رضيج بخاری: حدیث نبر 6666 Barkat Rice Mills

HR Minister shows concern over situation of Palestine

Minister for Human Rights George Khalil has expressed concern over the situation in Palestine and strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on innocent Palestinian women and children. He huddled a set to review the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the Palestinian's airstrikes in Gaza and also condemned the killing of the 6-year innocent child who was brutally killed by his owner.

13

Only 13 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

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Belt & Road Forum

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan welcomed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People to attend the banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping in honor of the leaders of the



PM lauds BRI for inclusive development

Kakar dismisses theories that BRI had led participating countries into debt traps

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING: Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar has lauded Belt and Road Initiative for inclusive development to reduce poverty and inequality.

In an exclusive interview with China Daily, he said the BRI is also vital for improving people's ability to pay taxes and enhance governments' capacity to retire

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar described the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of the signature projects under the BRI, as a practical manifestation of win-win cooperation and shared prosperity and a commendable endeavour in building a China-Pakistan ment of Gwadar Port had already community with a shared future. opened new economic oppor-

these elements also form the bedrock of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initi-

He dismissed theories that the BRI had led participating countries into debt traps, saying that China is offering a unique mechanism of development financing to developing countries.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar further said CPEC has brought about a direct investment of 25.4 billion dollars to Pakistan and created a total of 236,000 jobs. He said the project underlines an excellent example of an open, coordinated and inclusive development paradigm that benefits all parts of the country and all segments of society. He added that the develop-

port was now functional and trade and connectivity. regularly handling cargo ships including transshipment trade for Afghanistan. He said a free

China is offering a unique mechanism of development financing to developing countries

economic zone is in place offering lucrative incentives for local, Chinese and other international

The Prime Minister said a new international airport will also be inaugurated in Gwadar, bringing the port closer to its vision

ter assured provision of foolproof

safety and security to Chinese personnel and institutions. He said Pakistan has put in place stringent security protocols to safeguard Chinese workers and entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minis-

He cited examples including regular security briefings, risk assessment and information exchanges between the two nations in order to identify potential threats and come up with solutions accordingly.

The Prime Minister, who is in Beijing to participate in the Third Belt and Road Forum, said the event has provided both countries with a stage to reaffirm their commitment to international cooperation and devel-

Spokesman Report The Prime Minister said all tunities. He elaborated that the of serving as the hub of regional opment while highlighting the successes, reviewing the lessons learned and charting the future trajectory of the CPEC.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Pakistan's relations with China form the cornerstone of Islamabad's foreign policy. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to this all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, describing China as a strategic and trustworthy development partner.

He also spoke highly of China's remarkable achievement in having lifted over 800 million people from abject poverty, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

He said Pakistan with a population of 240 million can also learn from China to put its people on a path of sustainable development.

Top military brass vows to crush terrorists with unflinching resolve

Pakistan will continue to support the principled stance of Palestinian brethren for resolution of Palestinian issue



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Corps Commanders' Conference has reiterated the commitment that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working at the behest of hostile forces to destabilize Pakistan, will be dealt with unflinching resolve of the state.

The resolve was expressed during 260th Corps Commanders' Conference held at GHQ, Rawalpindi on Tuesday with Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir in the chair.

The meeting offered Fateha for the Shuhada of Mastung, Hangu and Zhob incidents and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices being continuously offered by the security forces and law enforcement agencies in defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism.

The forum wa prevalent geo-strategic environ- ment and law enforcement ment, challenges to the national security and own strategy in actions against illegal economresponse to evolving threat.

The Conference reaffirmed Pak Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

The forum vowed to fully support the strategic initiatives by the government for the revival of economy by providing all possible support for wellbeing of the people.

It took holistic review of the ongoing actions being taken against illegal economic activities and resolved to fully support the Federal Government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from 1st of next month.

Addressing the forum, the Army Chief directed all concerned to support and facilitate smooth, respectable and safe repatriation of all illegal foreigners.

He emphasized that Pak Army will continue to provide all out support to the governagencies in taking strict lawful ic activities across the country.

FM Jilani to attend urgent meeting of OIC-EC in Jeddah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will attend the urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

The meeting has been convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

In his statement at the Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will present Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire, lifting of the siege and provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza.

On the sidelines, the Foreign Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other OIC member states.

Imran, Qureshi's indictment in cipher case put off for a week

RAWALPINDI: The indictment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and his party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case was deferred Tuesday, as a special court — established under the Official Secrets Act — adjourned the hearing till next week. The hearing of the case was held at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi wherein the copies of challans submitted by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against the PTI leaders were provided to the accused.

Special court judge, Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain, who conducted the hearing, scheduled the indictment for the next week as the accused lawyers had refused to receive the copies of the challan during the last hearing.

The FIA special prosecutor, Shah Khawar, Khan, Qureshi and their legal teams were all present in the courtroom during the hearing.

During the last hearing on October 9, the court issued copies of challans (charge sheet) submitted by the FIA against the PTI leaders and shared them with the accused, while their date of indictment was fixed to take place on October 17 (today). "The accused had refused to receive a copy of the challan at the previous hearing," the FIA special prosecutor said.

After the charges are framed, the evidence of the prosecution is recorded and the case trial begins. Subsequently, the testimonies and statements of the accused are recorded by the court.

Speaking with journalists outside the Adiala jail before the hearing, PTI chief's focal person on legal affairs, Umair Niazi, said that the copies of the challans were not provided in the previous hearing.

He also said that the prosecution's Section 14 plea was not allowed by the court. "The hearing in the jail should not be in-camera and the media should have access," he said, adding that this will be discussed today.

Israel's Gaza evacuation order could breach int'l law: UN

CAIRO/ GENEVA: The United Nations human rights office said on Tuesday that Israel's siege of Gaza and its evacuation order for the north of the enclave could amount to a forcible transfer of civilians and be in breach of international law.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, said Israel seemed to have made no effort to ensure the civilians temporarily evacuated in Gaza were provided with proper accommodation, as well as satisfactory conditions of hygiene, health, safety and

"We are concerned that this order, combined with the imposition of a complete siege of Gaza, may not be considered as lawful temporary evacuation and would therefore amount to a forcible transfer of civilians in breach of international law," she said.

"Those who managed to comply with the Israeli authorities' order to evacuate are now trapped in the south of the Gaza Strip, with scant shelter, fast-depleting food supplies, little or no access to clean water, sanitation, medicine and other basic needs."

The term "forcible transfer" describes the forced relocation of civilian populations and it is a crime against humanity punishable by the International Criminal Court (ICC). In separate comments, the World Food Programme said its food supplies in Gaza were running low but that it was stockpiling supplies in the Egyptian city of Al-Arish nearby.

Abeer Etefa, WFP Regional Communications Lead for the Middle East and North Africa, said they hoped 'to cross as soon as the border access is granted."

"We call for unimpeded access, safe passage to desperately needed humanitarian supplies to Gaza," she said.

Chinese envoy calls for Palestinian-Israeli ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS: A Chinese envoy on Monday called for a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians for the protection of civilians, at a meeting of the



United Nations Security Council.

The latest round of conflict has resulted in massive civilian casualties and a humanitarian crisis. Its spillover effects have impacted regional peace and stability. China is deeply concerned about this, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

China condemns all acts that harm civilians and opposes all acts that violate international law. China supports the UN Security Council in playing a responsible role, supports all efforts aimed at de-escalation and peace, and welcomes all initiatives that are conducive to protecting civilians and mitigating the humanitarian crisis, he said.

On the basis of the above-mentioned position, China voted in favor of the Russian-drafted resolution, said Zhang in an explanation statement after the vote at the meeting. The Security Council failed to adopt the draft

resolution that calls for a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza.

In the face of the dire situation, China calls for efforts to realize a cease-fire as soon as possible and to prevent the spread of the flames of war, so as to avoid the further escalation of tensions. Military means are not the way out. Violence for violence will only lead to an endless vicious cycle, said

Caretakers reach out to PTI for 'evolving consensus' on polls

Mahmood complains his party is not being given equal opportunities

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: In a had last month announced that Information Minister Murtaza Solangi Tuesday met Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shafqat Mahmood to evolve a consensus on the upcoming general elections and ease the prevailing tense political environment in the country.

The PTI, in a statement, said the meeting was held at the "request of Solangi" at the residence of Mahmood, a senior party leader who served as the education minister under Imran

The former ruling party had been complaining that it Is not being given equal opportunities for electioneering as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

major development, caretaker general elections in the country would take place in the last week of January 2024. The Imran Khan-led PTI had

been demanding a "level playing field" for all the political parties in the upcoming polls. The PTI leadership believes that the former ruling party is being "politically victimised" after the May 9 riots. It is pertinent to mention here

that the May 9 riots were triggered across the country after the arrest of the ousted prime minister in the £190 million settlement case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations.

The Spokesman



Pakistan voices disappointment over UNSC's failure on Gaza ceasefire

The most urgent need at this stage is a ceasefire, says Ambassador Munir

NEW YORK: Pakistan, which he added. The draft did not along with many Arab and secure the required number OIC countries co-sponsored of nine votes for adoption. The the Russian draft resolution final vote tally was 5 in favour calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, expressed disappointment that the UN Security Council did the United Arab Emirates), not approve the balanced text. "The most urgent need at this United Kingdom, and the stage is a ceasefire," Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to dor, Ghana, Malta and Switthe UN, told APP correspond-

"It is, therefore, disappointing that the Russian draft Russian draft resolution, were: ladesh, Maldives, Mauritaresolution, which called for Pakistan, Bahrain, Jordan, nia, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea Russian draft. an immediate humanitarian Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the and Mali. Zimbabwe, Nicaraceasefire, was not adopted," UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, gua, and Venezuela were also Russia's UN Ambassador victims. APP

(China, Gabon, Mozambique, the Russian Federation and 4 against (France, Japan, the United States), and 6 abstentions (Albania, Brazil, Ecuazerland).

The Arab and OIC coun-



Lebanon, Yemen, Indonetries, which co-sponsored the sia, Malaysia, Turkiye, Bang-

among the co-sponsors. Diplomats noted that the State of Palestine also supported the

Vassily Nebenzia expressed regret over the Security Council's failure to adopt the resolution, blaming the "selfish intention of the Western bloc".

He said that the Western countries' delegations "basically stomped" on global hopes for the Council to put an end to violence. Western countries opposed the resolution on the ground that it not mention Hamas. US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that her country could not support the Russian draft resolution as it ignored Hamas' After Monday night's vote, terrorism and 'dishonoured'

Govt gets more time to appeal against SC's NAB amendments verdict

Govt likely to ask SC to order restoration of NAB amendments

Court (SC) on Tuesday granted 15 days time to the federal government to file an appeal against the apex court's decision abolishing the amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

The additional time has been given in the light of the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, which came into force granting a right to appeal the apex court's verdicts.

Attorney-General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan said the tution. extension was sought to add additional grounds in the

League-Nawaz (PML-N) Pres-

ident Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday

equated former prime minis-

ter Nawaz Sharif's return to the

country with national cohesion.

the meeting of the divisional

coordinators. Prominent among

those who attended the meeting

were PML-N Chief Organiser

Maryam Nawaz and PML-N

Vice President Hamza Shehbaz.

Sharif said, "The new jour-

ney of the country's prosperi-

ty will start on October 21. We

will develop a welfare-oriented

where no one will be left frus-

On this occasion, Shehbaz

Shehbaz Sharif presided over

PML-N equates Nawaz's

return with national cohesion

New journey of country's prosperity will start on Oct 21: Shehbaz Sharif

issued by SC on September 15 about the case.

"There is now a right of Procedure Act," the AGP said. The SC, on September 15,

ruled to strike down some National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999. The NAB al time has now been granted amendments case was related to public importance; thus, it fell under the original jurisdiction of the superior court i.e. Article 184(3) of the Consti-

The time limit for filing a Meanwhile, petitioner revision against the SC decision Zubair Ahmed Siddiqui has

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim ty," Shehbaz Sharif maintained. | cials of the polio monitor-

Earlier today, PML-N Pres-

leaders in Lahore. On this occa-

to the country on October 21.

Shehbaz Sharif said: "The

will prove this again: everything

"The PML-N workers are commended the efforts of the of the polio monitoring team

ry and working hard to lead way the workers and leaders are Mohammad Shoaib and driver

and progress-oriented country 21, the journey of fulfilling the monitor the polio vaccina-

promises will start.

can be fine."

the country towards prosperi- working is appreciable. Agencies Waheed. APP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme appeal against the judgment expired on October 15, with the filed an appeal against the SC had, in a majority decision government seeking 15 more days for filing an appeal.

> The government was, appeal under the Practice and however, supposed to file the appeal against the NAB amendments verdict today.

> With the application of the amendments made to the SC law following the top court's decision to uphold it, additionto the government.

Through the appeal, the government is likely to ask the SC to annul the decision against the NAB amendments and order its restoration.

Four officials

 $| \tilde{m}onitoring |$

team abducted

ing team including a female

The DPO said that a heavy

tion and safely recover the

unknown persons kidnapped

He said that a polio moni-

tion campaign without inti-

TANK: At least four offi-

of polio

ident Shehbaz Sharif vowed to were abducted here on Tues-

The former prime minister | area, confirmed District Police

fulfil the masses' expectations. day from Kiri Omar Khan

held a meeting with the PML-N Officer Iftikhar Ali Shah.

sion, the matter is in line with contingent of police has

the preparations for welcoming | been dispatched to the area

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif | to conduct a search opera-

PML-N will again take the all the officials including the

country out of the quagmire. We driver and a female worker.

He vowed that on October area of Kiri Omar Khan to

The former prime minister | mating the police. The officials

same verdict of the apex court.

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Faroog H Naek filed a review petition against the aforementioned decision on October 14.

The lawver filed the review petition on behalf of a citizen named Abdul Jabbar, who was neither party in the litigation nor did he belong to any political party. However, he was directly affected by the iudgment against the NAB amendments, as an accountability reference against him

was pending. It should be noted that the

of 10-5 on October 11, upheld the law formulated to regulate the affairs of the top court, but noted that although the right to appeal provided against a decision taken under Article 184(3) will not be applicable retrospectively, it will apply to those ruling which were issued

after the law came into effect. The Parliament had passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, in April, and the apex court struck down the amendments to the NAB law in September, allowing the right to appeal. Agen-

Constitution accords fundamental rights to citizens: SC

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the Constitution had accorded fundamental rights, covering political, social and freedom of expression to every citizen.

"The protection of legitimate rights of citizens is the constitutional responsibility of the state," the Expressing his thoughts, abducted officials, adding that three-member bench observed in its 11-page order written by Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel in a case against Imad Yusuf. toring team went to the remote

vice president of a private tv channel. The court also acquitted Imad Yousaf in the case, filed by Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf leader Shahbaz Gill. writing a new chapter of histo- PML-N leaders, saying, "The | included Shaila Noor, Zulfiqar, The apex court, in its

decision, observed that

The citizens should be avoided. It noted that the misuse of the authority created fear and insecurity among the people. "An environment of fear creates hatred against the institutions of the state and the media also cannot function freely in such circumstances.

The court said that the critics and political opponents should not be considered as enemies. It added that the print and electronic media were the means of conveying information to the public.

The judgment further said that it was difficult to believe that public representatives, journalists and political workers could indulge in anti-state activ-

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees continuing on daily basis ISLAMABAD: The repatriation of

Afghan Refugees to their homeland is continuing on daily basis.

A total of 2871 Afghans left for their country on Monday through Torkham border. Of these 441 men, 238 women and 1242 children left

The illegal Afghan residents have been given a deadline of 31st October by the government to leave the country.

The voluntary return of Afghans to their homeland is commendable. This will produce positive results for both the countries. Agencies

Pakistan, Sri Lanka express support for Palestinian state

with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

The understanding to this effect came at a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Hag Kakar and President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed deep concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by the ongoing Israeli attacks. They further urged for establishing a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the besieged people of Gaza.

The Prime Minister emphasized tion in areas of mutual interest.

BEIJING: Pakistan and Sri Lanka the need to work together to fight have called for establishing a viable poverty and promote economic and contiguous Palestinian state growth and development for benefit of the entire region. He also expressed his desire to promote peace and enhance connectivity through regional cooperation.

Both leaders agreed to remain in contact to exchange experiences and best practices in areas such as privatization of State-Owned Enterprises.

In his remarks, the President of Sri Lanka thanked the Prime Minister for conveying warm sentiments on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan. The leaders agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties and continue the long-standing coopera-

Pakistan was world's leading exporter in pharma sector in 90s: SAPM

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to affordable medicines to the people manufacturer and exporter in the pharmaceutical sector in the 1990s.

At one time, Pakistan Pharmaheld a special place in the important markets of the world, he said.

He said this while addressing to meeting with Pakistan Pharmaceuman, Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Reh- market in today's world. man here in BOI office.

of investment in the special economic zone was increasing and pharma-

He said that the government would support the pharmaceutical sector in every aspect and Ease of Doing Business was the priority of the Board of

The SAPM said that problems of the pharmaceutical sector would be resolved to make the country's economy strong and increase its exports. He said that providing quality and of dollar. APP

Prime Minister (SAPM) on Invest- was the first priority of the government, Tahir Javed Tuesday said that ment, for which the government Pakistan was the world's leading and pharmaceutical manufacturers would try to work together. Tahir Javed said that "I will take

the proposals given to me by the ceuticals was the leading exporter of pharmaceutical sector in the cabi-Europe and America, whose exports net and work to improve the business environment for the pharmaceutical sector."

He said that further development could be made in the sector through tical Manufacturing Association innovation which could take the (PPMA) delegation led by its Chair- country forward in the competitive

He reiterated that the government The SAPM said that the pharma- would encourage the investors in reutical sector was a major player in —every way so that economic developthe country's exports and the trend ment could take place in the country.

Meanwhile, Chairman Pharmaceutical Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Receutical companies should come and hman said that they could bring an investment of \$1 billion in the Special Economic Zone.

He said that the government should not change the sales tax and tariff structure and especially give tax exemption on raw material.

He said that 95% of pharmaceutical raw material was imported due to which the price of medicines increased due to high exchange rate

With full military honours

Shaheed Sepoy Waris Khan laid to rest

of Shaheed Sepoy Waris Khan, who to mourn. "The determination and embraced martyrdom in

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayer widow and two sons besides parents

a fierce exchange of fire with terrorists in Miran Shah area of North Waziristan on Monday was held with full military honors in his native town Karak District on Tuesday.

A large number of army officers, soldiers, relatives and local people participated morale of the soldiers of the Pakistan in the funeral prayer of the martyr, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)

news release said. Sepoy Waris Khan left behind a



Army cannot be shaken by the cowardly acts of the terrorists. The war against terrorism will continue until the end of the last terrorist," the ISPR said. APP

BRI plays key role in fostering regional economic dev:

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Saeed has underscored Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with China with a focus on infrastructure development and sustainable growth.

Speaking at a meeting with Chinese technology enterprises in Beijing, he emphasized the pivotal role of the BRI

in fostering regional connectivity and economic development. The minister highlighted Pakistan's national pride in being a significant contributor to the success of the Belt and Road Initi-

He said that Pakistan's active involvement in the BRI reflects the country's steadfast dedication to fostering mutually beneficial relationships and enhancing global cooper-

baseless actions against ities. APP Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

PMAJK condoles death ofjournalist

Bureau Report

BHIMBAR: Prime Minister Azad Aamir Rasool Butt, relative of Pres-Govt of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, mother-inlaw of Deputy Commissioner Mirza maternal uncle, Khawaja Zafar Butt,

senior journalist Nasir Sharif Butt, Tariq Mehmood Butt, brother of ident Kashmir Press Club Chaudhry Jameel Shafi, Nasir Sharif. Butt's Arshad Mahmud Jaral, daughter of expressed deep grief and shock over



the death, condoled the bereaved family, and said while reciting the Fatih

May Allah raise the ranks of the deceased and grant patience to all the bereaved families.

Media briefing

FAISALABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Muhsin Naqvi talking to media persons after visiting the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), in City.



All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference to hold mass gatherings on 91st anniversary

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: The All fundamental rights. The 91st Jammu and Kashmir Muslim (91st) anniversary celebrations Conference, the first politi- of the Muslim Conference are cal party of the people of the being held all over the world state of Jammu and Kashmir, apart from the refugees living was founded on October 15, 16, 17, 1932 in Pathar Masjid, Srinagar by the Muslims of the state of Jammu and Kashmir in a historic gathering. The establishment of the Muslim Conference was the most important event in the political history of the state and a proof of an awakening in which the Muslims of the state of Jammu and Kashmir did not let any regional, group, linguistic or ethnic bias stand in the way and showed complete unity and consensus for the freedom of Kashmiris.

And started a practical struggle for the protection of their in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan,

Jammu and Kashmir. President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan expressed these views in a special message released on the occasion of party 91st (91st) Foundation Day. He said that Azad Kashmir, refugees living in Pakistan and Kashmiri living abroad should hold gatherings at their respective levels on the occa-



pledge that they will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for these great goals and ideas. On the basis of which the Muslim Conference was established ninety-one years ago today. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said in a message to the officials and workers that our ancestors founded the Muslim Conference in Pathar Masiid of Srinagar with the aim of sion of the establishment of the strengthening the commit-Kashmiri party and renew the ment of the Muslims of Jammu

God and achieving their rights.

ers and workers who set a clear path for Kashmiri Muslims in the historic and founding gathering. He said that the Muslim Conference has Since its inception, it has played its responsibilities in maintaining the religious/ideological and political identity of the state. There were many big storms inside and outside against the religious identity of the state, there was also a storm of Bhutto's sociallism in Pakistan, but these storms could not divert the Muslim Conference from its path. He said that the Muslim Conference after its establish-

and Kashmir to the religion of ment under the leadership of Raees Ul Harar Quaid Millat The struggle was to begin. Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas on He said that today we pay July 19, 1947 determined a our respects to those leaders/ clear objective for Kashmiris participants/organizers/speak- in the form of the resolution of accession to Pakistan and then in the 1970s Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan. led the nation intellectually and ideologically by giving the slogan "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" which is our heritage even today which the Muslim Conference is playing its historical role to transfer successfully in its fourth generation. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said. That the Muslim Conference has been continuously engaged in the struggle for the independence and completion of Pakistan since its inception

Pakistan People's Party for Kashmir demands end of Israeli occupation of Al-Aqsa Mosque



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir and Member Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that the rulers of Islamic countries have to play a decisive role for Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Many European countries and America are openly supporting Israeli aggression, Muslim rulers have also come forward openly, the people of Palestine are fighting for their rights, under international laws they have the right to struggle for freedom.

He said that the Palestinian Mujahideen made the nation proud by defeating the Israeli intelligence, this series of achievements and accomplishments will continue in the coming time with the help of Allah Almighty and the Holy Land will be freed from Zionist domination.

Certainly, the current situation is the most important milestone for ending Israel's illegal occupation. Israel has besieged 23 lakh Muslims of Gaza, food, water and electricity supply is stopped there, the Zionist action is an open aggression, if the international community turns a blind eye to it, all the two billion Muslims will

He said that the OIC and the United Nations should immediately ensure 6
the provision of food and medical facilities to millions $\,$ of people in Gaza. Its siege by the Zionist forces should be ended, international organizations should be allowed to carry out relief operations. The rulers of Islamic countries should take a bold stand, they have to express the sentiments of the Ummah.

He said that the time is not far when the oppressed Palestinians will be freed and the doors of the first Qibla will be opened for all the Muslim Ummah.

District officers review performance of their respective departments in line with PM's action plan



RAWALAKOT: Under the chairmanship of the Director Gen Public Relations Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Ra ja Shahid Hussain, with the District Officers Information Review Meeting was held at the Divisional Office of Public Relations, Poonch, Rawalkot. In the meeting, the performance of the districts was reviewed with reference to print and social media monitoring, preparations of the annual calendar of the Information Department in the context of the National Action Plan.

Director General Public Relations Raja Shahid Hussain directed the district officers to ensure maximum publicity of the government initiatives by using modern tools, to improve the affairs with reference to the awareness of the Prime Minister's initiatives and their fruits. An effective strategy should be made to deal with fake news on social media and all stakeholders, including the administration, should be kept in touch.

Effective monitoring of print media should be ensured in the context of action plan. In the meeting, the performance of district officers regarding social media monitoring, print and electronic media and national action plan was reviewed. After the meeting, a training session was also held regarding making social media monitoring reports effective, preparation of annual calendar, preparation of news bulletin including district monitoring committees, in which a detailed briefing was given.

On this occasion, the district officers informed the Chief Public Relations Officer about the problems faced in their districts and gave suggestions for possible solutions. The Director General Public Relations directed the district officers to carry out the affairs with diligence and zeal. He said that the installation of Biometric Attendance System has been done in the Central Office of Information Department and Biometric System will be installed in district offic-

16th Anniversary of Karsaz Incident

British News Agency Reuters Pakistan and Afghanistan Bureau Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto Arrival in Pakistan After 8 Years Exile. at the Islamabad office

All the staff members of Reuters News Agency participated in the meeting while Faisal Aziz Khan from Karachi. Miss Sahar Ahmed and Picture Editor Mr Zahid Hussain participated in the meeting while Simon Cameron in Islamabad Office. Deputy Bureau Chief Robert Brussal, Zeeshan Ahmed, Asim Tanveer and Kamran Ahmed. Apart from Matiullah Jan and Miss Sheri Sardar, Mian Khurshid participated.

In the meeting, the best coverage plan was prepared for Ms. Benazir Bhutto after her 8 years of exile.

According to the meeting plan, Zeeshan Haider and Asim Tanveer were to leave for Dubai on October 16 and join Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Dubai.

While Reuters Bureau Chief Simon Cameron was already present in Karachi while Miss Sahar Ahmed. Imtiaz Shah was also involved with them. photo editor with Mr. Zahid Hussain. Jahangir Khan. Athar Hussain, Akbar Baloch and Akram Shahid from Hyderabad were also part of the coverage team while Reuters Television team Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and was present for live satellite coverage of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's jalsa at Mazare-Quaid from Karachi Airport.

photojournalists Mr. Zahid Hussain from Reuters London led by Mr. Peter and Zainul Abedin from Malaysia were

n October 5, 2007, also part of the coverage team.

The special plane of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto landed at Jinnah International Airport at 2:30 PM. Ms. chief Simon Camer- Benazir Bhutto was accompanied by on Morey called a meeting For former her close friend and Political Secretary Miss Naheed Khan and more than 150 international media journalists from Dubai to Karachi.

> Ms. Benazir Bhutto was very eager to go to Pakistan while Ms. Miss Naheed Khan and other party leaders in Pakistan including Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani for the historic reception of Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Karachi. Makhdoom Amin Fahim. Qaim Ali Shah. Jahangir Badr. Farhatullah Babar. Latif Khosa. Nair Bukhari. Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah. And other party leaders were involved and were in touch from moment to moment, Since 14 October 2007 was Eid-ul-Fitr in Pakistan. And the people were busy celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr while the party leadership of Pakistan People's Party in Pakistan was busy in the historic reception of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto.

> Former Prime Minister and Senator Sved Yousaf Raza Gillani organized party workers' convention in South Punjab along with fasting in the month of Ramadan. Khawaja Rizwan Alam was also with him.

While in the whole month of Ramadan In Sindh, Southern Punjab, Central Punjab Rawalpindi, Khyber

Pakistan People's Party organized iftar parties for workers in which the workers were appealed to reach Karachi on October 18 to participate in the historic reception of Ms. Benazir Bhut-

On October 16, I left from Multan to Karachi by an 11:00 a.m. I had a flight with former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani. Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Sardar Latif Khosa. Khawaja Rizwan Alam. Mrs. Bushra Naqvi Advocate. Pir Shujaat Hasnain Qureshi.

The PIA plane landed at Karachi Jinnah International Airport at 12:15 PM, while I left Karachi for Dubai at 3:30 PM, on Emirates flight.

On reaching Dubai, Ms. Benazir's Chief Security Officer Brigadier Aman received me while Dr. Shahid Masood and Hamid Mir were already present outside Ms. Benazir Bhutto's house.

When I met with Ms. Benazir Bhutto at Eid-ul-Fitr cake. During the meeting Ms. Benazir Bhutto looked very happy and excited to go to Pakistan.

During this time, I also gave an exclusive interview to Ms. Benazir Bhutto for Reuters On October 17, Ms. Benazir Bhut-

to held a crowded press conference in Dubai, which was covered by journalists from all over the world.

This press conference was broadcasted live by media around the world. On October 18, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's

charity was given in Dubai and Miss Naheed Khan tied Imam Zamin on Ms. Benazir Bhutto's arm. After which Ms. Benazir Bhutto along with her friend Khan and international media arrived at Dubai Airport to go to Karachi. During the flight Ms. Benazir Bhutto

was reciting the Holy Quran. As soon as the pilot of Emirates

Airline announced the arrival of the flight in the airspace of Karachi, Ms Naheed Khan and her colleagues started chanting Pakistan Zindabad and Ms. Benazir Bhutto Zindabad. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani was on

the apron when Mrs. Benazir Bhutto

came out of the plane. Makhdoom Amin Fahim. Jahangir Badr. Qaim Ali Shah and Syed Khurshid Shah and Khwaja Rizwan Alam gave a historic welcome to Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

While Amir Mehboob, the former

her residence in Dubai, she fed me an Airport Manager of Multan Airport and the current Airport Manager of Karachi Airport, served tea to Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her colleagues in his office. After arriving at the Karachi airport, Ms. Benazir Bhutto was told that a sea of people had gathered from the airport to Mazar-e-Quaid to welcome her.

In the meantime, security officers dressed in plain clothes asked Ms. Benazir to sign some papers, to which Ms. Benazir flatly refused. And in anger, she left for the exit gate of the airport and boarded a specially prepared bulletproof truck-like container for them.

The enthusiasm of the people was so high that Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's truck was moving very slowly and crawling

and Political Secretary Miss Naheed and covered the distance of 11 kilometers from Karachi Airport to Karsaz in 12 hours.

Unfortunately, mobile phone signals were on during the reception procession of Ms. Benazir Bhutto. At 12:55 PM, a moderate explosion occurred in a vehicle behind Ms. Benazir's reception truck, followed a few seconds later by a second, extremely terrifying explosion.

And in a few moments, hundreds of PPP workers were martyred while hundreds of other workers were injured. The heads of those martyred in Karsaz were separated from their bodies, it was as if the heads of fishes were separated from their bodies. It was a very scary scene. After the explosion, the street lights of Shahrah Faisal were switched off and there was shouting everywhere. As soon as there was a terrible explosion in front of the car maker and in front of the PSO petrol pump, the mobile phone

signals went off. In the meantime, I gave the initial information from my satellite phone to Bureau Chief Simon Cameron Morey, who was in Reuters office Karachi, about the explosion near Karsaz and told him about the 115 dead bodies and injured in front of me and also confirmed that Ms. Benazir Bhutto is safe. She and Miss Naheed Khan have been safely taken out of the reception truck. After the horrific blast on 18 October 2007, the ambulances of Edhi Welfare and other charitable organizations shifted the dead bodies and the injured to different hospitals in Karachi. ARY NEWS cameraman Arif Khan was also martyred in the Karsaz tragedy.

Salim Shehzad Aka Tally from

Multan was among the injured in the Karsaz explosion. And besides Rana Dalmir, Rana Naik Muhammad. And Hashim Khan Babar was also involved

After the blasts, a team of doctors did a medical check-up of Ms. Benazir Bhutto. On this occasion Ms. Benazir Bhutto was very depressed and worried and she was repeatedly asking her political secretary Miss Naheed Khan about her party workers.

The news of the tragedy was carried around the world via live satellite coverage by Reuters News Agency within

Ms. Benazir Bhutto in the morning after the Karsaaz bomb blasts. Miss Naheed Khan along with Asim Tanveer and driver Javed first reached the Civil Hospital Karachi and went to the injured and inquired about their well-being.

Meanwhile, after hearing Ms. Benazir Bhutto's arrival in hospital, despite the injuries, the entire hospital was shouting slogans of Pakistan People's Party and Ms. Benazir Bhutto Zinbad. In the meantime, I informed my media friends in Karachi about Ms. Benazir Bhutto's arrival at the Civil Hospital.

After only 40 minutes, more than 300 news journalists. TV cameramen and photojournalists were present outside the Civil Hospital and they were all waiting for Ms. Benazir Bhutto's interaction with the media. Ms. Benazir Bhutto held a crowded press conference after visiting the injured in the tragedy at the Civil Hospital. She strongly condemned the tragic act of terrorism and also prayed for the martyrs of the



Namaz Timings

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Stations			
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CAA	9281092

LGrepresentatives of SWLower protested about their demands

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Monday, local body representatives from Lower South Waziristan staged a protest in favor of their demands.

A large number of elected local government representatives of South Waziristan Lower District

participated in the protest. Local representatives of which Village, Neighborhood Council members participated.

The protestors demanded that promises of devolution of powers to local governments be implemented.

They said that the promises made by the government to local body representatives have not been fulfilled.

Rather, there have been tiers in which the main point is the transfer of powers to the local repre-

They said that earlier the PTI government and now he caretaker governmen KP is working in a evasive manner, and with this attitude of the government, local body representatives have lost their credibility among the people.

Demonstrators said that the government has yet to provide funds to local representatives, rather, even offices and honorariums have not been issued.

Local body representatives expressed their views on this occasion and said that the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also not cooperating.

Rather, they are abusing us by not cooperating with us even though they are holding a non-political i.e. administrative position by

ignoring us. The elected representatives from South Waziristan Lower District have made demands regarding the restoration of Local Government Act 2019 and verification of credentials of other departments and education, and who now shy away from these demands.

Inauguration of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centers in KP Govt Schools, Swabi District

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF and Hashoo Foundation, in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED), are proud to announce the inauguration of 500 Early Childhood Education (ECE) classrooms across twenty-three districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). This transformative initiative is made possible through funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait

Aligned with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Plan 2020-2025, the E&SED underscores the critical role of ECE in a child's development and learning, making it a top priority for the region. To actualize this commitment, the existing 13,000 Katchi classrooms in primary schools will be converted into modern ECE

In pursuit of the goal to refurbish 13,000 classrooms into quality ECE centers, UNICEF has partnered with Hashoo Foundation in

a groundbreaking project titled Transformation of ECE Classrooms in 23 Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." The ECE Centers being inaugurated recently are among the 500 centers to be established by Hashoo Foundation, in collaboration with the E&SED and the Implementation Support Unit of the E&SE Directorate, spanning 23 districts in KP.

The funding for these projects is provided by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), supporting 1.600 centers and 100 centers. respectively. This initiative is set to benefit over 96,000 children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UNICEF has a long-standing partnership with the E&SED, offering technical and financial assistance to enhance educational opportunities, particularly for girls, and to improve education service delivery through evidence-based planning. Their collaboration focuses on multiple areas, including access, equity, inclusion, quality, governance, and management of education.

The primary objective of this



environment for early childhood education and expand educational opportunities, especially in underserved communities, with a strong emphasis on advancing female education.

Hashoo Foundation, with a and the 2022 Quality Education Education Department (E&SED),

endeavor is to create a nurturing rich history of promoting education, has reached 550,278 children since launching the Hashoo Schools initiative in 2002. Notably, the Child Education Support Program (CESP), benefitting 25,500 girls and 24,500 boys,

Program (EQuIP) exemplify the foundation's dedication to enhancing the educational landscape.

The inauguration ceremony united key stakeholders, including representatives from UNICEF, the Elementary and Secondary

Hashoo Foundation, the KP government, and the local community. Their significant support and contributions were greatly appre-

Abdul Waheed, Acting Country Director of Hashoo Foundation, expressed his heartfelt satisfaction at witnessing the inception of the ECE project, a promise of a brighter future for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's children. The UNICEF Education Specialist reiterated their unwavering commitment to supporting partners like Hashoo Foundation, highlighting the profound impact of establishing 500 ECE schools on children's lives across KP.

The Secretary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department lauded the tireless efforts of GPE, UNICEF, and Hashoo Foundation, reaffirming a strong commitment to provide full support. Recognizing that the project's success will empower children with education while strengthening communities and contributing to the overall development of the region, he emphasized the department's dedication to this transformative journey.

$\overline{ ext{MOU}}$

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of RWCCI Saboohi Hussian and Chairman IDC Dr Rizwan Uppal exchange files after sighing the MOU for "Breast Cancer awareness Session" in Federal Capital.



Bannu Division to mitigate disaster losses by developing affective plan: Commissioner

Mews Desk

BANNU: Commissioner Bannu Division Parwaiz Sabatkhell emphasized on the role of all departments to minimize professionally the rate of losses in natural disasters due to climate change by preparing affective plan. So that effective strategies are implemented according to the ground realities at the time of desaster. Most of the managerial role playing by divisional and district administration which has been the main stakeholder. Commissioner Bannu mized.

further said that each department should prepare a viable



disaster management plan in connection with the federal with natural disasters in a professional manner in the context of climate change so that the losses could be mini-

Commissioner Bannu Divi-

tion process at the divisional level of the Provincial Disasand provincial levels to deal ter Management Plan (2023-2030) of PDMA and donor agencies. He expressed these views

while addressing the opening session of a one-day consultation workshop regarding the sion appreciated the consulta- provincial disaster manage-

ment plan in the conference

room of his office today. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Bannu Hamid Iqbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Lucky Marwat F& P and other officials of various government departments and representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in

the workshop. The participants of the workshop were told that this plan is being made under the National Disaster Management Act 2010, which aims to better plan to deal with any emergency and disaster.

World Egg Day' has been celebrated at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today 'World Egg Day' has been celebrated at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi in partnership with Sadiq Group of Industries, with an aim to create public awareness about the nutritional value of eggs and its importance in human diet. A seminar on importance of eggs was organized while a cooking competition was also held on the occasion. Shields and cash prizes were distributed among the participants of the

competition. The seminar was attended by Health Experts, industry leaders and renowned professionals.

Eggs are one of the few foods that should be classified as "superfoods." Dr. Habib Ur Rehman, the keynote speaker, said at the occasion. They are



loaded with proteins and other essencommon nutrient deficiencies that tial nutrients, some of which are rare often go unaddressed but are crucial in the modern diet. Eggs can combat for optimal health and performance

while improving our immune system, he continued. Studies have proven that it helps cognitive function like visual and verbal memory and improve our heart health, he further added.

Saad Sadiq, MD Sadiq Group announced merit scholarships at the event & vowed " we know our customers are increasingly interested in knowing more about their food and where it comes from, which in turn guides our company's broader commitments on eggs quality and sourcing. We are fully cognizant of the modern practices which are helping us to produce high quality eggs, he further committed. World Egg Day is a brilliant opportunity to make sure everyone in the world knows that eggs are an excellent, affordable source of high-quality nutrition, with the potential to help feed the world.

Pakistani Embassy organized an information session on Horizon Europe grant scheme today

ISLAMABAD: As part of its science diplomacy initiative, the Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels in collaboration with the Directorate General of Research and Innovation of the EU Commission (DG RTD) organized an information session on Horizon Europe grant scheme today.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan, Amna Baloch and Ambassador Riina Kiona, EU Head of Delegation emphasized the need to foster research collaboration in order to address emerging global challenges and attain sustainable development goals. Head of Unit (Global Approach and International Cooperation in Asia) Nienke Buisman, in her opening remarks, shared the theme specific approach of Horizon Europe and the strategic focus of international cooperation.

Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship funding program for research and innovation. It has a substantial budget of €95.5 billion and aims to support various areas of research and innovation to address challenges such as climate change and contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This program spans a seven-year period (2021-2027) and is a successor to the Horizon

During the information session, the audience was also briefed on modalities of participation from Pakistani entities in the Horizon Europe grant scheme by Senior Policy Officer Tania Friederichs. Subsequently, experts from the European Commission shared details regarding diverse grants calls in the themes of agriculture, circular economy including sustainable textiles and disaster management. Attendees were also informed on the scholar mobility options and funding available under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

In his closing remarks, Additional Secretary (United Nations) Ambassador Syed Haider Shah highlighted the global need for leveraging science, technology and innovation for socio-economic development. He emphasized that such events would further enable deepening of research linkages between Pakistan and the EU.

The event was attended by policy and academic stakeholders in Pakistan as well as by scientific diaspora in the EU.

NUTECH thrilled to announce the inauguration of its first DAE Software Technology batch 2023



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: This milestone marks a significant step forward in the university's mission to provide cutting-edge education and training in the field of software technology.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the University's campus and was attended by the distinguished guests, including representatives from the China Tang Institute Mr Song jianying, Director of China Tang Institute, Rector (NUTECH) Lt. Gen. (R) Moazzam Ejaz (Him) along with the staff, faculty, students and their parents. The Chief Guest Chairman (TEVTA) Brig. (R) Sajid Khokar and Mr. Usman Akhtar Bajwa, additional secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, and the members of the academic community

Rector (NUTECH) Lt. Gen. (R) Moazzam Ejaz said, "We are overwhelmed to inaugurate the first DAE Software Technology batch 2023. This is one more step forward in the partnership with the China Tang Institute. We are confident that our graduates will go on to make a positive impact in the industry and will contribute to the growth of the software technology sector in the region."

"We are proud to be part of this exciting initiative," said Mr Song jianying, Director of the China Tang Institute. "Our partnership with NUTECH will provide students with access to the latest technologies and expertise, and help them develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the software industry. We look forward to working closely with NUTECH and contributing to the success of the DAE Software Technology program."

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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Highway cooperation between China, **Pakistan**

s Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has kicked off his visit to China ahead of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing, a Chinese expert said a reported cooperation between the two countries on fostering highway cooperation is an innovative approach to the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and will bring more benefits to Pakistani people. During the trip, it is expected that a cooperation agreement will be inked to the establishment of a modern Highway Research & Training Center with Chinese assistance.

Upon completion, the institute will conduct studies of long-term surface performance and research projects in reclaimed asphalt, bridges and tunneling, training and degree courses in China and development of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan.

The CPEC is a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. Lan Jianxue, director of the Department of Asia-Pacific Studies at China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times that bilateral cooperation on highway research is an innovative idea as the CPEC enters a new phase of development featuring a broadened scope of cooperation and focuses on socio-economic development, science and technology, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization. Soft cooperation on highway operation and maintenance with trained Pakistanis taking the lead, will unleash the potential of many of the CPEC infrastructure projects in the years to come and yield concrete benefits to Pakistani people, Lan said. During a decade of construction, the CPEC has witnessed the completion of sections of the Karakorum Highway (KKH) and the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway and Chinese companies such as CSCEC and China Road & Bridge Corporation took part, building a network of highways and motorways that provided more reliable China-Pakistan connectivity and smoother inland communications within the country. As of the end of 2022, Chinese companies helped Pakistan add a total of 510 kilometers of new highways, data provided by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan showed. Better road traffic will also produce synergy with other infrastructure projects built under the CPEC, such as ports, airports and railways, Lan said. Such cooperation will be conducive to the planned extension of the CPEC to link up with Central Asian countries in the future, according to the expert.

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

ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party, a Hindu nationalist party, and the chief minister of the state is considered the staunchest Hindu leader in the party. According to a statement issued by the state government, the Chief Minister was addressing the two-day National Sindhi Convention and he made these remarks. He said, "After five hundred years, a grand temple of Lord Rama is being constructed in Ayodhya. Soon the idol of Ram will be re-installed there. The temple will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in January. "If Ram Janmabhoomi can be taken back after five hundred years, there is no reason why we cannot take Sindhu (Indus region) back," he continued. A video of Yogi Adityanath in this regard is also available on social media, in which it can be seen that when he made this comment, the audience sitting in the auditorium clapped so loudly that the hall erupted. Continuing his speech, he said, "For this purpose, the Sindhi community needs to tell its present generation about its history and heritage. If they know about their history and elders, what was their original land, then they will definitely succeed in getting it sometimes. Yogi Adityanath said that the Sindhi

he state of Uttar Pradesh is partition of India. He also said that only statements form Indian leadership clearly one person's stubbornness became the reason for the partition of India. He said, "Due to partition, a large area of India became Pakistan. The Sindhi community suffered the most as it had to leave its motherland. Even today we have to bear the brunt of the tragedy of partition in the form of terrorism."

A few months ago, Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, while address-

ing an event in Jammu. also said that Pakistan should focus on its internal problems and that India should do more to take back Pakistan-administered Kashmir. He said that whenever the need arises, "India will continue to cross the border and pursue the militants and eliminate

them." On this occasion, Rajnath Singh face of growing challenges, including mission. It supports initiatives geared said, "I want to tell Pakistan clearly that it will not gain anything by repeatedly raising the issue of Kashmir." He further said, 'We don't need to do much to take back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, because the demand for alliance with India will itself start from there." He further said that Pakistan has illegally occupied many community suffered the most after the areas of Jammu and Kashmir. These

shows their Hindutova approach.

Next in line is the pivotal role played by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Established in 1969, the OIC is an intergovernmental organization that comprises 57 member states from various parts of the Muslim world. Over the years, it has played a significant part in promoting collaboration, unity, and progress among its member nations. Further-

more, the OIC has made substantial contributions to global peace, security, and socio-economic advancement.

One of the primary objectives of the OIC is to foster solidarity among countries with Muslim-majority populations. This mission is

Islamophobia, religious discrimination, and cultural misconceptions. The OIC offers a platform for its members to come together and jointly address issues that impact the Muslim world. This collective unity can wield a substantial influence in promoting peace, stability, and safeguarding the rights and dignity of Muslims on

The OIC has taken an active role in conflict resolution and mediation, striving to prevent and resolve disputes among its member nations. For instance, the organization has played a crucial role in mediating in conflicts like the Somali Civil War and the Southern Philippines conflict. Its endeavors in facilitating dialogue and negotiation have contributed to peace and stability in these regions.

Moreover, the OIC has a track record of providing humanitarian aid to countries grappling with natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises. The organization's humanitarian arm, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, has financed numerous projects encompassing areas such as healthcare, education, and disaster relief. The OIC's swift response to crises underscores its dedication to alleviating human suffering and advancing social well-being.

Education and cultural exchange particularly vital in the hold a significant place in the OIC's toward enhancing educational standards, promoting scientific research, and deepening cultural understanding among its member states. These programs serve to empower young generations, encourage intercultural dialogue, and stimulate socio-economic development.

To be Continued



Abdul Basit Alvi

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

Analyzing the Dynamics of Inflation in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications - II

money supply to control inflation. Expectations theory is what people expect about future prices that can influence current inflation. If people foresee higher prices, they may demand higher wages and prices today, fueling inflation. The Phillips Curve suggests an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment in the short term. Policymakers face trade-offs between the two. However, this trade-off is considered temporary. It is essential to note that inflation is often the

result of a complex interplay of multiple factors, and different theories may apply in different economic contexts. In the case of Pakistan, understanding these theories and their applicability can provide insights into the causes of inflation, which can inform effective policy responses to manage and control inflationary pressures.

Inflation is a significant concern for emerging market economies, includ-

ing Pakistan. Emerging markets are often more vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in global commodity prices and changes in investor sentiment. These external factors can exert upward pressure on inflation. Exchange rate fluctuations can influence inflation in emerging markets. Depreciation of the domestic currency can lead to higher import costs, contributing to inflationary pressures. Balancing inflation control with economic growth poses challenges for central banks in emerging markets. Inadequate infrastructure, supply chain inefficiencies, and regulatory obstacles can limit production and contribute to inflation. Effective inflation control often requires a blend of fiscal and monetary policies tailored to evolving economic conditions by policymakers in emerging markets. Emerging markets often engage in regional and international cooperation to address common challenges, including inflation. Trade agreements and a role in managing inflation. In Pakistan's context,

entral banks monitor and manage the understanding the unique challenges and dynamics these tools are interest rates and reserve requirements. of inflation as an emerging market economy is crucial for policymakers and economists when formulating strategies to manage and control inflationary pressures.

In Pakistan, inflation has had a significant historical presence, shaped by various factors: over the years, Pakistan has experienced fluctuating inflation rates, influenced by both domestic and global factors. Government policies, including fiscal decisions and monetary strategies, have played a vital role in shaping inflation trends. Global factors, such as changes

in oil prices and geopolitical tensions, have also left their mark on inflation in Pakistan. The country's economic structure, with a substantial reliance on agriculture and various fiscal and monetary challenges, has contributed to the inflation dynamics. Inflation in Pakistan has broad socioeconomic consequences, affecting income distribution, access to basic services, and especially political stability. Hence,

understanding this historical perspective is crucial for comprehending the unique drivers of inflation in Pakistan.

In Pakistan there are multiple drivers of inflation, this section dissects the primary causes of inflation in the country, categorizing them into monetary, fiscal, and supply-side factors. Monetary factors are central contributors to inflation in Pakistan:

One of the primary determinants of inflation is the expansion of the money supply within an economy. When the money supply grows significantly without a corresponding increase in the production of goods and services, it often leads to inflation. This phenomenon is typically associated with excess liquidity in the financial system, which can result from factors such as loose monetary policy or an influx of foreign remittances. The State Bank of Pakistan, as the nation's central economy, ultimately contributing to overall inflationbank, plays a pivotal role in managing inflation. It ary pressures. coordination with global financial institutions can play employs a set of monetary policy tools to control the money supply and influence inflation. Key among

Adjustments in interest rates, such as raising them to curb lending and borrowing, are used to influence overall demand in the economy. Reserve requirements dictate the amount of funds banks must keep in reserve, impacting their lending capacity and, in turn, the money supply. Lastly, fluctuations in exchange rates can have a notable impact on inflation in Pakistan, this depreciation can lead to higher import costs which further contribute to overall inflationary pressures.

Fiscal policies and government actions also contrib-

ute to inflation: the level of government spending, especially when not adequately matched by revenue generation, can be a significant driver of inflation. When the government injects a substantial amount of money into the economy through its expenditures, it increases the overall demand for goods and services. If this heightened demand is not met with a corresponding increase in supply, prices tend to rise. Large budget deficits, indicating a misalignment between government revenues and expenditures, can lead to increased borrowing. This borrowing can expand the money supply, potentially contributing to inflation. Effective management of budget deficits is therefore a critical aspect of controlling inflationary pressures. Supply-side factors are essential components of inflation dynamics too: Pakistan's economy is particularly susceptible to fluctuations in food prices, which can have a significant impact on overall inflation. Supply disruptions, whether due to natural disasters, inefficient supply chains, or inadequate infrastructure, can result in periodic surges in food prices. Given the importance of food in household budgets, such fluctuations often have cascading effects on the general price level. Energy prices, specifically the cost of fuels and electricity, represent a significant supply-side factor influencing inflation in Pakistan. These prices can have a cascading effect on various sectors of the

To be continued

'Charting a Greener Path: Strategies to Prevent Climate Change' - II

Fatima Mazhar

lantation of trees is a very easy task that all of us can do and we should devote ourselves into recycling of products. This would reduce the environmental pollution. Reliance on non-renewable energy resources like coal and fossil fuels should be lessened. Installation of solar panels should be promoted by government and should be made necessary. Badin, a city in Sindh can be employed for installing wind turbines as that region of Sindh is very windy. Applying techniques like crop rotation, agroforestry, and organic farming can enhance soil health, boost the retention of carbon, and lower agricultural emissions. These methods should be followed on a global level too. Population growth should also be managed and for this, family planning should be promoted. The African Climate Summit (ACS) that took place in September in Nairobi focused on the reduction of carbon emissions and investing on forests cultivation. If we talk about our takeaways from the previous climate change confer-

ences so far, the biggest would be realizing the importance of global cooperation. All the conferences made it necessary for countries to cooperate and work at a global level collectively. Furthermore, the importance of "mitigation" and "adaptation" has been highlighted as well.

For these two approaches, sufficient finance is also needed and these conferences stressed on the developed countries to provide financial resources and means to the developing nations in their struggle against climate change. New and sustainable technologies from developed countries to the lesser developed countries is again the foremost requirement to combat this. A regular track of countries' performance in meeting their goals should be kept which would also ensure transparency and would further encourage the countries to make fruitful efforts. A strong political will and leadership is needed to produce essential outcomes. Together, we can join hands to prevent climate change and its adverse effects

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Biden to visit Israel as Gaza toll crosses 2,800

Gaza hospitals desperately short of supplies; only four or five days of food left in Gaza shops, says WFP

GAZA: President Joe Biden will make a landmark trip to Israel in an "ironclad" show of US support, as efforts to ease a spiralling humanitarian disaster in Gaza intensified.

Gaza authorities say more than 2,800 people have been killed in Israeli attacks children, and more than 10,000 wounded are in hospitals desperately short of

also said the food situation in the besieged Gaza Strip was worsening, with only four or five days of stocks left in the shops.

WFP said stocks were getting low in warehouses inside the Palestinian enclave, but at the shop level, the situation was even more acute.

The situation in Gaza is getting worse by the minute: the humanitarian situation but also of course the food security situation," WFP's Middle East spokeswoman Abeer Etefa, told reporters at the UN in Geneva via video-link from Cairo.

"The current stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks - and that's at the wholesalers' level," she said, with the warehouses territory and shops having difficulties replenishing supplies.

"Inside the shops, the stocks are getting close to less than a few days, maybe four or five days of food stocks

Etefa said that out of five flour mills in the Gaza Strip, only one was operating due to security concerns and the unavailability of fuel.

"So the bread supply is running low and people are lining up for hours to get bread," she said.

Only five bakeries out of 23 in Gaza contracted by WFP were still in operation, she added.

"Our food supplies within Gaza are running really short," said Etefa.

The spokeswoman said there has been no looting of WFP warehouses, since Oct. 7, around a quarter of them and "anyway, whatever we have left in the warehouses is so little".

Secretary of State Antony Blinken described President Biden's visit as a The UN's World Food Programme statement of "solidarity with Israel" and an "ironclad commitment to its security".

Biden's visit will also seek to avert regional conflagration with Iran, which on Monday warned of a possible "pre-emptive action" against Israel "in the coming hours".

Repeated fire in recent days along Israel's northern border with Lebanon has claimed lives on both sides and compounded fears of a regional spillover of the war.

Biden's visit also comes amid frantic diplomatic efforts to ease the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza after waves of brutal Israeli retaliatory air strikes on the enclave.

After Israel, Biden will travel to Jordan where he will meet Jordanian located in Gaza City in the north of the King Abdullah II, Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Under relentless Israeli bombardment, thousands of Palestinians have died and international agencies warn millions more face dwindling supplies of water, food and fuel-even before a looming Israeli ground invasion.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli military leaders have signalled their intent to destroy Hamas and eradicate the threat it poses.

Tens of thousands of regular Israeli



troops and reservists have amassed at leave. the border waiting for the order to go in.

An Israeli military spokesman said it was unclear how Biden's visit might change the timing of an Israeli ground offensive against Hamas in the Gaza

Several notable Hamas figures have already been killed in air strikes, including, on Monday, Osama Mazini, who the Israeli Air Force said claimed part of a top council and "responsible for Hamas

The bombardment, coupled with an Israeli order to evacuate the north of the Gaza Strip that borders Israel, has forced more than a million Palestinians to flee their homes for the south of the enclave since the 10-day conflict began, according to the UN agency serving Palestinian

International aid agencies have called for aid to urgently be allowed into the territory, and for Gaza's border with Egypt to be open to allow civilians to

World Health Organization regional director Ahmed Al-Mandhari told AFP that Gaza was barrelling toward "real catastrophe".

"There are 24 hours of water, electricity and fuel left" he said.

Washington has backed Israel's right to strike back at Hamas, but it has also urged measures to ease the impact on ordinary Palestinians caught in the crossfire.

Speaking after marathon talks with Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Blinken signalled there was no firm agreement yet on humanitarian relief.

But there was a "commitment" to work on a nascent plan ahead of and during Biden's visit, he said.

"At our request, the United States and Israel have agreed to develop a plan that will enable humanitarian aid from donor nations and multilateral organizations to reach civilians in Gaza," Blinken said.

He said the two sides were discussing

keep civilians out of harm's way."

Blinken said the US president hopes to "hear from Israel how it will conduct its operations in a way that minimises civilian casualties and enables humanitarian assistance to flow to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not benefit

Israel has issued an ultimatum to more than one million people in northern Gaza that they should flee ahead of an expected ground offensive.

Entire families, young children and the elderly have packed what belongings they can to flee to the southern Gaza Strip, bedding down in any available space, indoors and out.

In the city of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza the normal population of 400,000 has roughly doubled.

Thousands more Palestinians have massed at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt in an effort to flee.

"The situation is catastrophic beyond what I could have imagined," said Jamil Abdullah, a Palestinian-Swede who is hoping to leave after being forced to sleep on the street.

"There are corpses in the streets. Buildings are crashing down on their inhabitants. Blood is everywhere. The smell of the dead is everywhere."

AFP reporters in Gaza said morgues were overflowing, and corpses wrapped in white body bags were even being stored in an ice cream truck.

But Gazans are effectively trapped, with neighbouring Arab nations fearful that if Palestinians leave the Strip they could be permanently exiled.

In Israel, about 500,000 people have been displaced or evacuated from communities around the Gaza Strip and

the Israeli military said Tuesday.

Hamas's military wing has said the group was holding 200 people, with about 50 more held by other "resistance factions and in other places".

A video on Hamas' official Telegram channel purported to show "one of the prisoners in Gaza" — a young woman speaking Hebrew and receiving treatment for an arm injury.

According to the caption, she was abducted on October 7. The video has not been verified by AFP.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that the entire Middle East region was "on the verge of the abyss".

There are deep fears that the conflict could spread to the Palestinian West Bank or to Lebanon, drawing regional foes deeper into the conflict.

Israel on Tuesday said it had launched strikes overnight on Hezbollah "terrorist" targets in Lebanon.

Iran backs Hezbollah and Hamas, but has denied involvement in the October 7 attack.

It has warned Israel about the potential for the conflict to spread in the vola-

tile region. Western governments, including Germany whose chancellor heads to

Israel on Tuesday, have urged Tehran not to fan the flames of the conflict. "Lebanese officials have a responsibility... to do everything possible to

prevent Lebanon from being dragged into" a war with Israel, France's Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said in Beirut Monday. But Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein

Amir-Abdollahian said "time is running out for political solutions". AFP

Khamenei says Israel must halt assault on Palestinians in Gaza

Iran's Supreme Leader denounces Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide and demands an immediate halt

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described Israel's assault on Gaza as a genocide of Palestinians and said it must stop immediately, state TV reported on Tuessenior command-

er of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) also warned of further action by Tehranbacked militant groups against Israel if it did not cease its attacks.

with air strikes since Hamas fighters burst into Israel from the enclave on Oct. 7 and killed 1,300 people, most of them civilians.

It has vowed to annihilate the Tehran-backed Hamas, which rules Gaza.

But the Israeli retaliato-



Israel has bombarded the ry strikes have killed more Muslims and the resistance quarter of them children, and driven around half of the 2.3 million Gazans from their homes Israel has also imposed a total blockade on the enclave, preventing food, fuel and medical supplies from getting in.

"No one can confront of Palestinians in Gaza," he

Palestinian territory of Gaza than 2,800 Palestinians, a forces if the Zionist regime's (Israel) crimes against Palestinians continue. The bombardment of Gaza must stop immediately," Khamenei told a group of students

> "The world is witnessing the Zionist regime's genocide

in Tehran.

said to chants of "Death to Read also: Iran warns of

far-reaching consequences if Israel not stopped Backing the Palestinian

cause has been a pillar of the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution as the Shia-dominated country has sought to portray itself as a leader of the Muslim world. Israel, which Tehran refus-

es to recognise, has long accused Iran's clerical rulers of stoking violence by supplying arms to Hamas. Tehran says it gives moral and financial support to the group. "We must respond, we

must react to what is happening in Gaza," Khamenei said. Israeli officials should face

trial for their actions against the Palestinians in Gaza, he ping crises, including flood-

Sudan conflict forces over 310,000 people into South Sudan: UN

JUBA: Violent clashes that erupted six months ago between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan have forced more than 310,000 individuals into South Sudan, the UN humanitarian agency has said.

Marie-Helene Verney, the UN's acting humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, said the arrivals included South Sudanese returnees (more than 90 percent), refugees, and third-country nationals. "Nobody had imagined that six months on, we would still be witnessing such large daily inflows," Verney said in a statement issued in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on Monday

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan continues to face overlap-



the country

It said the ongoing Sudan crisis has had a dramatic negative impact on the already fragile humanitarian situation. "Disruptions in cross-border trade and humanitarian corridors have led to increased prices of food and commodities, particularly in the northern half of the country where most of the new arrivals are settling."

This, the UN agency said,

vulnerability of people across existing population and the

Verney said this crisis has stretched the humanitarian response in South Sudan close to the breaking point. "With no end in sight, a global decrease in humanitarian funding, and more new conflicts breaking out around the world, humanitarian partners are increasingly forced to deprioritize

even life-saving activities." Verney called on South

Sudan to step up the delivery of basic services in vulnerable communities with the support of development According to the UN agen-

cy, poor infrastructure and, in particular, lack of roads, flooding, and funding constraints are severely testing the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond both at the border and in receiving communities, as well as putting presly affect the resilience and humanitarian needs for the sure on onward transportation, which remains the most critical need in this response

The OCHA said additional funding is needed to provide adequate space in overcrowded transit centers to reduce the risks of disease outbreaks and gender-based violence. "Additional funding will also support children fleeing the war in Sudan to resume learning and help reduce protection risks, such as child marriage, child labor, and recruitment of child soldiers." Xinhua

'Just struggle': Countries criticise Israeli atrocities in Gaza

PM Netanyahu has been bombing Gaza for over a week following a surprise attack by Hamas on Israel

GAZA: The international ations. community has been divided over the past week with its support for Israel and Palestine in the ongoing conflict.

Tensions escalated in the region following Hamas' surprise attack on Israel more than a week ago. Following this, Israel declared war and has carried out brutal air attacks on the besieged enclave as casualties continue to mount. There have been multiple attacks on Palestinians in the occupied

West Bank as well. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a siege on Gaza, cutting off essential resources like water and electricity and giving a 24-hour evacuation

notice to over a million residents. While a majority of the world condemns Hamas's actions and supports Israel in its war crimes, some countries have criticised Israel's barbaric actions and called for a ceasefire — some more directly than others.

The Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed deep concern over Israel's attacks on Gaza and called them out for violations of international humanitarian laws. Algeria has called for immediate international intervention to protect the Palestinian people and their rights.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union, recognised the denial of fundamental rights for Palestinians as the primary source of current tensions. The AU is appealing to both parties to cease military hostilities and return to negoti-

Belize voiced its distress over the hostilities between Hamas and Israel and is calling for an immediate de-escalation. They support the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and advocate for the right of return for displaced Palestinians.

Brazil's Foreign Minister, Mauro Luiz Iecker Vieira, expressed dismay at Israeli forces' call for the evacuation of over a million civilians in northern Gaza within 24 hours. He referred to the UN's assessment that such a mass movement of people could result in unprecedented suffering, urging an end to violence from both sides.

President Gustavo Petro of Colombia expelled the Israeli ambassador and asked him to "apologize and leave the country."

In a statement on X, the president said, "If we have to suspend foreign relations with Israel, we will suspend them. We do not support genocides. The president of Colombia will not be insulted."

Colombia had earlier emphasized the need for Israel and Palestine to engage in negotiations toward a "two-state solution."

Cuba condemns the violence in Palestine and calls out Israel for the prolonged violation of Palestinian rights.

Indonesia is calling for an immediate end to violence to prevent further casualties and states that the root cause of the conflict is the "Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories."

Iraq has similarly characterized the attacks on Gaza as a "continuation of the oppression of Palestinians under Israel's occupation." The country has consistently called out Israel's attacks on Gaza over the years.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, described Palestinian resistance as a "natural response to Israel's provocations." He believes that the Palestinian people do not deserve to be besieged and that their retaliation shouldn't be considered "terrorism" if Israel's violence isn't.

Ireland's Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar, condemns Israel's actions, including the cutoff of power, fuel supplies, and water, which he views as violations of international humanitarian law and collective punishment.

He spoke against Israel during a TV interview with RTÉ's Prime Time programme.

Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses concern over the escalation in Gaza and calls on the international community to halt the violence, protect the Palestinian people, and put an end to Israel's provocations. They caution that the continuation of violence without deterrence will undermine peace efforts and the prospects of a two-state solution.

Despite moving towards full diplomatic ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords, Morocco is deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza and calls for an immediate cessation of violence. They emphasise the importance



of dialogue and negotiations as the path to a two-state solution. In an Arab League session, Morocco reiterated its full support for

Malaysia calls for an end to violence in the Gaza Strip, highlighting the prolonged occupation and suffering of the Palestinian people, as well as the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque as the root cause of the conflict.

The Maldivian government expressed concern about the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip and reaffirmed its solidarity with the Palestinian people. They advocate for lasting peace in the Middle East through a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt strongly criticized the total blockade of Gaza as "unacceptable" and emphasised that Israel's right to self-defense must adhere to international law.

She expresses deep concern about the scale of destruction in Gaza and the hardships faced by its civilian population due to the blockade.

Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed concern about the ongoing escalation between Palestinians and Israelis, stressing the importance of restraint by both parties. They call for international intervention to stop the escalation and underscore the need to find a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution based on the two-state solution.

Qatar called on all parties to de-escalate and exercise restraint in the escalating situation in Gaza. They hold Israel responsible for the escalation due to violations a situation which can be equated of Palestinian rights, particularly incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque.

It urged the international community to compel Israel to respect international law and the historical rights of the Palestinian people.

Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be resolved through force but must be addressed through political and diplomatic means. They call for an immediate

ceasefire, renouncing violence, and a negotiation process with international community assistance to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. President Vladimir Putin high-

lights the need to create an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar affirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the

oppressed people of Palestine and called for an immediate ceasefire crimes." on Monday. "We stand in solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine and call for an immediate ceasefire and lifting of the blockade in Gaza. Israel's deliberate, indis-

criminate and disproportionate

targeting of civilians in Gaza is

against all norms of civility and

in manifest violation of interna-

tional law," it read. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also condemned the Israeli bombing on the besieged Gaza Strip, equating the actions as "genocide".

"This is a humanitarian crisis, to genocide. In fact, it is genocide being conducted by Israel against the people of Palestine," Jilani said. "Our position is that any attempt to equate Israel, which Palestinian struggle, is unaccept-

Russia emphasised that the able to Pakistan."

Pakistan does not recognise the state of Israel and has historically said that the occupied Palestinian territories must be vacated in line with the UN resolutions on a two-state solution.

Ione Belarra, the Spanish Minister of Social Rights, took to X (formerly Twitter) and asked her partners in government to try Netanyahu before the International Criminal Court for war crimes. "Today we raise our voice to denounce that Israel is carrying out a genocide in Gaza. We ask the government of Spain to bring Netanyahu before the International Criminal Court for war

Syria praised the Palestinian resistance factions behind the October 7 attack while criticizing

Israel's occupation and siege. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed historic support for the "just struggle" of Palestinians and condemned Isra-

el as an "oppressive regime." He pointed to what many human rights groups have described as Israel's apartheid-like policies towards Palestinians.

The Government of Venezuela voiced concern about the situation in the Gaza Strip and calls for an end to violence throughout Palestinian territory through direct dialogue and compliance with UN Security Council resolution 2334.

Venezuela urged the United Nations to fulfill its role as a guaris the aggressor, with that of the antor of international peace and legality. Agencies

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
49,531.01	49,731.35			
Day's High	Day's Low			
50,017.45	49,508.41			
Index Value	Change			
7,916,814,901	-200.34			
Percentage	Time			
-0.4%	17 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTS	: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,675.21	+44.58			
Percentage	Time			
+0.58%	17 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones	nes Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
34,096.82	+112.28			
Percentage	Time			
+0.33%	17 Oct, 12:07 pm GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikl	ei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change			
32,040.29	+381.26			

Time

17 Oct, 3:15 pm

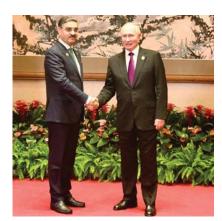
GMT + 9

Percentage

+1.20%

-		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.25	176
Bahrain Dinar	740.5	748.5
Canadian Dollar	201	203
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	39.36	39.76
Euro	292.1	295
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.12	909.12
Malaysian Ringgit	59.08	59.68
NewZealand \$	164.88	166.88
Norwegians Krone	25.42	25.72
Omani Riyal	723.13	731.13
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19
Saudi Riyal	73	73.7
Singapore Dollar	199	201
Swedish Korona	25.47	25.77
Swiss Franc	309.09	311.59
Thai Bhat	7.68	7.83
U.A.E Dirham	75.5	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	341.6	345
US Dollar	276.5	278.5

Pakistan, Russia discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar says Pakistan wants to strengthen ties with Russia in diverse fields including defence, intelligence sharing, and counter

He expressed these views while talking to Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Tuesday at the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

During the meeting, the two leaders emphasised the importance of strengthening the bilateral relations for the promotion of regional cooperation.

The interim prime minister said both countries have convergence of interests, especially on the issue of terrorism. He termed bilateral cooperation as vital for the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan.

"We will welcome Russian investment in the energy sector," Kakar said during the

In his remarks, the Russian president said stability is inevitable for ensuring economic progress. "The potential of economic cooperation between both countries is much bigger," he said.

Putin vowed to take additional steps for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Highlighting the steps taken to ensure the food security in international level, he said Russia has planned to provide free cereals to the under-developed African

Huawei showcases AI potential at GITEX GLOBAL 2023

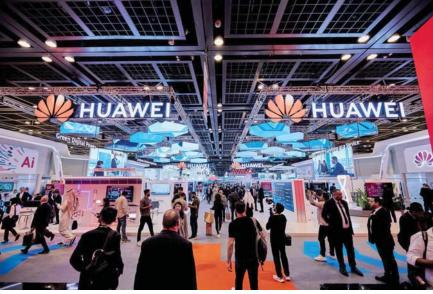
Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: Gitex Global, the UAE's annual technology event, featuring conferences, live workshops, exclusive networking opportunities, and demonstrations of the latest technological innovations, began at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) and Dubai Harbour. More than 6,000 exhibitors, 1,800 some start-ups from over 100 countries, came together to showcase the complex ecosystem of Gitex Global, AI Everything, Gitex Impact, Future Urbanism, Global Devslam, Superbridge Summit Dubai, Expand North Star, Fintech Surge, Future Blockchain Summit, and Marketing Mania.

As the Gold Sponsor of GITEX GLOBAL 2023 and the lead sponsor for the event's cybersecurity program, Cyber Valley, Huawei showcased its latest ICT innovations, reaffirming its commitment to empowering digital transformation through Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various industries to help them make the most of intelligence.

The global ICT leader demonstrated new industry solutions and use cases in the domains of cloud, advanced network capabilities, cybersecurity, and digital power technologies. With the global attention of industry leaders and laypeople on AI, Huawei took the opportunity to discuss where intelligent technology is heading, how it can be effectively integrated into various industry scenarios and the importance of sustainability and security.

With AI poised to become a game-changer for the global economy that has already started GITEX GLOBAL 2023, Huawei will demon-



revolutionizing multiple industries and sectors, Huawei showcased ways to integrate AI into various industry scenarios and empowering organizations to reimagine their digital transformation and innovation roadmaps for the AI-powered intelligent era.

Steven Yi, President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, said, "The new AI-powered intelligent era will usher new opportunities and values for businesses, industries, and ecosystems across the Middle East and Central Asia. At

strate the latest breakthroughs in intelligent ICT innovations and unlock the immense potential of cloud and AI for Industries while ensuring that the ICT sector is continuously reinforcing its digital parameters and end-to-end cyber security practices. By bringing together industry visionaries, business leaders, and top technical experts, we will be 'Accelerating Intelligence' for a 'Win-Win Intelligent Future'."

AI has entered into core production systems

major industries. The domain has the potential to redefine global productivity and competitiveness. According to PwC's Global Artificial Intelligence Study, AI could contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030.

Harnessing the intelligent industry solutions Huawei has designed to meet the specific needs of different industries, including public services, finance, oil & gas, electric power, transportation and ISP, in Pakistan has the potential to accelerate sustainable economic growth and green development.

This year at the Huawei booth, Huawei is also showcasing for the very first time how the company transformed cybersecurity into a fundamental building block that became part of the Huawei DNA in the way it conducts business and development of its products and services. Huawei believes cybersecurity will be critical to the success of embracing the AI-driven digital future.

"Cybersecurity is key to executing our All-Intelligence strategy, providing strong fundamentals to accelerate digital transformation," said Jeff Wang, Vice President of Huawei Global Cybersecurity & Privacy Office. Wang will be sharing a keynote proposing Trustworthy Engineering, Standardization and Certification. Dr. Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer for the Middle East and Central Asia, will further underline the importance of having a sound Data-Centric Security Governance in the era where Data is the new oil, paving the way and has started creating greater value, with AI forward to unlock and unleash the full potential adoption expected to reach 20% by 2026 in of AI at the GITEX Cybersecurity conference.

Near-term Trade Potential Estimated at \$5 Billion

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan has estimated that Pakistan and Turkiye can easily reach bilateral trade volume of \$5 billion in the near-term. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that, in

this regard, we should capitalize on the opportunities made available by Pakistan's inclusion into TIR convention pertaining to land-based cargo and Trade in Goods Agreement (TGA) signed between the two countries. It is pertinent to note that H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci visited FPCCI Head Office in Karachi with his team of senior Turkish diplomats.

Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI and Muhammad Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, stressed that Pakistan should aggressively explore new avenues to export cy swap agreement to overcome lack of to Turkiye as current bilateral trade volume commercial banking channels and other of \$1.3 billion is way below the true potential; and, expansion of economic relations



and transfer of technology.

Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI and Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan - Turkiye Joint Business Council (PTJBC), maintained that Pakistan & Turkiye should put in place a practical and efficient currenissues with corresponding banks.

must incorporate industrial collaborations of Turkiye in Pakistan, stated that, in the like, OIC & ECO, he added.

long-term, bilateral trade between Pakistan & Turkiye can reach \$20 – 25 billion. Additionally, a country with close to 250 million population is very important for Turkiye economically.

H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci added that people-to-people (P2P) linkages are very important in the peculiar case of Turkiye & Pakistan. We should make full use of mutu-H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador ally-shared multilateral platforms as well;

ICCI expresses solidarity with Palestinian people and calls for urgent end to conflict

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people whose lives are being destroyed by the Israeli forces and called on the international community to intervene to bring an end to the ongoing conflict, protect civilians and work towards a lasting peace in the Middle East. He said this while addressing a meeting of the business community at ICCI.

Faad Waheed said that the Pakistani nation including the business community is deeply concerned over the escalating hostility in Gaza, which is causing great loss of innocent lives and stressed that the world leaders should come together to work for the cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and for a lasting peace in the Middle East.



business community fully stands in solidarity with the Palestinians in this tragic time and called for an immediate end to the violence and oppression by Israeli occupaforces have so far killed over 2800 there is an urgent need to stop the mad bombing of innocent of Pal¬estinian civilians in Gaza.

He said that the unfolding innocent human lives.

situation in the Middle East is creating lot of concerns in the Muslim community around the world as innocent civilians are being killed and the survivors are also facing great problems withtion forces. He said that Israeli out shelter, water, food, medicines, electricity making their Palestinians and stressed that lives miserable. He stressed that all stakeholders should put their heads together to seek an end to people and alleviate the suffering the conflict in order to prevent further bloodshed and loss of

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI said that the United Nations should play an active role to prevent both sides from further escalating the conflict and work for a long overdue peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and international law. He said that the enduring peace in the Middle East lies in a two-state solution with a viable, sovereign State of Palestine, founded on pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif at its heart.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Abdul Waheed, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Tariq Sadiq, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Muhammad Shabbir and others also spoke on the occasion and urged that the world community should come forward to stop Israeli aggression against the innocent Palestinian people.

PTCL Group posts Double Digit Revenue Growth of 26.3%

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading telecom and ICT services providers in the country, has announced financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held in Dubai on October 17, 2023.

In the first nine months of 2023, PTCL Group has maintained its strong performance, strengthening its status as Pakistan's top integrated telecom compared to the same period last year. This substantial growth can be mainly attributed to outstanding perforincluding fixed broadband, alleviate the impact.

mobile data, business solutions, and mobile banking

The business environment in 2023 remains affected by the unfavorable macroeconomic challenges that emerged in 2022. Increasing energy and fuel costs persist as hurdles for telecom companies, making it challenging to offer top-notch services to consumers at reasonable rates. Network expansion plans were also affected by the adoption of measures aimed at regulating foreign currency reserves. The substantial devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee during service provider. Despite the first quarter, coupled with the challenging econom- mounting interest rates and ic environment, the Group an additional super tax has achieved an impressive alongside regular corporate 26.3% increase in revenue tax, has significantly affected profitability. To address the challenges being faced by the telecom sector, it is imperative that the government mance in various sectors, offers policy intervention to

CCP approved Bank Alfalah acquisition of shares in **Qistbazaar**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the entry of a financial institution into the consumer market of "Buy Now Pay Later Service." CCP received an application for acquisition from QistBazaar (Private) Limited for the subscription of 7.2% of its shareholding by Bank Alfalah Limited.

The Phase-I competition ssessment of this transaction revealed that the proposed acquisition would not lead to the dominance of the Acquirer in the relevant market post-transaction. Therefore, CCP granted its authoriza-

tion under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, and CCP's Merger Regulations,

QistBazaar sells white goods, electronics and home goods online on the "buy now pay later" model. In the current inflationary situation in the economy, it is a major facility for those who are struggling financially. The purchase of shares by Bank Alfalah will provide the necessary financing for Qistbazaar to provide better service and improve its infrastructure.

It will also open up a new online market for consumers enhancing competition with retailers across the region.

Soneri Bank posts impressive results for the nine months ended 30 September 2023

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Soneri Bank Limited, in their 200th meeting held in Karachi on 16th October 2023, approved the Bank's condensed interim financial statements for the nine months ended 30 Septem-

The Bank posted impressive growth in earnings with Profit before Tax (PBT) reported at Rs. 8,437 million for the Interest Income (NII) grew by 107.52 nine months period ended 30 September 2023 as against Rs. 3,348 million earned for the comparative period last year; which signifies a 152.01 percent year on year growth. Profit after Tax (PAT) for the current period also surged to Rs. 4,145 million as against Rs. 1,295

year, translating to a growth of 220.04 od. percent year on year. The Bank's EPS was reported at Rs. 3.7595 per share for the current period, as compared to Rs. 1.1747 earned for the comparative period last year.

Fund based income continued to improve at the back of improved spreads and prudent asset and liability management and the Bank's Net percent to Rs. 16,101 million for the current period, as against Rs. 7,759 million reported for the same period last year. Non markup income (NMI) for the period also registered a growth of 14.58 percent, with NMI reported at Rs. 4,660 million as against Rs. 4,067

million for the comparative period last million for the comparative prior peri-

Non-markup expenses were reported at Rs. 11,006 million for the current period as against Rs. 9,003 million reported for the comparative prior period. Despite unprecedented inflation levels, growth in expenses was kept restricted at 22.25 percent as compared to the prior period; as a result of strict compliance of cost rationalization measures and prudent cost control policies and discipline.

The end of the current quarter also saw the Bank registering a landmark achievement in terms of deposits as period end deposits crossed the Rs. 500 billion landmark, ending at Rs. 510.477 billion as at 30 Septem-

ber 2023. This indicates an impres- 525.277 million booked in the comparsive increase of 24.62 percent when compared to the year-end 2022. The Bank's focus remains on CASA mix improvement and retention of current accounts and rationalizing funding costs, whilst ensuring service levels of the highest quality. As at 30 September 2023 the Bank's CASA mix stood at 78.81 percent at 30 September 2023 as against 79.19 percent at 31 December 2022.

The Bank continues to prudently monitor the overall portfolio so as to maintain coverage at reasonable levels. During the current period, net provisions against loans and advances and investments amounted to Rs. 1,317.328 million, as against a net reversal of Rs. ative prior period. Specific provisioning coverage continues to be maintained at 70.88 percent (December 2022: 71.61 percent).

The Bank remains adequately capitalized, with a Capital Adequacy Ratio of 17.61 percent at 30 September 2023 (December 2022: 15.19 percent). The Bank's Liquidity Coverage Ratio and Net Stable Funding Ratios currently stand at 229.18 percent and 193.32 percent respectively, which are comfortbly above the regulatory requirements.

The Bank remains focused on maximizing shareholder value through our customer focused business strategy aimed at serving the needs of our customers across all business segments.

Pakistan makes history at 2026 Fifa World **Cup qualifiers**

19-year-old Hamid scored the winner against Cambodia as the hosts reach the second round for the first time

KARACHI: Pakistan created history on Tuesday as they defeated Cambodia 1-0 at the 2026FIFA World Cup qualifier first round match, Harun Hamid scored the winner for the host at Jinnah Stadium, Islamabad.

The team was playing their World Cup qualifier at home after 12 years and this was also the first international match that Pakistan played at home in eight years, the last one being in 2018, a friendly against Afghanistan.

The England-born Hamid scored the winner in the 68th minute as he slipped the ball smoothly through the Cambodian goalkeeper.

Pakistan pulled off an upset of sorts as they, ranked 19th in the world, defeated Cambodia, ranked 177.

The men in green played a goalless draw in the first leg earlier, and with the 1-0 win in the second leg, they won the tie 1-0 on aggregate.

The 2026 World Cup will also be the first time 48 teams will bew featured in the main event with a new format.

But on the continental front, Pakistan joined Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Tajikistan in Group G, while secondround matches will begin on Novem-

Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee (NC) hired the experienced Englishman Stephen Constantine less than three weeks before the tie, and the former Indian National team coach delivered his promise to the team.

The PFFNC hired the 61-year-old solely for the World Cup qualifier, and he has pulled off a stellar performance from the players, who were underdogs in the entire affair.

Pakistan does not have a professional league that can feed top-notch players for the national side, and the country does not have a single international standard stadium can host matches. However, Constantine showed his expertise wisely despite the limited options.

The first leg Pakistan played as visi-



tors against Cambodia was brilliantly defensive, while the team looked more spirited in the home tie.

They were careful in the first half, but obsolutely held their own in the second half against a consolidated Cambodi-

During a press conference with reporters, Constantine had said that the facilities and the resources are limited in Pakistan, but he would do his best with the given pool of players.

Muhammad Adil, Pakistan's former midfielder who has played for FC Dordoi. He had predicted the score to be 1-0 in favor of Pakistan before the match. He was reacting to the win, much like everyone else in the commu-

"We played four World Cup qualifier matches, and we have always lost them badly in my time with the national team, but watching Pakistan qualify for the second round is just out of this world for me. I was watching the match, but my expressions and aggression were the same as if I were in the field with them. 'The crowd was amazing.

"But the credit goes to Constantine for playing the match so beautifully, making the right changes, the goalkeeper Yousaf Butt played so well, and Harun really has been crucial for us. There should also be a recognition for the last head coach of the team Shahzad Anwar. He built this team and Constan-"I am so proud of this team. This is tine has continued with these boys of such a huge achievement," exclaimed course every coach chooses his playing PFF NC since 2021. Agencies

11 and strategy according to his system, so, amazing work. I feel there might be at least six replacements in the squad, but let's see, the next round is right around the corner."

Adil hoped that this would be a new beginning for Pakistani football, whether Pakistan progressed to the third round or not, he said that the crowds at the stadium had shown on Tuesday that they would come to support the team.

"I can imagine what the football fans can feel when Saudi Arabia and all the other teams will come to play in Pakistan as well. This is good for the footballers too, that we'll finally get to play among better teams, even if we lose in the next round there is so much more we are gaining from this win," said Adil.

Meanwhile, the PFF headquarters in Lahore had been confiscated by the Punjab Board of Revenue on Tuesday as the team was making history in Islam-

The lease issue has been plaguing

Fritz feels 'motivated and ready'

American tennis star begins Japan Open defence with 6-4, 6-3 win over Norrie

TOKYO: Defending champion Taylor Fritz won his Japan Open first round match on Tuesday and said he felt "motivated and ready to play" after lightening his load ahead of the tournament.

The American has been one of the busiest players on the ATP Tour this season but he has taken his foot off the gas since the US Open, appearing in only the Laver Cup and Shanghai Masters.

He beat Britain's Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-3 to kick off the defence of his Tokyo title and said it was "probably an advantage that I might be less

"After the US Open, I think I had played the most matches of anyone on tour," said Fritz, the number one seed

Shanghai. I feel motivated opener. and ready to play

World number 10 Fritz then out of nowhere he broke round by American Ben Shel- 6-4, 6-2. AFP



beat fellow American Frances Tiafoe in last year's Japan Open final and has won six

He is the highest-ranked American in the world and "I thought it made sense overcame an early setback to return games. to start the Asia swing in dispatch Norrie in his Tokyo

"I was holding easily and

me, so it was a tough spot to be in," said Fritz.

"I feel like I played a couple of really good points to break and I played the bigger, more important points better in the

"I definitely upped my level."

Fritz was joined in the no

ton, who beat Japan's Taro Daniel 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Australia's number four seed Alex de Minaur also progressed with a 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/1) win over Britain's Jack Draper.

Australia's Alexei Popyrin eliminated Russian number seven seed Karen Khachanov

No viral infection': PCB shares update on players'health status

BENGALURU: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday rejected media reports that claimed several players have contracted

"Thankfully, there is no viral infection or disease," a PCB spokesperson said after reports triggered speculations.

The team also changed their training sessions multiple times lending credence to

The PCB spokesperson said some players got fever in the past few days and most of them have fully recovered from it. "Those who are in the stage of recov-

erv remain under the team medical panel's observation," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, the team also rescheduled a training session after cancelling it earlier today.

Pakistan team will have a two-hour training session at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium today (Tuesday) from 6 to 8pm in Bengalu-

Earlier, the team's sources told Geo News that Pakistan's opening batsman Abdullah Shafique contracted fever ahead of the national's team match against Australia on October 20.

They said fast bowler Shaheen Afridi and leg-spinner Usama Mir were also suffering

from fever but they have recovered now. The sources said players underwent medical examination as per protocol and were tested for COVID-19 and dengue fever.

"There is no concern about the health of players," the sources were quoted as saying. Schedule of Pakistan's remaining matches October 20-vs Australia in Bengaluru October 23-vs Afghanistan in Chennai October 27-vs South Africa in Chennai October 31-vs Bangladesh in Kolkata November 4-vs New Zealand Bengaluru

November 11-vs England in Kolkata The day matches which will start at 10:00am Pakistan Standard Time (PST)

while all other matches will be day-night fixtures starting at 01:30pm (PST). If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they

will play in Kolkata. If India qualify for the semi-finals, they

will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in

Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023 Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, M Wasim Jnr, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha.

Travelling reserves: Mohammad Haris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan. Agencies

PSL gets its first female coach as Catherine Dalton joins Multan Sultans

LAHORE: In a rather encouraging development with regard to gender-inclusive practices, the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine will see its first-ever female coach after Catherine



Dalton joined Multan Sultans as fast-bowling coach. Born in England, the 30-year-old represented Ireland in four

one-day internationals (ODIs) and four T20Is after acquiring Irish citizenship in 2015. Dalton is "an ECB-certified Level 3 Advanced Coach, has previ-

ously occupied coaching roles at the national fast-bowling academy in the United Kingdom and the Ultimate Pace Foundation in India," Multan Sultans wrote on their X account while apprising that she has previously coached their academy players as well. Among her numerous assignments, she worked with Deepak

Chahar. Additionally, Dalton served as the assistant head coach at the National Fast-Bowling Academy based in the UK, working in partnership with Ian Pont and Andre Nel.

"Catherine has been part of our player-development programme for almost five years now. I have seen how she has improved players first-hand. I always knew she would become a fast-bowling coach at a high level," Ali Tareen, Multan Sultans' owner said.

"It's truly an honour and I can't thank you enough for this opportunity," Dalton said while expressing gratitude to Tareen.

"Having worked in Pakistan with some of the Multan Sultan players on two previous visits, I am really thrilled to be officially joining up with the franchise at the PSL," Dalton said while speaking to ESPNcricinfo.

"It's not lost on me the ground-breaking moment for a female fast-bowling coach to be working in a major men's T20 franchise. I am very humbled by the opportunity and cannot wait to hopefully help make a difference on multiple levels," she added.

It must be noted that PSL 9 is scheduled to take place between February 8 and March 24, 2024. Multan Sultans were the runnersup in the 2023 edition and have reached the final in each of the past three tournaments. Agencies

5th COMBAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As many as 16 countries, including Pakistan, have confirmed their participation in the 5th COMBAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship to be held at Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex, under the auspices of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation.

The countries include England, Netherlands, Turkey, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Oman, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Nepal, Afghanistan, WT Refugees, Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, Jordan, Mali and the host Pakistan.

The registration process of 268 athletes has been completed. According to the President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Lt. Col. (retd) Waseem Ahmed Janjua, before the mega championship, under the auspices of the Asian Taekwondo Union in collaboration with the PTF, 5-day Kyrugi and Poomsae education courses will be held from October 27 to 31 at the Islamabad Sports Complex, in which international coaches and managers from different countries including Pakistan will participate.

In addition, the Asian Taekwondo Union Referees Education Course will be held on October 29 and 30 as well as the education programme of Khyrougi and Poomsae will also be conducted from 27 to 31 Oct 2023 at Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad.

Asian Paralympic Games

Three KP stars leaves for China

PESHAWAR: Three special players of KP here on Monday left for China to participate in the forthcoming Asian Para Games, which were postponed due to COVID-19 will now be held from October 22 to 28 in Hangzhou under Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) and Hangzhou Asian Para Games Organising Committee (HAPGOC). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa three international Table Tennis players Muhammad Ibrahim (with standing disability), World Islamic Games bronze medalist Altaf Ur Rehman in wheelchair Table Tennis and Ziaur Rahman (with standing disability) from Swat will participate in badminton

Three special players from Peshawar will represent Pakistan in the Asian Paralympic Games, which is certainly an honor for the province. Muhammad Ibrahim also represented Pakistan in the Para Asian Games held in Incheon, Asian Games held in Korea in 2015 and Para Games in Turkeya. The three players left Islamabad for Hangzhou, China. Ibrahim Table Tennis, Altaf wheelchairs Table Tennis while Ziaur Rehman (Badminton) will participate in their respective competitions. Before the departure of the players to China, after meeting with the media, Muhammad Ibrahim and Iltaf Ur Rehman expressed the hope that they would show good results. He said Zia Ullah, hailing from Swat, has worked hard for the competitions and we hope that our athletes will definitely succeed in winning medals. APP

Portugal crushes BiH in Euro 2024 qualifier

SARAJEVO: Portugal clinched a 5-0 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in Group J of the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers on Monday.

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo netted a brace in the fifth and 20th minutes, while Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo, and Joao Felix also found the back of the net.

Portugal maintained their lead after the break, with BiH's attempts to reduce the deficit proving futile.

Portugal sits firmly at the top of the group with eight wins from as many matches, while BiH has dropped to fifth, losing the chance to qualify for the tournament in Germany next summer.



Sead Kolasinc (C, front) of Bosnia and Herzegovina vies with Portugal's Danilo Pereira (L, front) and goalkeeper Diogo Costa during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group J qualification match between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Portugal in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Xinhua

Scaloni in no rush to plan for Messi retirement

Argentina's coach says it is too soon to consider playing without their star forward

ning for life without Lionel Messi and that the captain could return to the side for their World Cup qualifier against Peru on Tuesday.

Messi, who has said he will retire before the 2026 World Cup, was included in the squad despite carrying a muscle problem which has kept him out of action for club side Inter Miami.

The 36-year-old forward came on in the 53rd minute of Argentina's 1-0 win over Paraguay on Thursday and went close to scoring, rattling the woodwork with a free-kick in added time. "Leo is fine," Scaloni told reporters ahead of the game in Lima.

"He has been adding minutes of ing him?" training. We will make the decision tomorrow. It's a matter of minutes, of how much he can play. If he's well, you know what I think, he will play.

LONDON: Argentina coach Lionel "We always try to play those that are Scaloni said it is too soon to start plan- at 100% or close to 100%. Today it is very difficult for everyone to be at their best in these games so there may be a variation with respect to the game against Paraguay.

"I think the team plays in a determined way, whoever is on the pitch, that's the most important thing. We saw the other day we can play well too (without Messi)."

Asked if Argentina should get used to playing without their talisman, Scaloni shot back: "Let's keep in mind that he is still here. What a way to think about 'when he is gone'. "The truth is that he is still active, let's leave him alone, are we already retir-

Argentina top the CONMEBOL standings with nine points from three matches, two points ahead of Brazil.

