the past decade — the BRI. The initiative draws inspiration from the historic Silk Road, where

camel caravans and commercial fleets boosted the exchange of goods and ideas between the East and the West.

When the BRI was first unveiled, Europe was grappling with a recession stemming from debt and financial crises, while the United States was navigating its way through the post-financial crisis difficulties and the complexities of the war in Afghanistan.

The BRI has come to be seen as Xi's response to the formidable challenges confronting the world. "Global growth requires new drivers, development needs to be more inclusive and balanced, and the gap between the rich and the poor needs to be narrowed," he once remarked.

His aspiration was to establish a platform that would facilitate greater global connectivity, modern history, British scholar

acknowledging, in his own words, that "it is difficult for any single country to go it alone or solve the problems the world faces." Using the historical symbol of

the ancient Silk Road, the BRI champions connectivity across the globe and strengthens partnerships with participating countries.

Over the past decade, China has signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with over 150 countries and 30-plus international organizations. More than 3,000 cooperation projects have been initiated.

Since its inception in 2013, the BRI has generated 420,000 jobs for participating countries and lifted about 40 million people out of

Lauding the BRI as a unique and extraordinary initiative in

Martin Jacques said the vision of the BRI has continued to materialize and evolve, and has demonstrated vitality that no other initiative has.

The initiative has changed the

world, he said. When unveiling the BRI, Xi had envisaged the initiative to facilitate policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and closer people-to-people ties among participating countries.

Guided by such a vision, projects oromoting connectivity have flourished worldwide.

The China-Europe Railway Express is a prime example. After a decade, it now connects more than 200 cities across 25 Europe-

Xi said the China-Europe Railway Express had effectively ensured the stability of the global industrial chain and supply chain and injected new impetus into the development of the world econ-

The Chinese president had personally graced a number of BRI connectivity projects.

Last year, after the G20 Summit in Bali, Xi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo watched the operational trial of the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway through a video link. The railway, jointly built by the

two countries, was officially inaugurated earlier this month, as a flagship project of China-Indonesia BRI cooperation. With a top speed of 350 kilome-

ters per hour, the railway is Southeast Asia's first high-speed rail line. Across the globe, based on a framework comprising six corri-

dors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports, the basic connectivity over land, maritime, air and cyberspace is in place through BRI cooperation.

"The building of a great infrastructure across from Asia to Europe and back, and down to Africa as well, is transforming the world's economy," said Stephen Perry, chairman of Britain's 48 Group Club, describing the BRI as "the biggest transformative economic concept" in the history of the world.

Observers have taken note of the BRI's role in tackling a major

challenge exacerbated by Western-style economic globalization

inequality

The imbalanced distribution of benefits had widened the wealth gap between the rich and poor, between developed and developing countries, and within developed countries, they said of the global development model championed by certain countries in the West.

ing of all humankind, emphasizes that no country or nation should be left behind.

Xi, in his vision for the well-be-

"All countries and nations are equally entitled to development



index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
49,731.35	49,493.47		
Day's High	Day's Low		
49,919.03	49,317.59		
Index Value	Change		
10,597,776,148	+237.88		
Percentage	Time		
+0.48%	16 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,630.63	+31.03		
Percentage	Time		
+ 0.41%	16 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
34,027.49	+357.20		
Percentage	Time		
+1.06%	16 Oct, 1:07 pm GMT-4		

	GIVI + 9
Open Market	Forey Dates

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Change

Time

16 Oct, 3:15 pm

-656.96

Index Value

31,659.03

Percentage

-2.03%

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	173.25	175
Bahrain Dinar	738.16	746.16
Canadian Dollar	200	202
China Yuan	38.21	38.61
Danish Krone	39.09	39.49
Euro	291.1	294
Hong Kong Dollar	35.47	35.82
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.37	903.37
Malaysian Ringgit	58.73	59.33
NewZealand \$	163.31	165.31
Norwegians Krone	25.7	26
Omani Riyal	720.82	728.82
Qatari Riyal	76.25	76.95
Saudi Riyal	73.4	74.1
Singapore Dollar	198	200
Swedish Korona	25.33	25.63
Swiss Franc	306.98	309.48
Thai Bhat	7.65	7.8
U.A.E Dirham	75.5	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	340.6	344
US Dollar	276	278

KCCI welcomes cut in petroleum prices

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce Industry (KCCI), while appreciating substantial reduction in the petroleum products' prices on Monday, termed it the right decision in the wake of decline in their prices in the international market and appreciation of the rupee.

"The decision taken by the caretaker government will provide relief to common man and the business community in the ongoing phase of inflation, besides having a positive impact on the economy," Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and KCCI President Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh said in a joint statement.

They said it was the second consecutive cut in petroleum prices which would certainly help in bringing down the inflation to some extent. They urged that an effective price control mechanism and strict implementation of government rates of various household products must be ensured with a view to provide relief to the inflation-stricken poor masses

Zubair Motiwala lauded the government's decision of passing on the benefits of reduced oil prices in the international market to the people of Pakistan and expressed the hope that the caretaker prime minister would also take measures to reduce the power tariffs and devise effective strategies for dealing with the ongoing gas load shedding and low gas

Highlighting the issue of gas supply and pressure in all seven industrial town zones of Karachi, Motiwala also stressed on need of urgent steps to ensure 'wheels of industries keep on spinning' for smoothly carrying out production activities and meeting export targets.

He pointed out that Karachi Electric's sales to industries had dropped by 9.

5 percent in the last three months since electricity tariff started increasing. He suggested to opt other possibilities like reducing thefts, pilferages and technical line losses etc. along with review of agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for reducing power tariff as well as burden on power consumers.

Expressing concerns over increase in gas price for local industries, the BMG chairman underscored the need of practical and pragmatic steps to ensure smooth functioning of local industries as the recent drop in energy consumption clearly indicates that industries are not functioning and closing down.

Pak, UAE agree to expand ties in IT, AI, digital economy

Pakistan is participating in the event with over 27 companies and more than 45 startups under the brand Tech Destination Pakistan

ISLAMABAD/DUBAI: Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in Information Technology specifically in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy.

The agreement to the affect was reached during a meeting between Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif and UAE's Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Omar Sultan Al Olama held in Dubai on the sidelines of GITEX 2023, said a press release.

Pakistan is participating in the event with over 27 companies and more than 45 startups under the brand Tech Destination Pakistan.



Dr. Umar Saif, briefed Omar Sultan Olama about tech potential of Pakistan with thousand of IT graduates being produced by Pakistani Universities coupled with rising startup culture.

He also appreciated GITEX that provides an ideal platform to exhibitors to interact and network with key industry players, explore business opportunities and learn important developments taking place around the world. Omar Sultan Olama appreciated Pakistan's growing participation in GITEX Global 2023.

Both sides agreed on signing MoU for the Government Excellence Excellence Program (GEEP) to achieve excellence in Government performance.

Industry faces challenges of survivability WB delegation visits to review dev

Staff Reporter
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LAHORE: Malik Tahir Javaid, President of Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) has said that the ongoing economic crises have severely impacted the industry of Pakistan which is faced with serious challenges of survivability and sustainability. The increasing cost of energy, shortage of raw materials, high inflation, and depreciating currency are making the cost of doing business very high and resulting in closure and layoff in several industries. He was addressing at a "Bilateral Dialogue on Economic Crises and its Impact on Industry" jointly organized by the EFP and Workers Employers Bilateral Council of Pakistan with the support of International Labour Organization (ILO).

Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General EFP in his opening remarks, said that the country is going through a difficult phase and the economy of Pakistan is faced with multiple challenges including current account deficit, high inflation, constant low productivity, and low GDP that has created many problems for the industry. "The Bilateral Dialogue between workers and employers was organized to deliberate upon the crises to understand issues and their impact on the industry and the workers to identify and prioritize issues that can be addressed through



LAHORE: Malik Tahir Javaid, President Employers' Federation of Pakistan, Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General EFP, Chaudhry Saad, Secretary General WEBCOP Punjab, Shazad Bukhari, posing for a group photo with other participants at "Bilateral Dialogue on Economic Crises and its Impact on Industry".

unemployment due to the closure and layoff of industries, and the increasing cost of living as a result of crises has made the lives and livelihood of workers very difficult. The non-availability of social protection and the poor performance of social security institutions have added to the miseries of workers. He further said that the conditions demand joint action of workers and employers to protect the industry and to improve the employability and social protection of workers.

Shazad Bukhari, a Consultant, made a Chaudhry Saad, Secretary General comprehensive presentation highlight- faced by the industry for submission to WEBCOP Punjab said that the massive ing the challenges the industry and the the Government was constituted.

workers are facing as a result of economic malaise.

The workers' and employers' representatives also shared some of the important challenges and solutions through cooperation including low productivity, low skills and shortage of skilled workforce, lack of innovations in value addition, diversification of product for industry, low wages, lack of social protection, and increasing unemployment for workers. A Committee to prepare evidence-based policy papers suggesting solutions to the problems

project in Jhang

JHANG: A delegation of the healthy atmosphere to the World Bank visited Jhang on Monday to review development projects under the Punjab Cities Program, which is funded by the

World Bank. According to DC office, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi apprised the visiting team about the healthy changes brought about by the Punjab Cities Program and also highlighted the historical background of Jhang and said that it is a rich cultural area.

He said the equipment and machinery provided under the program had improved the cleanliness of in the city would provide Punjab. APP

citizens.

"Five green belts have been made and walls of city had been decorated with paints and designs", he added.

He further said 60 years old sewerage lines of the city were being changed.

On the occasion, MD, PMDFC Syed Zahid Uzair said that under Punjab Cities Program projects were continued in 16 cities of the province for providing healthy and progressive facilities to the citizens.

He said Baldia Complaint App has been devised for municipal services, while it was a revolutionary program the city and tree plantation to change standard of life in

More relief is possible if dollar keeps declining: Mian Zahid

A significant drop in fuel prices is warmly appreciated

Staff Reporter

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 Monday that the big reduction in the price of petrol is very welcome as it will bring relief to the people.

In a fortnight, the prices will be reduced for the second time, which will positively affect the entire population, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the reason for this decrease is the fall in the price of oil in the international market and the increase in the value of the rupee.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the dollar continues to fall, it will be possible for the government to provide more relief to the people.

He said that the price of petrol has been reduced by 40 rupees per liter and the price of high-speed diesel by 15 rupees per liter. The price of diesel has not been



reduced much, while the petroleum levy on diesel has been increased by Rs 5.

The business leader said that a reduction in the price of diesel was not possible because the government has to fulfil the budget targets and also implement the agreement made with the IMF.

According to the deal, the government has to raise Rs 869 billion from the petroleum levy this year.

A decrease in the price of petrol will

reduce the travel cost of cars and motorcycles; travel in taxis and rickshaws will become cheaper; and the effect of a decrease in the price of diesel will be less because it is used in heavy transport, trucks, buses, railways, and agriculture.

till now, zero sales tax has been collected on petroleum products and added that apart from the stability of the rupee, good news is also coming from many sides. Cotton production is improving, and 12

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that

million bales are expected to be produced this year; wheat production is up 12 percent; the auto industry, which was devastated, is now getting orders; and the stock market is also improving, he said.

He said that banks are also making huge profits, remittances are picking up again, and rice exports are expected to exceed three billion dollars this year. Electricity thieves are being punished, and planning is being done to prevent illegal profiteering in the sale of commodities and vegetables.

However, the best news is privatization plans, which, if implemented quickly, will save Pakistan from a major problem.

Lucky Cement awarded for best Corporate Report

Solution Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited has won the Best the Company in the Cement Sector Category at the "Best Corporate & Sustainability Report Awards Ceremony - 2022". The recognition was jointly announced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

At this occasion, Atif Kaludi, Chief Financial Officer of Lucky Cement Limited said, "At Lucky Cement Limited, we consider governance, compliance, ethics, and transparency as the foundational principles of our business model. This recognition further reaffirms our unwavering dedication to upholding transparency and accountability in all aspects of our operations."

He further added, "The adoption of the International Integrated Reporting Framework in our report is a testament of our commitment to keeping our stakeholders well informed with all of our business operations and their performance. This recognition underscores our ongoing efforts to enhance transparency for all our

stakeholders through our reporting." The award represent

Corporate Report Award ment to having the best corporate practices and governance, reflected by the stringent policies for IT, whistle-blowing, social responsibility, investor grievances, and safety record at the Company. Furthermore, the comprehensive disclosure of the Company's operational environment, strategic objectives, risk management, and governance processes provided firm grounds for securing this recognition.

ICAP and ICMAP have been organizing the Best Corporate & Sustainability Report (BCSRA) Awards Ceremony since 2000. This recognition has been instrumental in encouraging entities to follow transparency in preparing their annual reports according to the international best practices.

The objective of the award is to encourage the publication of timely, accurate, informative, and well-presented annual reports for investors, regulators and other stakeholders and to recognize as well as honor such organizations for the exemplary achievement in producing such high-qual-

Digital Payments

Daraz, Meezan Bank to expand e-commerce

strategic collaboration with

Market Correspondent

KARACHI: Daraz, Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform, has entered into a strategic long-term partnership with Meezan Bank, a pioneer in Islamic banking and a powerhouse in the banking industry. This collaboration is designed to promote e-commerce and digital payments among Meezan Bank and Daraz customers.

As part of this collaboration, Daraz will be integrating Meezan Bank's payment gateway to process bank card transactions on its platform, providing a seamless payment

experience to customers. Furthermore, Meezan Bank and Daraz will also be launching commercial campaigns to encourage customers to pay using Meezan Bank cards on Daraz, creating awareness about the benefits of digital payments and e-commerce.

With massive customer bases of Meezan Bank and Daraz, this collaboration is well poised to set new benchmarks in e-commerce growth and digital payment adoption in Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion Syed Zeeshan Ali, Director of Digital Payments Daraz said "We are proud to start a

Meezan Bank to promote digital payments. Our comprehensive partnership with Meezan Bank on bank card acquiring and onboarding of new Meezan Bank customers on Daraz will help build customer confidence in digital payments and e-commerce. We look forward to setting new digital payment benchmarks together with Meezan

Shariq Mubeen, Chief Digital Officer, Meezan Bank, shared his views about the collaboration and said "Meezan Bank's impactful initiatives with dynamic part-



ners like Daraz would signif- Pakistan. It feels great to be to working together to redeicantly promote the accept- a part of this valuable part- fine customer's online buying

ance of digital payments in nership and we look forward experiences."

World Cup 2023

Waqar tells Shaheen to copy Bumrah WC blueprint

Waqar Younis advised misfiring strike bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to learn from India seamer Jasprit Bumrah

BENGALURU: Pakistan legend Waqar Younis on Monday advised misfiring strike bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to learn from India seamer Jasprit Bumrah if he wants to make an impact at the World Cup.

Shaheen is struggling with his pace and fitness and has been unimpressive in all three games at the World Cup where his four wickets have come at a cost of

"I don't know if there is a problem with his fitness," Waqar, who is India as a commentator, told AFP.

The missing link in his bowling is discipline and he is over trying to get

"When you do the same thing again and again, like Shaheen is bowling to get his yorker going, then batsmen know that and they are ready for it." Waqar suggested Shaheen should

follow the example set by Bumrah who he described as a "top bowler." The Indian spearhead is joint top wick-

et-taker in the World Cup with eight wickets at just 11.52.

New Zealand spinner Mitchell Sant-



ner and fast bowler Matt Henry also have eight victims each.

India thumped Pakistan by seven wickets in Ahmedabad on Saturday, with Shaheen unable to help Pakistan defend a meagre 192-run target.

In contrast, Bumrah dismissed Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan with two well executed deliveries to finish with 2-19 in seven overs.

"Bumrah is creating pressure and his

line is top of the off stump. He bowled so well against Pakistan and created pressure to get wickets," said Wagar.

Shaheen, 23, has been leading Pakistan's new-ball attack since taking 16 wickets in five World Cup games in the United Kingdom four years ago.

He has been likened to former great Wasim Akram who with 414 Test and 502 ODI wickets was regarded as one of the best left-arm pacers to have played AFP

But former India allrounder Ravi Shastri blasted the comparison during the Pakistan-India match, saying: "Shaheen is no Wasim Akram", claiming that the Pakistan star is "not special."

Waqar believes that the absence of regular new-ball partner Naseem Shah ruled out of the World Cup with a shoulder injury - may have had a detrimental effect on Shaheen's performances so far.

"Naseem is a good bowler and doesn't give many runs away," said Waqar of the 20-year-old.

"When Naseem creates pressure, batsmen take chances with other bowlers and they get wickets."

Waqar said Pakistan's bowling was "lacking discipline" at the World Cup where three games have yielded two wins and one loss.

"I don't think it's because of missing just one bowler, but it's because they are not keeping it simple."

Pakistan, who beat the Netherlands and Sri Lanka before losing to India, next face Australia in Bengaluru on Friday.

'Massive day' as cricket approved for LA Games

IOC rubberstamps proposal to include sport along with four others in 2028 Olympics

MUMBAI: Cricket will feature as one of five new sports at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, organisers announced Monday.

A vote of the International Olympic Committee's session in Mumbai approved cricket, together with baseball/ softball, flag football, squash and lacrosse.

The IOC's executive board last week accepted a proposal by LA organisers for Twenty20 cricket, the sport's shortest format, to be included along with the four other new events.

But the final choice still had to be voted on Monday at the IOC session in Mumbai, one of the global centres for cricket, as India hosts the men's 50-over Cricket World Cup.

Los Angeles chiefs have proposed a six-team event, in both men's and women's T20 cricket.

The United States is set to field sides has been made on the number of teams, such as India and Pakistan. or how they will qualify.



a side representing France. Adding cricket to the Olympic programme is an obvious move, finan-

cially speaking.

It would tap into the lucrative South as the host nation, but no firm decision Asian market, attracting fans in countries

The Indian Premier League Cricket last featured at the 1900 Paris cricket's global stars, has helped India Cricket Council chairman Greg Barclay governing body's finances and govern-Olympics, when a team from Britain beat become the unquestioned economic driv-told reporters in Mumbai of cricket's ance. AFP

ing force of the sport, thanks to legions of fans and lucrative broadcasting deals in a nation where the game is almost a

Meanwhile Major League Cricket, a Kremlev. professional Twenty20 League, launched

in the United States in July. "It's a win-win situation" l

"It's a massive day for cricket," the New Zealander added.

We've got global sport, what I think is the fastest-growing global sport, but getting onto the biggest sporting stage in the world, the Olympics, is a massive

shot in the arm for the game." But the IOC said Monday the status of boxing at the 2028 Games remains "on hold" after it stripped the International Boxing Association (IBA) of its recognition following a dispute over how the sport is governed.

Boxing has been part of every Olympics since 1920 and will feature at next vear's Paris Games.

But in June, the IBA was effectively xpelled from the Olympic movement following a bitter dispute between Games chiefs and its Russian president, Umar

That move came following concerns over the credibility of IBA-sanctioned tournaments, as well as the boxing

Youth office conducted Martial Arts competitions in SWL

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Under the direction of Director Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arshad Qayyum Burki and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir South Waziristan Lower, Youth Office conducted interesting competitions like Boxing, Kickboxing, Max Martial Arts, Body building, Dead lifting and Lying on Sword in Wana.

Additional Deputy Commissioner SW Lower (F&P) Kasmir Khan was the chief guest of these competitions event, besides District Youth Officer Sardar Ali, Drug Inspector Sibghat Ullah and Police SHO Abd UrvRehman participated.

At the end of the program, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan and District Youth Officer Sardar Ali



Wazir distributed prizes among the youth who participated in the compe- the Youth Office will introduce more also they can benefit from these types

On this occasion, Sardar Ali said that unique and interesting sports to the

youth of Waziristan in addition to the traditional sports.

In the end, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan said that the youth office will continue to organize better activities with the support of the district administration of South Waziristan Lower, and will do all kinds of legitimate cooperation with the youth.

On the other hand, the youth thanked the Youth Office for organizing the competitions and appreciated their

The youth said that we hope that the Youth Office will continue to organize such activities in the future, so that not only the youth can be encouraged but

Pakistan duo available for Australia clash after injury, fever scare

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan cricket team received a boost ahead of their upcoming World Cup match against Australia on October 20 in Bengaluru.

According to sources, opener Fakhar Zaman and leg-spinner Usama Mir have fully recovered from their respective ailments and are available for selection for the crucial match.

Zaman had been struggling with a knee injury, while Mir has

After arriving in Bengaluru from Ahmedabad, Pakistan will have their first training session on Tuesday.

So far in the tournament, Pakistan has secured two victories in three matches, but their lone defeat came against their arch-rivals, India. Agencies

Spain's growth 'exceptional': coach



PARIS: Spain have shown "exceptional" growth in recent months, coach Luis de la Fuente said after his side's 1-0 win over Norway on Sunday secured qualification for Euro 2024

After a round of 16 exit at the World Cup in Qatar, which resulted in Luis Enrique's dismissal, Spain were beaten 2-0 by Scotland in March, leading to questions over De la Fuente's future despite it being just his second game in charge.

However, since that defeat, Spain have won four straight qualifying matches, scoring 16 goals and keeping clean sheets in their last three games. They also won the Nations League in June.

"I'm happy because I think the team has grown in an exceptional way. There is a feeling of a united team, a cohesive team, a team for the future, which is what excites us the most," De la

"Learning is constant. You learn a lot from the not so good situations and from good ones too. But we were sure, we haven't gone too far off script. By that, I mean we've corrected what needed changing and we understood what had to change."

Scotland coach Steve Clarke hailed the progress his side have made after they secured a berth at next year's European Championship with two games to spare.

Spain's 1-0 win over Norway on Sunday ensured a top-two finish for Scotland in Group A, earning them automatic qualification. Scotland have qualified for back-to-back European Championship finals for just the second time, after they played in the 1992 and 1996 editions of the tournament.

I would like to congratulate the players for their efforts in qualifying for back-to-back tournaments," Clarke said. "I'm not sure they will fully realise the significance of their achievement yet but to qualify for successive Euros after more than 20 years is phenomenal and testament to their hard work." Reuters

World Cup 2023

Malik once again advises Babar to leave captaincy

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik, once again, has advised skipper Babar Azam to give up the captaincy and play as a player for the team, after Pakistan lost to India on

During his appearance on a private TV show, Malik respondto a question during the show saying. "I have a since

ion for Babar, which I have shared before, that Babar should leave the captaincy."

He went on to clarify that he holds such opinion for Babar, not because Pakistan lost to



India nor is it because the team lost by a big margin, but he believes the 29-year-old captain performs better without the

He said: "There is some homework that I have done based on which Babar as a cricketer can deliver amazing performances for himself and the team."

Malik said that Babar as a leader "doesn't think out of the box" and that "no cricketer should mix his leadership with his batting skills because they are two different things. He has been the captain for a long period but he is not improving."

Moreover, while discussing the team's performance, the 41-year-old said: "If any match of our team goes according to plan, the boys attack, but if something deviates from the plan,

According to Malik, Babar should "hold a meeting with the boys." Despite a harsh defeat from India, Malik cheered Babar up, reminding him that, "the tournament is not over yet, there are many matches left, keep yourself strong". Agencies

Kim retains PGA Vegas title

South Korean golfer fires five-under par 66 in final round to hold off Hadwin

Tom Kim captured his second consecutive PGA Shriners Children's Open title on Sunday, holding off Canada's Adam at 18 left him second on 265, one Hadwin down the stretch for his third career PGA title.

The 21-year-old from Seoul fired a five-under par 66 in the final round to complete 72 holes on 20-under 264 and defeat Hadwin by a stroke at TPC Summerlin in Las Vegas

Kim sank a 12-foot birdie putt at the 15th hole, Hadwin made a bogey at the par-5 16th and answered with a closing birdie but it was too little and too late. "Number three is so sweet,"

Kim said. "It was a long day," Kim said. "I just really felt confident in

'did me' I was going to be able

Hadwin's 25-foot birdie putt shot ahead of Americans Eric Cole and JT Poston, Sweden's Alex Noren and Canadian Taylor Pendrith.

World number 16 Kim, a runner-up in this year's British Open at Royal Liverpool, also won last year's Vegas title and the 2022 Wyndham Championship but had not been able to add to his trophy haul.

"It has been a long season," Kim said. "I'm very fortunate to defend. I've learned so much this year. It has been a blessing. It has been very humbling.

"Last year after going off myself and I was playing real- such a great run, then not feeleighth, then birdied the par-5

LOS ANGELES: South Korea's ly well. If knew if I kind of just ing exactly myself mid-year, it has been a grind trying to figure

"It's my first full season, just trying to live up to that expectation — great year last year, how can it get better? It has been humbling. Kim birdied three of the first

four holes before back-to-back bogeys at five and six dropped him out of the lead. Cole, son of pro golfers Laura

Baugh and Bobby Cole, fired an early 62 to set the mark to beat.

"Conditions were very good for scoring, no wind and greens were very good," Cole said. "And I switched back to an old putter today so that might have helped." Noren reeled off three bird-

ies in a row starting at the par-3

13th and 16th holes to match Cole in the clubhouse.

That's when Kim made his birdie putt at the par-5 ninth charge, sinking a three-foot and six-foot birdie putts at 12

and the par-5 13th to seize the lead alone at 19-under. Hadwin battled into the hunt

with three birdies in four holes, the last after driving the green at the par-4 15th and two-putting from 24 feet to reach 19-under.

Kim answered by sinking a 12-foot birdie putt at 15 to reach 20-under and again led alone.

Hadwin found water with his second shot at the par-5 16th and made bogey while Kim sank a tense five-foot par putt to lead by two and parred 17 and 18 as well to hold off the Canadian despite his late birdie.

Hadwin, ranked 56th, took his only PGA victory at the 2017 Valspar Championship. He was also a runner-up this year to American Rickie Fowler at Detroit. AFP