



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے اس ملک میں محمد اللہ سے بیان کیا گیا کہ
مجھ سے اس ملک نے بیان کیا ان سے عنوان
بن سلیم تاہم اس حدیث کو سر اسرار وایت
کرتے تھے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ
یہ اذان اور سنیوں کے لیے کو شش کرنے
والا اللہ کے راستے میں جہاد کرنے والے کی
طرح سے اس شخص کی طرح ہے جو دن میں
روزے رکھتا ہے اور رات کو عبادت کرتا ہے۔
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President for enhancing trade, economic cooperation with Morocco

President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for increasing cooperation with Morocco in the fields of trade, investment and economy. The president, in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, who called on him, asked him to work for enhancing Pakistani exports to Morocco.

DAYS REMAINING

12

Only 12 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 12 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

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Belt and Road Forum

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the High Level Forum on Connectivity in an Open Global Economy during 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Barbaric Israeli airstrike on Gaza hospital raises stakes for Biden visit

Palestinian death toll crosses 3,300, Biden blames Palestinian fighters for hospital attack



GAZA: A view shows an area of Al-Ahli hospital where hundreds of Palestinians were killed by a barbaric Israeli airstrike. Reuters

GAZA: A barbaric Israeli airstrike on a Gaza hospital killed hundreds of Palestinians, deepening tensions in the Middle East and raising the stakes for US President Joe Biden as he arrived in Israel on Wednesday to signal support for its war against Hamas. Health authorities in Gaza said at least 3,300 people have now died in Israel's brutal bombardment. US President Joe Biden pledged solidarity with Tel Aviv in its war against Hamas and backed its account that a blast that killed huge numbers of Palestinians at a Gaza hospital had been caused by Palestinian fighters. The Israeli attack sparked global condemnation and angry protests around the Muslim world. Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Biden said: "I was deeply saddened and outraged by the explosion of the hospital in Gaza yesterday, and based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you." "But there's a lot of people out there not sure, so we've got a lot, we've got to overcome a lot of things," Biden added. "The world is looking, Israel has a value set like the United States does, and other democracies, and they are looking to see what we are going to do." Palestinian officials said an Israeli air strike hit the hospital, with the Palestinian Authority's health minister accusing Israel of causing a "massacre".

The catastrophe has inflamed the region. Palestinian ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qudra said rescuers were still pulling bodies from the rubble. Al Jazeera carried footage showing a frantic scene as rescue workers scoured blood-stained debris for survivors. Rescuers and civilians were shown carrying away multiple victims in body bags. A Gaza civil defence chief gave a death toll of 300, while health ministry sources put it at 500. Biden's complex diplomatic mission to the Middle East was supposed to calm the region and shore up humanitarian efforts for Gaza, but after the strike, Jordan cancelled a planned summit with the US president, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Abbas also cancelled plans to meet Biden, as Palestinian security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse anti-government protesters in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah as popular anger boiled. Protests also took place at Israel's embassies in Turkey and Jordan and near the US embassy in Lebanon, where security forces fired tear gas toward demonstrators. Russia's foreign ministry said on Wednesday that a strike on a hospital in Gaza that killed hundreds of Palestinians was a shocking crime, adding that Israel should provide satellite images to prove that it was not involved in the attack.

On goals of open global economy

Pakistan to work with China, regional partners for connectivity

BELJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale. "With shared responsibility and by embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he said in his address at the high-level event of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) on 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy'. The two-day forum, which marked the 10 years of the multi-billion dollar cross-regional Belt and Road Initiative, kicked off in China's capital Beijing with representatives from 140 countries in attendance. PM Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's vision of global connectivity and also looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialize the projects. "I am hopeful that together we can shape a world with the bonds that unite us together,

rather than the forces that divide us," he said. The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping for his revolutionary idea of the Belt and Road Initiative launched 10 years ago that proved instrumental in bringing common development and shared prosperity. He termed enhanced connectivity a profound factor in development and progress in the modern age of globalization. "The BRI's concept of shared future for mankind is not about road and railway infrastructure, but also to create linkages among civilizations and nations," he said. He mentioned that the world faced a number of challenges including post-pandemic effects, the divide between the developed and the impoverished, peace, and food security. Kakar highlighted that BRI's flagship project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a crucial role in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan. Underscoring its salience for Pakistan's robust economic development, he endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green

economy, openness, and inclusivity. The prime minister underlined the need for a united global response to address complex transnational challenges faced by humankind and to prevent backsliding on the gains achieved

landlocked countries, thus opening new vistas to the west and beyond. Kakar expressed confidence that as CPEC crossed its decade of launch, the next phase would be poised to accommodate rural farmers, students, and small tradesmen and ensure improvement in living standards, poverty alleviation, and jobs creation. He said Pakistan's collaboration with China in the information technology sector and CPEC's green corridor would ensure modernization, food security, and agricultural and environmental protection. "This vision promotes cooperation, collective security, inclusive and sustainable development, and a balanced eco-system as the only way to address global challenges," he said. The BRF was opened by Chinese President Xi Jinping this morning where he highlighted the concept of working with all participants to draw a new blueprint for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Xi said China looks forward to strengthening ties, engaging in dialogues, forging new partnerships, and promoting regional connectivity for a brighter future.

under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda. He emphasized the urgency of addressing infrastructure gaps in the developing world by investing in transportation, energy, and digital economy. In Pakistan, he said CPEC's 50 projects worth \$25 billion investment resulted in the creation of modern highways, seaports, airports, and rapid mass transit systems. He said the government of Pakistan had taken steps to make the country a trade hub by connecting Gwadar with the

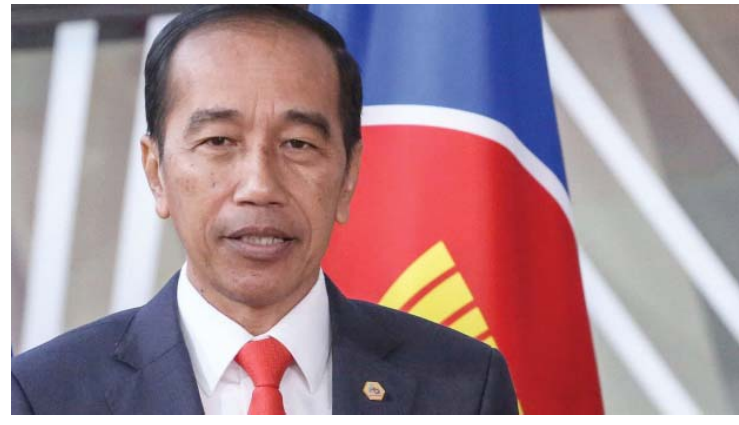
PM Kakar highlights gov't business friendly, pro-investment initiatives

in exporting abroad," said Jerry. It is known that TEI 2023 carries the theme 'Sustainable Trade for Global Economic Resilience'. This year's event is divided into 7 category zones, namely food & beverages, home living, digital & services, beauty & personal care. Then chemical, energy & industrial products, medical equipment & healthcare, as well as fashion, textile & accessories. Apart from exhibitions, supporting programs are also carried out, namely business matching, business counseling, international seminars, business dialogue, and international and local trade missions. Deputy Minister of Trade Dr Jerry Sambuaga and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Mr Airlangga Hartarto Indonesia graced the event with their presence. They apprised the guests about the aim of the exhibition that is to bridge the gaps and encourage the bilateral agreements for mutual benefit. The spacious hall of the Exhibition Convention was full of participants from Indonesia, ASEAN states, Africa, Western countries and Asia including Pakistan. Two delegations of Islamabad and Faisalabad Chambers of Commerce are visiting the exhibition to explore the trade with Indonesia companies.

President Jokowi opens 38th Trade Expo Indonesia 2023

Naveed Ahmad Khan

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) officially opened the 38th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) which was held at ICE BSD City, Tangerang, Banten on Wednesday. President Jokowi opened TEI 2023 virtually because he has been in China since October 16 2023. This event will be held offline at ICE BSD during 18-22 October 2023 and online 18 October-18 December 2023. "By saying bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I declare that the 38th Indonesian Trade Expo in 2023 is open," said Jokowi in a video message. Jokowi welcomed this annual event organized by the Ministry of Trade (Kemendag) because it allows Indonesian exporters to meet face to face with potential buyers who want to see products and conduct negotiations directly. This way you can open up bigger transaction opportunities. "Moreover, I heard that this year the focus is also on opening opportunities from non-traditional markets such as the Middle East, South Asia and Africa which are done offline and online. This is very good and I ask that it be continued so that we can diversify the market



and expand the market, we can continue to improve it so that entrepreneurs "Indonesia, Indonesian MSMEs and local Indonesian product industries can progress further and become an important part of the global supply chain," he said. On the same occasion, Deputy Minister of Trade Jerry Sambuaga said the transaction target in TEI 2023 reached US\$ 11 billion or Rp. 172.7 trillion. This amount is greater than last year's target of US\$ 10 billion, although lower than the realization of US\$ 15.8 billion. "This year's TEI is expected to contrib-

ute to increasing exports with a trade transaction target of US\$ 11 billion," said Jerry. Apart from that, in TEI 2023 it is said that 187 MoU purchasing mission commitments will be signed from 32 countries. Currently, Indonesia is claimed to have 38 bilateral, regional and multi-lateral trade agreements in all continents of the world. "The performance of trade agreements and trade agreement negotiations that have been carried out by the Ministry of Trade and the team have really provided aspects of convenience for business actors

in exporting abroad," said Jerry. It is known that TEI 2023 carries the theme 'Sustainable Trade for Global Economic Resilience'. This year's event is divided into 7 category zones, namely food & beverages, home living, digital & services, beauty & personal care. Then chemical, energy & industrial products, medical equipment & healthcare, as well as fashion, textile & accessories. Apart from exhibitions, supporting programs are also carried out, namely business matching, business counseling, international seminars, business dialogue, and international and local trade missions. Deputy Minister of Trade Dr Jerry Sambuaga and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Mr Airlangga Hartarto Indonesia graced the event with their presence. They apprised the guests about the aim of the exhibition that is to bridge the gaps and encourage the bilateral agreements for mutual benefit. The spacious hall of the Exhibition Convention was full of participants from Indonesia, ASEAN states, Africa, Western countries and Asia including Pakistan. Two delegations of Islamabad and Faisalabad Chambers of Commerce are visiting the exhibition to explore the trade with Indonesia companies.



It is the biggest trade exhibition for conducting business communication among the stake holders. This year Indonesia has introduced more varied and value added products. These products are according to food safety standards, environment friendly and up to the international markets' priorities. An important segment of the opening ceremony was the distribution of export import awards to qualifying Indonesian businessmen. Many of them were women, which indicates the expertise and entrepreneurship qualities of Indonesian women.

As Indonesia is a highly diversified country with respect to the local cultures, a cultural performance was specifically arranged that literally enthralled the guests. Local artists dressed in traditional outfits worn hearts with their demonstration of beautiful local culture that was full of colours. Alongside the exhibition, buyers and visitors are also invited to join a series of business matching, business counseling and international seminars that together will create more benefits and added values of visiting Trade Expo Indonesia 2023.

Flood-Affected Areas

Japan provides \$5.3m for reconstruction of educational facilities in Sindh

This is the fourth grant aid through which the Government of Japan supports the improvement of educational facilities

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 794 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 5.3 million USD/ around 1,530 million PKR) for reconstructing educational facilities in flood-affected areas in Sindh.

On Wednesday, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony.

Since June 2022, heavy monsoon rains have inter-

mittently caused flooding that has submerged one-third of the country, resulting in more than 1,700 deaths and 33 million people affected. Damage in Sindh province has been severe, accounting for 66% of the total damage in the education sector. As medium- and long-term measures, the rapid reconstruction of damaged educational facilities are important to ensure that children have safe learning opportunities.

This is the fourth grant aid through which the Government of Japan supports the improvement of educational facilities in Sindh province. It has been reported that the school buildings assisted by Japan in the past projects suffered less damage and destruction from the rainfall and flooding in 2022 because they were designed and



constructed based on analysis of the 2010 floods. The new project will also incorporate the concept of "Build Back Better" to reduce vulnerability of the target schools to future

disasters and build resilience of communities where the schools are located.

This project aims to establish safe and disaster-resilient learning environment

through reconstruction of elementary schools which were heavily affected by the flood and heavy rain in 2022. The assistance contributes to improving the school enrollment rate and gender equality in the target areas, contributing to the SDGs Goal 4 (Quality education) and 5 (Gender equality).

In the signing ceremony, WADA Mitsuhiro stated, "I hope that the project this time will further contribute to creating an environment where children can continue to receive education even after the floods in the future".

Mr. KINOSHITA, while speaking at the event said "we believe that the new grant aid project will build not only school buildings, but also it will build brighter and more resilient future for the next generation of Pakistan".

Pakistan's stance on Palestine consistent: Solangi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq and the government of Pakistan had been unequivocal, consistent and clear about the Palestinian issue and the genocidal actions against the Palestinians, especially against the people of Gaza.

Using his social media account on X, formerly Twitter, the minister said Pakistan was one of the movers of Jeddah moot and our foreign minister will represent Pakistan despite his need to be in Beijing.

Murtaza Solangi said that the Prime Minister has already taken up this issue with the world leader present in Beijing including the UN Secretary General. "Our permanent representative at the UN too has been active and vocal on the issue. All this has been reported in the news in Pakistan as well as abroad", he said.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday



said that fundamental responsibility of the caretaker government was to provide a conducive environment for elections and monitor the electoral process.

This was stated by him, during separate meetings with Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Murtaza Malik and Pakistan People's Party leader Syed Akhunda Chhattan.

During the meetings, issues of mutual interest including upcoming general elections were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi said that peaceful transfer of power was topmost priority of the caretaker dispensation.

The minister assured both the leaders that caretaker government would ensure that elections were conducted in fair, transparent and impartial elections.

Pakistan calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan has decided to immediately dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza, to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians.

This was announced by Permanent Representative of Pakistan Ambassador Munir Akram while delivering the statement on the sixth committee agenda item titled "The rule of law at the national and international levels" at the United Nations.

He said we are coordinating with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, relevant UN agencies, and the Egyptian Government. He further endorsed the call for the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza.

He expressed regret over the inability of the Security Council to issue a call for a ceasefire due to the opposition and insufficient support for the resolution proposed by the

Russian Federation.

Munir Akram said we strongly and unequivocally condemn Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahley Al-Mamadyani hospital, resulting in killing of hundreds of mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men.

Justifying the freedom struggle of innocent Palestinians against the Israel, he underlined the struggle of peoples under foreign and alien occupation for self-determination and national liberation is legitimate under international law and they have the right to use all possible means in this struggle to achieve their freedom.

The Ambassador further urged any response to the current conflict must be based on securing Israel's respect for international law, including UN resolutions that recognize the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and the elimination of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories including East Jerusalem (Al Quds Al Sharif).

Dr. Saif lauds Huawei's presence at GITEX 2023

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Dr. Umar Saif, Federal Minister of IT & Telecom, and Science & Technology, visited the Huawei pavilion at GITEX 2023. The delegation included the Federal Secretary for IT & Telecom Hassan Nasir Jamy, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and Member IT Junaid Imam.

Dr. Saif was shown the latest technology and cutting-edge trends in innovative ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity and privacy protection and the Huawei Cloud which is leading the creation of infrastructure as a service for global accessibility.

His Excellency was keen on the latest CERT product and

OIC CERT operations globally as well as Pakistan.

Dr. Saif dove swiftly into a discussion on digitization with members of the Huawei team, Mr. David Shi, President EBG Middle East, Mr. Frank Dai, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East, Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masood, Deputy CEO, Huawei Pakistan.

Huawei Pakistan has participated in numerous initiatives over the past quarter century to digitalise Pakistan and fully support Dr. Saif's vision for an ecosystem for nurturing ICT talent, innovation and technology adaptation while rapidly moving towards smart Government infrastructure.



ISSI holds Annual Dialogue with Iranian think-tank IPIS

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Iran's Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) held Annual Dialogue on bilateral and regional issues facilitated by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) here on Wednesday. The distinguished speakers included Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran and President IPIS, Dr. Muhammad Hassan Shaykh al-Islami; Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood; Dr.

Omid Babelian, Research Fellow IPIS; Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Ambassador Hamid Reza Arshadi, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS, Ambassador Riffat Masood, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, a news release said.

The dialogue was divided into three working sessions. The first session titled "Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Relations", was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The second session titled "Changing Dynamics in the Middle East: Prospects for Region-

al Integration and Connectivity" moderated by Arham Siddiqi, RF CAMEA and the third session titled "The Evolving Situation in Afghanistan" was moderated by Sarah Akram, RF CAMEA. In the inaugural session, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Deputy Foreign Minister/President IPIS Dr. Muhammad Hassan Shaykh al-Islami, made opening statements -noting the unprecedented flux, fragility and polarization in the global environment and the profound changes taking place at the international and region-

al levels. They underscored the importance of close Pakistan-Iran consultations in this milieu and expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of the bilateral relationship. The two principals also exchanged perspectives on the situation in Afghanistan and the tragedy unfolding in Palestine. They underscored the need for the world community's urgent intervention to stop unabated oppression against Palestinian civilian population and provide immediate relief assistance. The proactive role of the UN and OIC in ensuring urgent action to address the

current unacceptable situation was emphasised. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Dr. Shaykh al-Islami also underscored the value attached to the institutional relationship between ISSI and IPIS and reaffirmed their commitment to intensify mutual exchanges and expand the scope of mutual collaboration between the two think-tanks. During the first working session, speakers highlighted recent progress in the Pakistan-Iran bilateral relationship, including bilateral trade surpassing \$2 billion, despite the challenge of sanctions. Collaboration on open-

Nawaz seeks protective bail in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday filed a petition before the accountability court seeking protective bail in the Toshakhana reference.

The petitioner prayed to the court to suspend the perpetual arrest warrants against him and stop his arrest on his arrival in Pakistan on October 21.

The petition said that the former prime minister wanted to surrender before the court and prayed it to

suspend his arrest warrants till October 24.

It may be mentioned here that the accountability court had declared Nawaz Sharif an absconder due to non-appearance and issued his perpetual arrest warrants.

The NAB had also named Pakistan Peoples Party leader Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and former president Asif Ali Zardari in the same reference. They were accused of receiving vehicles from the Toshakhana during the PPP government. APP

Bilawal says constitution, polls halted for 'one person's return'

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Wednesday that the country's Constitution, election, and democracy were halted due to "one person's return" - taking a veiled jibe at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Despite being partners in the last government and demanding the former three-time prime minister's return, the PPP has kept raising concerns that Nawaz might get a "special relief".

Nawaz will return to Pakistan on Saturday (October 21), with the PML-N's legal team being hopeful that he will not have to go to jail despite being a convict and an absconder.

"Our previous allies will have to acknowledge that delaying elections will not 'give respect to vote', rather disrespect it," Bilawal said during a public rally in Karachi, hitting out at the PML-N, whose slogan has been "vote ko izzat do (give respect to the sanctity of vote)".

The PPP chairman also said that he wants to end the politics of divide and abuse, adding that if politicians keep fighting amongst themselves, the country will not progress.

"We demanded that those who

defied the Constitution be punished. The entire nation should be aware of who was wrong and who was right," Bilawal, who served as the foreign minister under Shehbaz Sharif in the PDM-led government, said.

He said the PPP had to swallow the "bitter pill" of elections moving past 90 days, but asked all political parties to back his party in demanding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the date for general elections.

The PDM government's term ended in August and the polls, under the Constitution, were set to be held within 90 days, but as a free census was conducted, new delimitations halted the polls.

The ECP had last month announced that the general polls will be held in January next year, but the final delimitations are still awaited.

"The election commission should immediately announce the date for the polls. We should, once and for all, end this politics of divide [...]. The PPP is ready for elections," the party's chairman said.

The PPP leader, during the rally, also announced that his party was kick-starting their mass contact campaign, which will demand the ECP issue election's date.

China strongly condemns Gaza hospital attack

BELJING: Shocked at the attack on a hospital in the Gaza Strip which caused heavy casualties, China strongly condemns the attack, mourns for the victims and expresses sympathy for the injured, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. China calls for an immediate ceasefire as well as maximum efforts to protect civilians and avoid a humanitarian disaster, added the spokesperson.

According to reports, the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in the Gaza Strip was attacked on the evening of October 17. The incident killed at least 500 people. APP

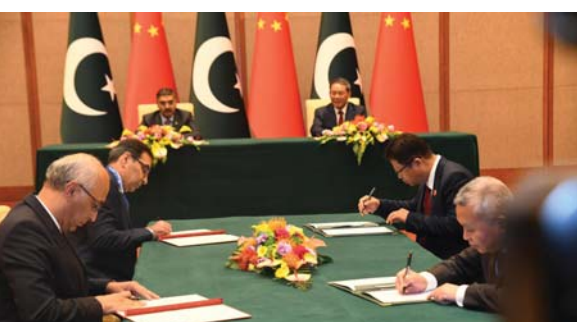
Pakistan, China sign MoUs

Premier Li underlines steady growth of bilateral cooperation

BELJING: Pakistan and China on Wednesday signed multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements for bilateral cooperation in the areas of commerce, communication, transport, food security, health, and others.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang witnessed the signing of MoUs at a ceremony held in Beijing on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF). The two countries agreed to further strengthen high-level dialogue and engagement besides deepening the political, economic, education, science and technology, cultural, and people-to-people relations.

Accompanied by their ministers and senior government offi-



cial, the two leaders reaffirmed the time-tested and iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China.

PM Kakar extended felicitations to the Chinese leadership on the successful holding of the BRF.

Noting the depth and breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the premier termed it as a

project of immense significance for the world in terms of connectivity and shared prosperity.

The two leaders discussed bilateral collaboration in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and prospects of further deepening economic linkages.

PM Kakar underscored the

importance of CPEC for Pakistan's economy and noted with satisfaction its expansion into new areas of development - including industrial development; livelihood projects; ICT; mining and minerals exploration and agriculture.

He expressed confidence that Chinese investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will contribute to the diversification of Pakistan's export basket and expansion of its industrial base.

Meanwhile, Premier Li underlined the steady growth of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum of CPEC projects. He hoped that leadership consensus would give a further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

KP government join hands with IRC for ensuring gender equality in province

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Aimed at advancing women's rights and promoting social justice in Pakistan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW) and International Rescue Committee, (IRC) are elated to announce a significant partnership. The IRC and KPCSW signed a Letter of Cooperation (LoC) to collaborate on initiatives of mutual interest across the province. The LoC was signed by, Shabnam Baloch, Country Director IRC, and Robin Haider Bokhari, Secretary KPCSW.

This collaboration signifies the shared vision of both organizations to develop synergies aimed at fostering collaboration under the "Leveraging Inclusive and Climate Sensitive WASH for Empowerment" (LIFE Pakistan) project funded by Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The LIFE-II Project focuses on addressing gender equality and social inclusion concerns within climate-resilient WASH interventions. IRC and KPCSW as strategic partners will work collaboratively for a conducive policy



arena and implementation. IRC will leverage upon KPCSW expertise on women's development and gender equality initiatives.

At the policy level, IRC and KPCSW will hold consultative workshops with relevant government departments to foster a common understanding of inclusive WASH and Climate Change action plans. These workshops will pave the way for coordinated efforts to address climate change challenges. Moreover, IRC and KPCSW will hold

a series of parliamentary dialogues on gender equity in water and sanitation, within the context of climate change challenges. These dialogues will aim to identify opportunities for gender inclusion in existing implementation plans, including the National Climate Change Gender Action Plan (National CC GAP).

Robin Haider Bokhari, Secretary KPCSW, speaking on this occasion noted that the partnership between KPCSW & IRC will pave way for fostering better representation and inclusion

of Women in community interventions that are centric to WASH and climate resilience. She further added that the commission mandate entails reviewing provincial laws affecting women's status and rights, proposing changes or new legislation to eliminate discrimination and promote gender equality in line with the Constitution of Pakistan and international commitments.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shabnam Baloch Country Director IRC, stated, "Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (GED) is the cornerstone of IRC programming in Pakistan. Our vision resonates with the mission of KPCSW." She further noted that IRC is open to exploring additional areas of cooperation within the Climate-Resilient Inclusive WASH sector and will work closely with KPCSW for provision of technical support to government institutes.

This collaboration underscores the commitment of both IRC and KPCSW to advancing a nexus of gender equality, women's rights, and climate resilience. It is a significant step towards addressing pressing social issues and it reflects the shared vision of both organizations to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Solidarity with the martyred children

HYDERABAD: Children holding Palestine flags participate in a Jamaat-e-Islami rally to show solidarity with the martyred children in the Israeli bombing of Gaza hospitals, in City.



Photo: Online

Sanctions, banning political parties can't stop Kashmiris from pursuing their cherished goal: Shakeel Andrabi

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Students wing of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) on Wednesday reiterated its pledge to carry forward the mission of the incarcerated party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah despite all odds.

In a statement issued here today the DFP's student wing chief Shakeel Ahmed Andrabi said that no sanctions or restrictive measures against political organizations and leaders by the Indian government can deter them from pursuing their cherished goal



of freedom for which Kashmiris have rendered unprecedented sacrifices for the past several decades. Andrabi said that India must bear in mind the fact that it cannot suppress the Kashmiris' just struggle for

the right of self determination merely by silencing legitimate political voices in Kashmir.

He said that Indian needs to learn from the history that genuine freedom movements with a massive support base

cannot be suppressed through use of excessive force or putting people in jails.

The age-old colonial-era tactics used by Indian rulers to silence the Kashmiri people have neither succeeded in the past nor would they succeed in future", Andrabi said and added that India must accept the ground reality that Kashmir is a political dispute that needs to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Urging India to adopt a pragmatic approach to resolve the lingering dispute peacefully, he said that by creating war hysteria India cannot change

the reality of the Kashmir dispute.

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to take the ongoing freedom struggle to its logical conclusion, Andrabi said that followers of Shabir Ahmed Shah would never allow any one to betray the Kashmiris' just cause.

Andrabi also lauded Shah's life long struggle and sacrifices for the ongoing freedom struggle and expressed the optimism that the day was not far when the people of Kashmir would achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's occupation.

COMSATS University Attock campus convocation highlights graduation of 450 students

Reza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Convocation of COMSATS University Islamabad Attock Campus was held at the CUI Attock Campus. The Founder Rector COMSATS Prof Dr SM Junaid zaidi was the chief guest. The Rector COMSATS University Islamabad Prof Dr Sajid Qamar, Members syndicate, Senate, BOG, teachers, parents along with deputy commissioner Attock and other dignitaries also participated.

A total of 450 graduating students were awarded degrees in the disciplines of computer science Electrical and computer engineering, Management sciences, and mathematics and those who exhibited excellent educational performance were awarded medals.

In his address the chief guest emphasized the importance of higher education and significance of research and development for the progress of the country. He also paid special thanks to the distinguished guests and expressed good wishes for the students whom degrees were conferred.

In the meanwhile the director COMSATS University Islamabad Attock campus presented the campus report and highlighted the development milestones achieved by the campus and emphasized the role of education in the development of Pakistan. He talked about the ranking of the university teachers in the top 2 percent scientists according to the Stanford university report for this year. The Rector COMSATS University Islamabad Prof Dr Sajid Qamar also addressed the convocation and congratulated the passing out students. He stressed upon the importance of research in the modern world and asked students to equip themselves with all necessary educational tools to compete the world and face the upcoming challenges in the relevant fields.

CTD Operation in Punjab: Nine terrorists belonging from Al Qaeda and Daish arrested

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 9 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 157 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 9 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Raouf Zubair, Zia, Waqar, Ameen, Masood, Sefraz, Hameed Khan and Shahid, he said and added that they belongs to the banned organizations Al Qaeda and Daish.

He said that the arrest of these terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Faisalabad, Nankana, Rahimyar Khan, Sheikhpura and Rawalpindi. He said that the explosives material, 12 detonators, mobile phones, prima cards, and cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered cases against the terrorists and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

He said that 900 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 41411 persons were checked, 134 suspects were arrested during these

The OIC platform should send a strong message to Israel: Maryam Idris

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The leader of social and human rights Maryam Idris strongly condemned the massacre of children, women and the elderly by the barbaric bombardment of the oppressed Palestinian people by Israel and said that she is saddened to see the situation in Palestine, Israel's use of chemical weapons. By doing this, Israel is not only oppressing Palestinians, but also committing a violation of international humanitarian laws. Instead of being silent, the world should play its role and stop this oppression. Talking to spokesman she said that Palestine is a common problem of the Muslim Ummah. Muslim umma should unite and be the voice of their Palestinian brothers and sisters. A strong message should be sent to Israel from the platform of OIC on this cruelty and brutality. The government of Pakistan should play its full role in this regard. In one of her statements, social leader Maryam Idris says that despite all the atrocities, the Palestinians have not lost courage and are resisting the brutality of Israel. I salute their courage and perseverance. We are our Palestinian sisters. They are with the brothers, the Palestinian Mujahideen destroyed the pride of Israel. Maryam Idris says that the world should end the double standards. Don't they see cruelty, humiliation of humanity and violation of basic human rights in Palestine? Pakistan should also raise its voice because despite being a Muslim and a nuclear power, no statement has been made openly by the government on the situation in Palestine, which is a momentary concern.



Maulana Azad urges int'l community to unite for Palestinian freedom, peace

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of esteemed religious scholars and leaders, led by Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Syed Abdul Kabir Azad on Wednesday met Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei to express its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, Maulana Azad passionately condemned the Israeli aggression and violence against Palestine and Gaza, referring to these actions as reprehensible acts of terrorism and brutality. He urged the international community to take immediate notice of Israel's atrocities and called upon the global community to unite against Israel's military actions. He further urged the United Nations, OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation), and other influential organizations to establish effective mechanisms to prevent the continuing oppression and brutality faced by the Palestinian people.

Jammu and Kashmir to become Pakistan: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that in the context of the current situation, educational institutions should first present the national anthem of Pakistan and then the national anthem of the state in their programs.

In spite of the current dangerous situation, some elements, like

in the past, are still putting obstacles in the way of the restoration of the idea of accession to Pakistan and the Muslim Conference.

Opposing Pakistan in the guise of problems is an unforgivable crime, there can be no compromise on the integrity and survival of Pakistan.

Pakistan is the destination and the safest refuge of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to Mr Haroon Azad Dy Secretary Information Officer

Muslim Conference and senior journalist Mr Abdul Majeed Tahir Sardar Attique said that India can make every possible use of the internal turmoil of Azad Kashmir.

All political elements should come together and play their role. Kashmir will become Pakistan by blocking the way for anti-Pakistan ideas.

And the idea of Kashmir will become Pakistan cannot be an alternative, unfortunately some elements are looking for an alter-



native to Kashmir will become Pakistan and the idea of joining

Pakistan. The ideological front has been left open for anti-Pakistan and pro-enemy elements.

He said that the workers of the Muslim Conference should prepare to accept the challenge of ideological and intellectual detention.

The President of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, expressed serious concern over the martyrdom of Palestinian Muslims and said

that Israel has besieged 23 lakh Muslims of Gaza.

The supply of food, water, electricity is stopped there, the Zionist initiative is an open aggression, if the international community turns a blind eye to it, then there will be outrage among the billions of Muslims.

He said that the OIC and the United Nations should immediately ensure 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 courageous stand, they have to express the sentiments of the Ummah.

He said that the time is not far when the oppressed Palestinians will be blessed with freedom and the doors of the First Qibla will be opened for all the Muslim Ummah.



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“Nurturing critical thinking at the forefront of FAS”: Dr Stephen Lyon, Dean AKU-FAS



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at the Aga Khan University (AKU) recently hosted a roundtable discussion to address the details of the newly launched faculty and celebrate its inaugural batch of students, who have embarked on an inspiring journey to pursue their academic and career aspirations.

Professor Stephen Lyon, Inaugural Dean, Faculty of Arts & Sciences also addressed the panel and said, “AKU’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences aims to provide a well-rounded education that not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures critical thinking and better engagement and understanding of the environment and the society. The department’s alumni are poised to become the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow.”

Dr Anjum Halai, Vice Provost of AKU, while sharing her vision for the Faculty said, “The Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Aga Khan University is not just an educational institution; it’s a gateway to a world of possibilities. With its diverse programs, world-class facilities, and promising future prospects, the FAS has brought a variety of international-standard courses and a globally-acknowledged teaching faculty to Pakistan.”

She also added that the students have been selected through a rigorous admission process to ensure the selection of the most talented and dedicated students from all over Pakistan.

By 2027, the department aims to enrol up to four hundred students at full capacity. To provide students from all backgrounds an equal opportunity to access quality education, FAS also offers financial support to deserving students.

Naunehal Seerat Conference held

Speakers highlight Prophet Muhammad’s role as teacher of humanity

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A Naunehal Seerat Conference on the theme: “The Prophet (PBUH) as a teacher of humanity” comprised of recitation of verses from the holy Qur’an, Hamd, Mehfil-i-Na’at, Rasm-i-Bismillah and speeches, was held yesterday at The Arena, Bahria Town Tower, under the auspices of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP). The President of HFP—Ms. Sadia Rashid presided over the conference. Renowned educationist and writer Raed Afzal was invited as a guest speaker.

The young speakers emphasized that the life of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sets a practical and exemplary standard for leadership and guidance for everyone. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) held a distinctive

and unparalleled role as a teacher in every facet of life. His teachings serve as guidance for people from all corners of the world. The Prophet Muhammad’s (peace be upon him) education, character, consistency between words and actions, righteousness, patience, tolerance, selflessness, justice, determination, and numerous other exceptional qualities illuminated throughout history and eradicated the darkness of disbelief and ignorance.

Raed Afzal emphasized that there are no contradictions in the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). It’s important for young individuals to also adhere to the valuable principles of Usawa-Hasna.

“Witnessing the deep reverence of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the hearts of the children



was a source of great joy. May Allah safeguard our faith. Amen!” he said.

He also said that the seed planted by the late Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said under the banner of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly has grown into a strong tree.

“Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said embodies the practical example of the ideals of Allama Iqbal,” he added.

At the conference, the Rasm-i-Bismillah ceremony was also held for two children Syeda Malaika Arsalan and Shanze Hasan Khan. Qari Hamid Mahmood Qadri recited the Du’a. The conference was attended by the Director of HFP Syed Muhammad Arsalan, along with other HFP workers, students from different schools, parents, teachers, members of the media, and individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Federal minister inaugurated PAS-ANSO conference on Pathogen transmission beyond borders

Federal Minister of National Food Security & Research H. E. Prof. Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik and Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad inaugurated the ANSO-PAS-MAAP Conference on Pathogen Transmission beyond Borders: Understanding the Complexities of Cross-species Infectious Diseases Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research and Chairman HEC inaugurated the ANSO-PAS-MAAP conference on Pathogen transmission beyond borders: Understanding the complexities of cross-species infectious diseases on 16 October 2023. To accentuate the intricate dynamics of pathogen trans-



mission between species and across the geographical boundaries, a three-day ANSO-PAS-MAAP Conference on Pathogen transmission beyond borders:

Understanding the complexities of cross-species infectious diseases was jointly organized by Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Alliance of Interna-

tional Science Organization (ANSO), and Monbukagakusho-MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) on 16 October, 2023 at the Auditorium of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. Over the course of three-day conference, a consortium of Forty (40) distinguished scholars, including International & National renowned converged their collective expertise to deliberate upon the imperative facets of cross-species infectious diseases. Additionally, a total of Thirty Six (36) meticulously curated posters will be presented spanning an array of thematic explorations centered around the pathogen transmission beyond borders.

Speakers emphasized raising breast cancer awareness at a seminar in AIOU

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A seminar was held yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to raise awareness about breast cancer. Prof. Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Head of the Department of Radiology at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) was the keynote speaker. During her lecture, Dr. Majeed explained the causes, symptoms, and diagnosis of breast cancer. She emphasized that early detection is crucial as breast cancer can be treated if diagnosed on time. Therefore, women should perform self-examination every month, and if they notice lumps or any unusual changes in their chest or its sides, they should consult a doctor immediately. Dr. Majeed also highlighted that maintaining a healthy diet and regular exercise can help prevent breast cancer. Moreover, she recommended that women aged 40 years or older should undergo annual mammography.



This seminar was jointly organized by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Design in line with the vision of Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, who aims to promote various seminars and academic activities in the university. Additional Registrar AIOU, Bibi Yasmin, Addition-

al Director ORIC, Dr. Saima Nasir, Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, Dr. Mahpara Safdar and in-charge of Biology Department, Dr. Hina Fatima also spoke at the event.

Speakers said that every year more than ninety-five thousand women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Pakistan,

most of them die due to delay in treatment. The speakers further said that breast cancer can be cured through timely diagnosis and the mortality rate can be reduced. Speakers emphasized the need to raise awareness about breast cancer. Dr. Hajra Ahmed said that due to the lack of diagnosis at the initial stage, the disease becomes difficult to cure, so women should examine themselves regularly.

Int Islamabad Eye Center inks MoU



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Another milestone has been achieved by Acting President, Saboohi Hussain, as she signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr. Lt. Col (R) Dr. Shahzad Saeed from Islamabad Eye Center. This partnership aims to facilitate our members for a better quality of life in the midst of this economic crisis.

We are thrilled to announce this collaboration, which will provide our members with enhanced access to top-quality eye care services. The Islamabad Eye Center is renowned for its expertise and commitment to excellence, making them the perfect partner to join hands with.

By forging this alliance, we are taking a significant step towards improving the well-being of our members, especially during these challenging times. Access to quality healthcare is crucial, and this MoU will enable our members to receive the best possible eye care, ensuring their overall health and happiness.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lt. Col (R) Dr. Shahzad Saeed and his team at the Islamabad Eye Center for their willingness to collaborate with us. Together, we will strive to create a positive impact on the lives of our members and contribute to their betterment.

Join us in celebrating this momentous occasion and spreading the word about our partnership!

Cheezious lights up the silver screen at the Naqsh Digital Film Festival 2023!

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Naqsh Digital Film Festival, a remarkable cinematic event aimed at celebrating creativity and promoting social awareness, recently concluded its successful run in Islamabad. Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Fatima Jinnah Women University. One of the festival’s Food Partner, Cheezious, played a vital role in making this event possible, contributing to the success of the festival and its mission.

Our distinguished guest Minister of Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi & elite panel of judges, comprised of prominent figures in the film and entertainment industry, had the challenging task of evaluating and recognizing outstanding entries. The judging panel included Mr. Shahzad Nawaz, Ms. Kanwal Khoosat, Ms. Hajra Yamin, Mr. Sajjad Gul Sajji, Mr. Pervaiz Akhtar, Mr. Sajid Munir, Ms. Amna Kazmi, Dr. Ahmer Sohail Busra, and Ms. Nergis Hashmi. Their collective expertise and insight helped identify the best among the submissions.

Head of Marketing Zohaib Hassan said, “Cheezious played an integral part in making this festival a resounding success, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the arts and cultural endeavors within Pakistan”.

APCFA joins hands with Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to Celebrate 74th Anniversary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and “Belt and Road” (BR) initiative, All Pakistan-China Friendship Association (APCFA) in collaboration with the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan organized Pakistan-China Friendship Festival in Serena Hotel Islamabad on Monday 16th October 2023.

Chinese Calligraphy class, Chinese culinary training session, Chinese calligraphy workshop, musical band performance and other stalls of traditional items promoting bilateral culture of both countries were part of the event.

H. E Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counselor and Director China

Cultural Center in Pakistan was the chief guest for the event.

In his remarks at the event, he expressed his heartfelt appreciation to APCFA for their hard work in organising such a significant event and actively participating in similar cultural promotion activities encouraging youth in both Pakistan and China. He further said that China and Pakistan are good neighbors by rivers and mountains. Since establishment of diplomatic relations both countries have stood the twists and turns, challenges and hard times. Both Pakistan and China have long histories. Pakistan has a 4600-year history dating back to the Mohinjo Daro and Harappa civilizations. China has a long history dating back to the Liangzhu civilizations; the second similarity both countries now share is population; China has the world’s largest population, and Pakistan is

most likely the world’s fifth largest. Endorsing the remarks of the other speakers, he also acknowledged the role that youth have played and will play in the development of both countries. He hoped that the youth would study hard and make greater progress for Pakistan, and that they would be great ambassadors of China-Pakistan friendship.

In the past 74 years, China has witnessed historic changes under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). China have eliminated absolute poverty, built the world’s largest education, social security and healthcare systems, and achieved rapid economic growth and long-term social stability. 45 years ago, China launched reform and opening-up, a policy that has not only changed China profoundly, but also created huge opportunities to the rest of the world. Today, we are confident-

ly embarking on a new journey to promote the great rejuvenation of the country through Chinese modernization.

Muhammad Ikhlaq Usmani, President APCFA, Mrs. Romana Iftikhar, Patron APCFA, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani APCFA Peshawar were among the other dignitaries present at the event.

Students from Super Nova School, West Minister School and Academy, Islamabad Collage of Arts and Sciences and Iqra University enthusiastically participated in the event.

A Chinese teacher taught the audience a Chinese language class, allowing them to learn the fundamentals of Chinese languages by teaching them common words for friendship. Students actively participated in the Chinese culinary session, learning Jiaozi making techniques and then demonstrating what they had

learned. The Chinese Calligraphy workshop piqued the interest of various school students, who learned how to hold the calligraphy brush, basic strokes, and the fundamentals of calligraphy before displaying their newly acquired calligraphy skills

on papers. The festival’s overall atmosphere was enhanced by songs performed by a musical band and stalls displaying various cultural items from China and Pakistan in the arena, promoting culture and art from China and Pakistan

while adhering to the theme of Celebrating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the 10th anniversary of CPEC and BRI, and further strengthening friendship and cultural ties between two Iron-clad friends.



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

The OIC has also taken a strong stance against terrorism and extremism, emphasizing their incompatibility with Islamic teachings. Collaborating with international bodies, including the United Nations, it is actively engaged in efforts to combat terrorism, bolster security, and protect human rights, ultimately contributing to

Furthermore, the OIC facilitates economic cooperation among its member states, promoting trade relationships, investment opportunities, and the development of infrastructure. Initiatives like the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) offer financial support for development projects, poverty reduction, and economic growth in member countries. The OIC's commitment to economic development has the potential to enhance the quality of life for millions of people.

The ongoing and intricate Kashmir dilemma has been a source of friction between India and Pakistan for an extended period. In this complex context, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has assumed a constructive role in addressing the situation by promoting dialogue and championing the rights and welfare of the Kashmiri population.

The OIC has consistently engaged with the Kashmir issue through diplomat-

ic means. It has facilitated discussions among the relevant parties and underscored peaceful dialogue as the pathway to resolving this conflict. The organization has acknowledged the significance of negotiations in addressing the concerns of the Kashmiri populace and has advocated for a peaceful resolution. Furthermore, the OIC has been vocal in expressing apprehensions about human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It has underscored the necessity of safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people and has emphasized the need for accountability in cases of human rights transgressions. The OIC's advocacy efforts have succeeded in bringing international attention to the predicament of the Kashmiri population.

Consistently, the OIC has lent its support to the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir, aligning with the principles outlined in United Nations Security Council resolutions. This principled stance underscores the organization's dedication to upholding international law and championing the democratic aspirations of the Kashmiri populace.

Moreover, the OIC has actively provided humanitarian aid to the people of Kashmir, especially during times of crisis. This assistance encompasses healthcare, education, and relief efforts during natural disasters and conflicts, resulting in a positive impact on the lives of the Kashmiri people.

Through its advocacy and diplomatic endeavors, the OIC has played a pivotal role in elevating global awareness of the Kashmir issue. The organization's initiatives have prompted international discussions on the Kashmir situation, applying pressure on the concerned parties to take meaningful steps toward a peaceful resolution.

However, it's important to acknowledge that the Kashmir issue remains a sensitive and deeply entrenched conflict. Addressing it demands a sustained commitment to diplomatic engagement, dialogue, and a shared determination among all parties to find a lasting solution that respects the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's involvement in the Kashmir issue exemplifies its constructive role, characterized by its promotion of peaceful dialogue,

support for human rights, and provision of humanitarian assistance. It serves as a testament to the organization's dedication to upholding international law and advancing the well-being of the Kashmiri population.

In a world marked by enduring conflicts, the often overlooked yet pivotal role of diplomats and envoys in the pursuit of peace and resolution is undeniable. One such individual who has made significant contributions to the cause of peace and justice in the long-standing Kashmir issue is Yousef al-Dubey, the Representative for Kashmir from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Yousef al-Dubey's appointment as the OIC's Representative for Kashmir heralded a new era in the international community's approach to this deeply entrenched conflict.

Yousef al-Dubey has been consistently laudable in his endeavors, with one of his most commendable roles being his unwavering promotion of dialogue and diplomacy as the primary means of resolving the Kashmir issue. He has played a pivotal role in encouraging both India and Pakistan to come to the negotiation table, advocating for peaceful talks to address the longstanding grievances of the Kashmiri people.

To be Continued



Abdul Basit Alvi

At OIC meeting, Pakistan calls for end to Israel's terror campaign

Pakistan on Wednesday emphasised that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, and lifting the siege of Gaza. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, who led the Pakistan delegation to the urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Jeddah, also condemned Tuesday's massacre of innocent civilians in the vicious Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza.

The meeting was co-convened by Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

In his statement, the Foreign Minister Jilani strongly denounced the Israeli aggression and inhumane blockade of Gaza that resulted in death, destruction and displacement.

He underscored that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. Their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity, he added.

The foreign minister called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes. Foreign Minister Jilani emphasized that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, and rescinding forced evacuation of Palestinians from their homes.

He also underlined the urgency of humanitarian corridors for rapid, secure and unrestricted humanitarian and relief supplies to Gaza. Foreign Minister Jilani underlined that the root cause of the recent conflagration lay in the non-implementation of the two-state solution.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

He called for an early establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a Joint Communiqué outlining the collective stance of the Muslim Ummah on the situation in Gaza. On the sidelines, the foreign minister also held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Gambia, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.



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

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

Exchange rate dynamics are a critical element influencing inflation in Pakistan. Fluctuations in the exchange rate, especially the depreciation of the domestic currency, can have significant consequences for the overall price level within the country. A depreciation of the domestic currency relative to other currencies can lead to higher import costs. As Pakistan relies on imports for a variety of goods, including energy and essential commodities, increased import costs can contribute to inflation. These higher costs are often passed on to consumers in the form of elevated prices for imported goods. Exchange rate changes affect the balance of trade, potentially improving exports but also raising inflation through costlier imports. Exchange rate movements may trigger policy responses by the central bank. For example, if the currency depreciates rapidly, the central bank might intervene to stabilize the exchange rate. These interventions can have implications for monetary policy and money supply growth, which, in turn, can impact inflation.

Global factors, including changes in international commodity prices, geopolitical events, and global economic conditions, exert significant influence on inflation dynamics in Pakistan. Pakistan, like many countries, is sensitive to fluctuations in global commodity prices, particularly oil. A surge in oil prices can lead to higher costs for energy and transport-

ation, which, in turn, contribute to inflation. Conversely, declining commodity prices can help curb inflationary pressures. The state of the global economy can influence Pakistan's inflation. A robust global economy can stimulate demand for Pakistani exports, potentially improving the country's trade balance and reducing inflation. Conversely, a global economic downturn can reduce demand for exports, negatively impacting Pakistan's trade balance and possibly increasing inflation. Political tensions and conflicts in the region or globally can disrupt supply chains and lead to uncertainties in commodity markets, hence creating inflationary pressures in Pakistan. Pakistan is highly sensitive to fluctuations in global oil prices, as oil is a crucial import. When oil prices rise, it leads to higher energy costs, affecting transportation and production. These increased costs are often passed on to consumers, contributing to inflation. Global food price changes, driven by factors like climate events and global supply and demand dynamics, can impact Pakistan's food inflation as certain food items that are imported would sell at higher prices.

Now we will explore the far-reaching consequences of inflation in Pakistan. Inflation, when not effectively managed, can have significant economic, social, and political implications, impacting various sectors of society. First and foremost we will talk about the economic consequences: one of the most direct economic consequences of inflation is

a decrease in the purchasing power of individuals and households. As prices rise, consumers can afford fewer goods and services with the same amount of money, leading to a decline in their standard of living. Then high or unpredictable inflation rates can introduce economic uncertainty. Businesses may find it challenging to plan for the future, make investments, or set prices, which can hinder economic growth and stability. Furthermore, inflation often leads to higher nominal interest rates. Borrowers face increased borrowing costs, potentially constraining investment and economic expansion. Savers, on the other hand, may see reduced real returns on their savings. Lastly, Persistent high inflation can distort investment decisions. Investors may prioritize assets that offer protection against inflation, such as real estate and commodities, rather than productive investments in the real economy.

Moreover, we will talk about the social consequences of inflation: at first, inflation can exacerbate income inequality. Those with fixed or low incomes, such as pensioners and low-wage workers, may struggle to keep pace with rising prices, while those with assets that appreciate during inflation, like real estate or stocks, may see their wealth increase. Hence, inflation can push more people into poverty, especially if wages do not rise commensurately with rising living costs. Vulnerable populations are often hit the hardest. Most importantly, high inflation can strain public services like education and healthcare, making it more challenging for governments to provide essential services to their citizens.

To be continued



Abdullah Anwar

The Palestinian Issue and the slavish Foreign Policy of Islamic Countries - I

More or less more than seventy five years have passed since the issue of Palestine and Kashmir arisen. There is a lot of similarity in terms of foreign occupation and settlement of them in these two areas. The only difference is that Kashmir is inhabited by Muslims and the proportion of Muslim population is being reduced by settling Hindus here, while the Muslims living in Palestine were massacred and Jews were settled and the Palestinians were displaced from their own areas. Regarding these two issues, the policy of Western non-Muslim countries is clearer than that of Muslim countries. The United States, Great Britain, France, etc., not only stand with Israel and India openly, but also actively participate in all kinds of aid to them. Not only in Palestine and Kashmir, but in any corner of the world, Western countries are on the same page against Muslims.

On the other hand, Islamic countries, especially Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Morocco, had high hopes after recognizing Israel. Among the Central Asian states, Azerbaijan ranks first in Israel's flattery. Egypt's blockade of Gaza is questionable in many respects. At one point during the recent tensions and tussles, Egypt closed Gaza's only Rafah crossing, which was later reopened.

At a time when the United States was trying to promote diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, more than 1,000 Hamas patriots from Gaza entered Israel by paragliding, on motorcycles and on foot. They entered the Israel whose technology, agriculture, software and secret organizations are outclassed. Muslim countries are eager to recognize Israel. On such a large

scale, the Hamas Mujahedeen broke through the security fence along the Israeli border and entered Israel and attacked a desert festival. They then killed thousands of Israeli Jews in the streets and military bases in the cities of Israel (which actually belong to the Palestinians). They took more than a hundred Mujahedeen as hostages and some of them were martyred and the rest of the Ghazis are fighting.

There is no doubt that Israel, backed by the West, is more powerful than Hamas in terms of fighting power. But here the matter is about power and faith, regarding which the recent action will be remembered in history. The embarrassment and humiliation that Hamas caused Israel around the world was sure to have a big reaction.

Israel launched a major operation on Gaza. By the time these lines were written, more than 25 hundred women, children and civilians had been martyred in Palestine. This number is probably lower than the actual number because many buildings in Gaza have been destroyed by Israeli shelling. I don't know how many bodies will be in this wreckage. It is a time of great trial for Gaza with the shutdown of electricity, water and food as well as the Internet. Due to lack of fuel in hospitals, the lack of medical facilities is certain due to generators not running. Turkey is trying to send relief goods to Palestine through Egypt's Rafah crossing. In addition, Iran has openly declared its support for Hamas. Hezbollah from Lebanon has also come out in support of Hamas. Saudi Arabia has definitely cut ties with Israel to the extent of negotiations, but the strong voice that should have been raised from the Islamic world is not yet visible.

To be continued



Shah Muhammad Awan

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Israel to 'permit' humanitarian aid to Gaza

Decision comes after request from Biden: PM office

JERUSALEM: Israel announced on Wednesday that it would permit the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza through Egypt, focusing on "food, water, and medicine."

This decision was made in response to a request from US President Joe Biden, as confirmed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. Israel emphasised that the aid must not reach Hamas, the governing authority in Gaza.

However, Israel maintained that it would not provide the aid directly from its own territory until Hamas released dozens of hostages taken during a major attack on October 7, which subsequently escalated into full-scale conflict.

The Israeli statement highlighted the demand for Red Cross visits with the captives and sought broad international support for this requirement.

Gaza has been under a severe Israeli-led blockade since Hamas took control in 2007, resulting in shortages of essential supplies like water, fuel, and food. The situation further deteriorated after Israel sealed off the territory following the October 7 attack.



Israel has since retaliated by bombing Gaza, and an estimated 1,400 Israelis and 3,500 Palestinians have been killed so far.

This announcement coincided with President Biden's recent visit to Israel, during which he reaffirmed US support for the country and endorsed Israel's assertion that Palestinian militants were responsible for a deadly rocket strike on a Gaza hospital.

The United States has also exercised its veto power at the United Nations Security Council, blocking a resolution put forward by Brazil that called for humanitarian pauses in the ongoing

conflict between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants.

The purpose of these pauses was to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

This vote, however, had been postponed twice as the US worked to negotiate aid access to Gaza, emphasising the importance of diplomacy in the region. In the vote, twelve member states supported the Brazilian-drafted resolution, while Russia and Britain abstained.

US Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, defended the decision to veto the resolution, stating, "We are on the ground doing the hard work of diplomacy. We believe we need to let that diplomacy play out."

Yes, resolutions are important. And yes, this council must speak out. But the actions we take must be informed by the facts on the ground and support direct diplomacy efforts. That can save lives. The council needs to get this right." Agencies

Kazakhstan to build 1,300 km of railway in synergy with Belt and Road Initiative, says president

BEIJING: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said here Wednesday that Kazakhstan plans to build 1,300 km of new railways in the next three years in synergy with the Belt and Road Initiative.



"Following the fundamental interests of the people of Kazakhstan and China, the spirit of friendship and eternal strategic partnership, our country is firmly committed to further promoting the high goals of the Belt and Road Initiative," Tokayev said at the opening of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

"Within three years, we plan to build 1,300 km of new railway tracks. We are going to open a third railway border crossing on the Kazakh-Chinese border, as well as build new dry ports," Tokayev said. "All of these are real examples of the coupling of major economic projects in Kazakhstan with the Belt and Road Initiative, the president added. Xinhua

BRI promotes dev in developing countries: Indonesian president

BEIJING: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has promoted development in developing countries, said Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Wednesday.



"I would like to thank the Chinese government and President Xi Jinping for their contributions to developing countries through the BRI. I hope the synergy of BRI in infrastructure development can always be strengthened," said Widodo at the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing.

The Indonesian president also called on all partner countries to collectively make the BRI stronger and more impactful.

During his speech, Widodo mentioned Indonesia's newly-launched and operated Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, a flagship project under the scheme of the BRI. Going forward, he said, Indonesia planned to further the development of its new capital city project together with the energy transition and downstream industries.

Widodo added that the sustainability of BRI projects must be made for long-term purposes and should be able to strengthen the economic foundation of partner countries.

"Let's move forward persistently together to promote economic development and realize people's welfare," Widodo said. Xinhua

Jordan cancels summit with Biden, Sisi and Abbas in Amman

Jordan cancels Amman summit, blames Israel for Gaza hospital blast and pushing the region 'to the brink of the abyss'

AMMAN: Jordan has cancelled a summit it was to host in Amman on Wednesday with US President Joe Biden and the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders to discuss Gaza, Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said.

Safadi said the meeting would be held at a time when the parties could agree to end the "war and the massacres against Palestinians", blaming Israel with its military campaign for pushing the region to "the brink of the abyss."

Biden was expected to make a whirlwind trip to Israel where he would later head to Jordan and

according to Jordanian officials meet Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el Sisi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Jordan's King Abdullah would have hosted the four-way summit, which would have on its agenda the need to get humanitarian assistance to Gaza to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and tamp down the conflict with Israel.

Abdullah has blamed Israel for a blast at a Gaza hospital that killed about 500 Palestinians on Tuesday, saying it was a "shame on humanity" and called on Israel to immediately end its military campaign

against Gaza. Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed each other for the deaths.

The monarch warned that Israel's response following a deadly cross border attack by Hamas on Oct. 7 that killed and injured more than 1,000 Israelis went beyond the right of self-defence to collective punishment of Palestinian civilians.

The outpouring of anger against Israel also fuelled a large rally on Tuesday near the Israeli embassy in Amman, where police used tear gas to disperse several thousand protesters who chanted slogans in support of Hamas and demanded

the government close the embassy and scrap a peace treaty with Israel.

Jordan's peace treaty with Israel is widely unpopular among many citizens who see normalisation as a sell-out of the rights of their Palestinian brethren.

The Israeli embassy, where protesters gather daily, has long been a flash-point of anti-Israel protests at times of turmoil in the Palestinian territories.

Earlier, dozens of youths attempted to storm the heavily guarded compound but security forces used tear gas to break them up. Several protesters were arrested. Reuters

India plans manned moon mission, space station



NEW DELHI: India plans to send a man to the Moon and set up a space station by 2040, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, as the country ramps up its space programme.

The premier's announcement comes as the world's most populous country readies for a key test flight due Saturday for its first crewed space mission.

Modi told space agency officials that they should "build on the success of Indian space initiatives".

The country "should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035 and sending first Indian to moon by 2040," he said in a statement late Tuesday.

Modi asked them to develop plans for "a series of missions" to the Moon. India runs a low-budget space operation. It became the first to land a craft near the largely unexplored lunar south pole in August and, a month later, successfully launched a spacecraft to observe the outermost layers of the Sun.

In 2014, India became the first Asian nation to put a satellite into orbit around Mars, and its space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017.

India's current focus remains on its first manned mission into outer space, called Gaganyaan or "Skycraft".

The three-day mission, expected to take place next year, aims to send a three-member crew into Earth's orbit at a cost of about \$1.08 billion, according to ISRO.

The country also plans to launch a probe to the Moon with Japan, land a craft on Mars, and send an orbital mission to Venus within the next two years.

India has been steadily matching the achievements of established spacefaring powers at a fraction of their cost.

Xi, Putin hold talks in Beijing

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is in Beijing for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF).

Xi said Putin has attended the BRF three times in a row, demonstrating Russia's support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Lauding Russia as an important partner as China pursues international Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said the operation of major infrastructure projects such as the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline has brought tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

China is willing to work with Russia and other member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to promote the alignment of the BRI with the EAEU, so as to foster higher-level and deeper



regional cooperation, Xi said.

China hopes that the China-Mongolia-Russia natural gas pipeline project will make substantive progress as soon as possible, he added.

It is not an expediency, but a long-term policy to develop the China-Russia

relations featuring permanent good-neighborly friendship, comprehensive strategic coordination and mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said.

China supports the Russian people in pursuing the path of national rejuvenation independently and

safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, he said, calling on the two sides to promote high-quality development of China-Russia practical cooperation and actively explore cooperation in strategic emerging industries.

Al-Aqsa Storm: Renewed Efforts to Uphold Palestinians' Right of Return

Fatima Ibrahim

The Al-Aqsa storm operation promises to fulfill the Palestinians' right of return, a fundamental right long forgotten amid decades of aggression and oppression. Despite the emphasis of the General Assembly resolution, this vital right has been overlooked for years. The operation signifies a promise to end the displacement of the oppressed Palestinian people.

Decades ago, Resolution 181, approved on November 29, 1947, legitimized the formation of the Zionist usurper regime, leading to forced migration and displacement of Palestinians from the territory granted to Israel. Subsequent invasions in 1948 and 1967 further displaced Palestinians, resulting in the loss of Palestine's statehood and UN membership. Many

Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homeland, becoming refugees or displaced in other countries, with some enduring hardships in occupied lands.

The return of Palestinians to their homeland is essential for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However, this right has consistently been denied by Zionists and their Western partners. The Camp David II summit witnessed pressure on Palestinians, including the non-return of refugees specified in the Oslo agreement and the handover of Jerusalem to the Zionist regime. This abandonment stirred global outrage, especially among Palestinians, sparking a new wave of intifada with the goal of demanding the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The Zionist regime displaced Palestinians, confiscated their property, and reduced their population. Settlements

were built on their lands, increasing the Jewish population and establishing an illegitimate government, violating the fundamental rule of non-aggression in international law. Forced displacement and expulsion of Palestinians, numbering over 750,000, constitute examples of ethnic cleansing and criminal liability under international law.

Palestinians, including those displaced due to wars and tragedies in occupied Palestinian territory, have the right to return to their homeland based on the refugee protection convention. Currently, more than two-thirds of the Palestinian population, approximately 5.9 million refugees, possess this right under international law. UN Resolution No. 194 issued on December 11, 1948, clearly grants Palestinian refugees the right to return and receive compensation, a right denied by the usurping Zionist regime



and its allies. Displaced Palestinians, like all human beings, have the right to leave or return to

any country, including their own, under the International Charter of Human Rights and the Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights. The Zionist government, like other countries, is obligated to respect, support, and enforce this right. Despite the recognition of this human right in important international documents and over 110 United Nations resolutions emphasizing the Palestinians' right of return, the Zionist usurper regime has consistently denied it, passing international laws to prevent its realization.

Despite years of patience, the hope of the return of Palestinian refugees according to the United Nations organization's constitution is fading. The United Nations has failed miserably in implementing its laws. Therefore, Palestinians have intensified their efforts through the Al-Aqsa storm operation to defend their inalienable rights, including their right of return.

The author is Ph. D. in International Law, Lecturer and Researcher in International Law.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
49,431.47	49,531.01
Day's High	Day's Low
49,740.97	49,383.71
Index Value	Change
5,921,785,403	-99.54
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	18 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,588.00	-87.21
Percentage	Time
-1.14%	18 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

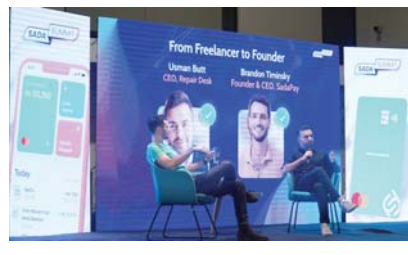
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,880.53	-117.12
Percentage	Time
-0.34%	18 Oct, 1:14 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,042.25	+1.96
Percentage	Time
+0.0061%	18 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

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
New Zealand \$	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

SadaPay enables Apple Pay invoicing for Freelancers in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Today marks a monumental day for freelancers across Pakistan. SadaPay, the fintech that launched a business account (SadaBiz) tailored for freelancers earlier this year, announces that SadaBiz users will now be able to receive payments via Apple Pay.

The announcement came as part of SadaPay's first ever Sada Summit held at COLABS. The event was attended by IT industry veterans, thought leaders in the freelancing ecosystem and early adopters of SadaBiz. In addition to the Apple-Pay announcement, the agenda featured panel talks and fireside chats full of optimism for the future of Pakistan as a global freelancing hub.

Apple Pay's user base, at 550 million, has surpassed PayPal's 450 million. Not just that, but the payment volume via Apple Pay is four times greater than PayPal's, and is growing at an exponential rate. The reach is massive, with over 2 billion iPhones globally equipped with Apple Pay. SadaPay recognized this potential and its importance for the Pakistani market and its freelancers to have a popular and trusted payment rail available for their clients to easily make payments.

SadaPay also announced that SadaBiz will accept payments via Google Pay, which is on a similar trajectory in terms of user adoption globally. SadaPay has stepped in to address the gap left by international payment companies, which have long ignored the Pakistani market. Taken together, SadaPay has connected Pakistani freelancers with 700 million plus devices worldwide having Apple Pay and Google Pay access.

Another major reveal from the event was their brand-new initiative—Sada-School.

People haven't damaged the economy, but they are punished: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that due to the country's economic condition and IMF sanctions, the government cannot give any major relief to the people.

The government will have to take the necessary steps for the IMF review in November, and the only way to provide relief to the people is to try to increase tax revenue, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that according to a recent World Bank report on Pakistan, the budget deficit is increasing, which should be taken seriously.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that instead of taking

loans continuously, the tax system should be improved.

He said that taxes should be imposed on sectors with political influence so that the tax system can be balanced and broad-based.

In order to improve the condition of the people, taxes should be imposed on agricultural income, real estate, retail, and wholesale sectors.

By improving the tax system, the government will have an income of thousands of billions of rupees, and it will be possible to stop taking loans on the strictest terms, he noticed.

This income can be used to provide relief to the people, and the conditions for the remaining IMF loan can be eased.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the poor people did not play any role in bringing the country's economic conditions to default, but they are the ones who get the punishment. Shutter power and political forces are



involved in this sin, and people hope that this system will be reformed, for which the caretaker government will have to take the necessary steps.

Pakistan was a prosperous country, but now it is among the poorest countries, with the world's fifth-largest population while poverty and unemployment are increasing.

Many people are no longer able to cope with the situation, and many people living in cities are taking their children out of school and sending their families back to the villages from the cities, making the future of the new generation dark.

Due to inflation and unemployment, many workers are also leaving the cities and going to the villages, which is creating a new crisis that has become necessary to stop.

Elections are approaching, and the people should ask the politicians who are seeking votes about the country's conditions and get assurances about just taxation; otherwise, any change in the country's condition will be impossible, and the people will continue to suffer.

JS Bank Partners with Closet to Provide Innovative Banking Services

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: JS Bank, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan, has announced a strategic partnership with Closet, a fashion rental marketplace. The partnership aims to provide reliable and robust financial services to Closet's customers and is a step in the Bank's ongoing commitment to extending its range of services.

As part of this partnership, JS Bank will extend wide-ranging products and services to Closet, including the seamless opening of JS Her Current and Savings Account, specifically tailored for the Bank's existing and potential female customers. It also includes a free critical illness cover encompassing seven types of women-related cancers.

The signing ceremony took place at the JS Bank headquarters in Karachi in the presence of the team members from both companies, including Fahad Siddiqui, Head of Products, Evelyn J. Gill, Head of Wealth Management, Deposits & CRM from JS Bank, and Laiba Amir, Co-founder & COO, Closet.

Fahad Siddiqui, Head of Products at JS Bank, commented, "This partnership is a



testament to our commitment to meeting our customers' evolving needs. We are dedicated to providing innovative and customized financial solutions, and our collaboration with Closet is a step towards this goal. We believe in empowering women and ensuring their financial well-being, and our JS Her Current and Savings Account is just one example of our commitment to

this cause."

This collaboration aims to enhance customer satisfaction and opens up the potential for cross-promotion, thereby broadening the customer base for both JS Bank and Closet. This partnership signifies a bright future for both organizations by sharing a mutual dedication to customer well-being.

Shell Pakistan announces financial results for Q3 2023

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) announced nine months results for the company on October 18th, 2023. The company successfully delivered a profit after tax of PKR 6,450 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, compared to the profit after tax of PKR 2,864 million made in the same period last year.

An interim cash dividend for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2023, was announced. The results also reflect the impact of one-off technical service fee relief received from Shell International-

al Petroleum Company. As always, the company continues to focus on business performance, safety of people, and protection of the environment.

OGRA recognized industry efforts in promoting refuelling safety among two and three wheelers, an initiative trailblazed by SPL. During the period, Mobility business introduced 19 new retail sites. The Company also introduced Voice of Customer program through which customers can provide real time feedback through QR codes placed at sites. So far more than 30,000 responses have been received that gives SPL valuable insights to continuously progress.

ICCI calls for focusing on export of manpower to improve the national economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that remittances of the Overseas Pakistanis are the backbone of the national economy as they account for more than total exports of goods and services annually and contribute significantly to improving the country's foreign reserves. He stressed that to further increase the volume of foreign exchange reserves, the government should make strong efforts to explore new markets for increasing the export of manpower across the globe that would help improve the foreign exchange and the overall economy. He said this while talking to Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development during a meeting with him along with Asad Hafeez Kiyani Chairman, Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi Vice Chairman and Faheem Iqbal Chaudhry former Senior Vice



Chairman, Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA).

Faad Waheed said that Pakistan is the 5th largest country of the world in terms of population with a large pool of human resource and stressed that the government should equip its manpower with the latest skills and knowledge to improve their prospects of their export to potential markets. He said that Bangladesh has exported over 1100,000 workers during the year ending June 2023, but Pakistan's export of manpower

is determined to harness the potential of a substantial Pakistani workforce to realize the goal of fast economic revival. He said that during a recent meeting with the Saudi Ambassador, he proposed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to employ a substantial number of Pakistani workers to contribute to the Saudi Vision 2030. He said that Pakistan has the ability to export one million workers every year to various potential markets and all possible efforts are being made to realize this goal to strengthen the economy.

Asad Hafeez Kiyani Chairman, Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi Vice Chairman and Faheem Iqbal Chaudhry former Senior Vice Chairman, Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association also spoke on the occasion and shared useful ideas to explore the possibilities for creating new employment opportunities for Pakistanis around the world. They assured of their full cooperation to the government in achieving this goal.

Alibaba.com Highlights Value of Online Export at Textile Asia Trade Fair

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce, has concluded its successful participation in the 25th edition of the Textile Asia International Trade Fair in South Asia. Held at the Lahore Expo Centre from 13 to 15 October, this much anticipated event brought together textile industry experts and businesses from around the world, all converging in Pakistan to delve into the latest trends, challenges and opportunities within the textile sector.

Mr. Rocky Lu, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan expressed, "For years, the textile industry has been the fundamental pillar of Pakistan's export sector, and we are fully committed to supporting Pakistani textile

companies on their journey as they embrace the vast potential of online export to reach new heights. It is with immense pride that we reflect upon our fruitful interactions with numerous local industry players at the prestigious Textile Asia International Trade Fair, where we emphasized the immense value that B2B e-commerce holds for businesses."

Alibaba.com's participation at the 25th Textile Asia International Trade Fair was another testament to its commitment towards nurturing the growth and progress of the local textile industry.

In the 12 months ending March 31, 2023, more than 47 million buyers from over 190 countries sourced business opportunities or completed transactions on Alibaba.com.

SECP's amendments in Code of Corporate Governance Regulations & Postal Ballot Regulations

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: SECP has recently introduced the concept of categorized voting for the election of directors to address the practical challenges faced by Listed Companies, during the election of directors by way of amendments in Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2018 and Code of Corporate Governance Regulations, 2019.

Being an Industry Leader, CDC Share Registrar Services Limited (CDCSRSL) took the initiative to provide a comprehensive understanding and practical knowledge of these amendments among the stakeholders by arranging a seminar. It was attended by a large number of represent-



atives of listed companies, whereas some invitees participated in the event virtually via zoom.

The session, hosted by CDCSR representatives, included a detailed presentation with examples of real-

world scenarios and a Q&A session. The audience engaged interactively in the session and appreciated CDCSR move for translating technical terminologies into easy language for the concerned stakeholders.

NZ beat Afghanistan to remain unbeaten in WC 2023

The Black Caps gave a target of 289 runs to Afghanistan who fell short and were bowled in the 35th over out after scoring 139 runs

CHENNAI: New Zealand thumped Afghanistan to secure their fourth consecutive win in the ongoing World Cup 2023 after securing a 149-run victory in the match played at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday.

Batting first, the Black Caps gave a target of 289 runs to Afghanistan who fell short and were bowled in the 35th over out after scoring 139 runs.

With Wednesday's win, New Zealand — who are unbeaten in the tournament so far — top the points table with eight points as they have played four matches and won all four.

Trent Boult and Matt Henry gave early blows to Afghanistan who were chasing a massive 289-run target on the tricky wicket of Chennai, which troubled the New Zealand batters in the first innings as well.

The Afghans had high hopes for their star opener, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, but the 21-year-old looked hopeless against Henry and was bowled out for just 11 runs.

Rahmat Shah top scored for his side with 36 off 62, while the other batters



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra (centre) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and Afghanistan at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on October 18, 2023.

couldn't deliver with the bat. Azmat Omarzai was the second top-scorer with 27 runs.

The entire Afghanistan team were all out for just 139 runs, losing the game by a massive 149-run margin.

The Black Caps' bowlers gave an all-round performance with all of their bowlers — other than Glenn Phillips — taking at least a wicket.

Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson picked three while Boult, Henry and

Rachin Ravindra bagged one each.

Batting first, New Zealand managed to post a colossal 289-run target and Hashmatullah Shahidi's men have no one, but themselves to blame.

Afghanistan's fielders dropped catches on five different occasions, giving more and more chances to Glenn Phillips and Tom Latham — who rescued the Kiwis from 110-4 and built a significant 144-run partnership.

Phillips scored 71 off 80 while Latham contributed to 68 off 74 runs. The remaining damage was done by Mark Chapman, who played a quick knock, scoring 25 off 12 with three boundaries.

Afghanistan got into the front seat after Omarzai took two wickets in an over but dropping catches took all their chances away.

Afghanistan entered this match on a high note after beating England by 69 runs but losing this match can take them back to where they were in the World Cup.

On the other hand, New Zealand play India next, another unbeaten team, and it is surely a candidate for the match of the tournament. Agencies

IS For Australia clash

Ramiz calls for one change in Pakistan's playing XI

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricketer Ramiz Raja has shared his insights ahead of Pakistan's upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 match against Australia on October 20 in Bengaluru.

While speaking on a local news channel, Raja emphasized the importance of adapting to the conditions and suggested that Pakistan should consider sacrificing an all-rounder in favor of a specialist, especially considering the favorable batting conditions in Bengaluru.

"I think Pakistan should go for the chase. Pakistan weren't able to score even 200 runs against India while batting first on a good batting strip so they should think about chasing against Australia," Raja said.

"The conditions there [in Bengaluru] will suit batting so Pakistan need to strengthen their bowling bearing in mind the pitch. If you need to sacrifice an all-rounder for a specialist, they should definitely do that," he concluded. Agencies



Pakistani cricketers in India express solidarity with Gaza

NEW DELHI: Pakistani cricketers, who are currently in India for the ICC Men's World Cup, have expressed solidarity with Gazans as Israel continues indiscriminate airstrikes.

Israel's bombardment has killed at least 3,061 Palestinians and injured some 13,750 other people, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza.

In support of its Palestinian brethren, Pakistan has unequivocally all Israeli atrocities and demanded an immediate end to the bombings, which have not even spared hospitals and schools.

The Pakistani government has also decided to immediately dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza in a bid to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians.

For their part, the Pakistani cricketers who boast a massive following combined, posted Palestine flags on X — formerly Twitter.

All-rounders Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Iftikhar Ahmed, and leg-spinner Usama Mir shared their support for the innocent Palestinians and hoped for peace. Agencies

Good news: Fit-again Pakistan players practise ahead of Australia clash



After a fever scare, almost all the players, apart from Muhammad Harris, were seen practising in Bangalore ahead of the team's World Cup match against Australia scheduled to be held on October 20.

Harris was advised to rest after he contracted a fever, while other players who had fallen sick earlier were seen in the ground practising with full force.

A day earlier six players of the Pakistan team "missed" the optional training session at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The six players who didn't participate in today's training session include Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Afridi, and Salman Ali Agha along with travelling reserves Zaman Khan and Mohammad Harris.

The Green Shirts trained for two hours from 6pm to 8pm (IST) after a change of plan to abstain from training on Tuesday.

It must be noted that Shafique has been suffering from a fever, whereas Shaheen and Usama Mir had also experienced fever symptoms, but they have since recovered.

The players who displayed fever symptoms were promptly checked as per the team's health protocol. Additionally, in line with the safety measures, all players were tested for COVID-19 and screened for symptoms related to dengue fever.

However, there is no reason for concern about the health of the players in the Pakistan team, as confirmed by team sources.

Pakistan have registered two wins in three matches during the event, so far, but their only defeat came against arch-rivals India on Saturday.

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 (Day match)
November 11—vs England in Kolkata
The day matches 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 qualifies for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in Kolkata.

Martin aims for error-free Australia

Spaniard's MotoGP title is on the line this week after a disastrous run in Indonesia

AUSTRALIA: Spain's Jorge Martin is determined to cut out any errors as a tense title race shifts to Phillip Island this week after a blunder in Indonesia cost him his lead in the MotoGP standings.

The Pramac ace won the sprint at the Mandalika track in Lombok last weekend to build a seven-point championship advantage over Italy's Francesco Bagnaia.

But he blew the hard work in Sunday's grand prix, crashing at a gravel trap while three seconds clear and seemingly on track for his fourth victory of the year.

It was his first non-score in a grand prix since round three at Austin in April.

With just five steps of the 20-leg season left, he cannot afford any more slip ups in Australia with Bagnaia on his Ducati now 18 points ahead and fellow Italian Marco Bezzecchi still in the hunt, 45 points behind.

Martin blamed a dirty track for his mishap, and insisted it was a one-off.



"It's been 14 races without a mistake. It's just statistics. It was coming sooner or later," he said. "So, the races still remaining I feel confident to fight for victory."

Reigning world champion Bagnaia accepted Martin's gift, powering to a sixth MotoGP win of 2023 and his first since Austria in August.

That Austria triumph put Bagnaia 66 points ahead of Martin, but injury and errors, including a failure to finish at Catalunya and India, saw the lead eroded by his rival.

The Italian said being back in the winners circle had revived his confidence heading into a challenging Australian weekend.

"To have that performance again was very, very important," he said, adding that it gave him "a lot of motivation".

"Not only for me, but also for my team. They are trying always to give the maximum possible."

During last year's grand prix, the waterfront Phillip Island circuit was marred by persistent rain, and more is forecast

this week.

Despite the elements, the 2023 race was a thriller with Spain's Alex Rins crossing first ahead of Spanish great Marc Marquez and Bagnaia in one of the closest top three finishes the sport has known.

Martin smashed the nine-year lap record to grab pole position, only to finish seventh.

Along with Rins, Honda's Marquez and Aprilia's Maverick Vinales are both former Australian winners.

Local hero Jack Miller, who is ninth on the world championship ladder, will be another to watch on his home circuit, confident his KTM machine is well-suited to the Phillip Island conditions.

"I think the KTM can work really, really well around the island," he said.

"The bike is nice and agile at high speed which you need around the island, and there's always some decent grip there as well. Fingers crossed we can put on a pretty good show for the home fans." AFP

Aussie stars take trophy over 1,000ft to mark new heights for Women's BBL

MELBOURNE: In a one-of-a-kind celebration, Australian cricketers Alyssa Healy and Meg Lanning elevated the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) to new heights in a unique way.

The dynamic duo embarked on a memorable adventure, taking the coveted WBBL trophy to the pinnacle of the iconic Sydney Tower Eye, which soars to a breathtaking 1,014 feet above the Central Business District.

Thrilled by the unprecedented experience, Melbourne Stars' captain Lanning shared her excitement about the upcoming WBBL season.

"Never before have I been to such staggering heights. It's super exciting, and I can't wait for the tournament to begin," she said.

Meanwhile, Healy — a key player for the Sydney Sixers — expressed her enthu-



siasm for the WBBL's enduring appeal after nine years. "It's nice to see that after all this time, the WBBL is still as thrilling as ever."

Lanning also praised the decision to include cricket in the Olympics, terming it "an excellent decision". She went on to express her delight,

saying: "I'm glad to see cricket being included in the Olympics. It's a monumental leap that will undoubtedly elevate the game to new heights."

Sydney Sixers star, who had previously showcased her talent in the Women's Indian Premier League, shared her enjoyment of the experience, highlighting her enthusiasm for the growing prospects of women's cricket on the global stage.

She also voiced their desire to see more Indian players participate in the WBBL, emphasising the league's commitment to inclusivity and its potential to further diversify the talent pool.

WBBL season 9 is set to begin on October 19 (Friday) from North Sydney Oval where Sydney Sixers will face-off Melbourne Stars in the opening game. Agencies

Man Utd sale saga leaves fans with more questions than answers

British billionaire looks set to buy a 25 percent stake in the English Premier League club

MANCHESTER: Nearly a year after Manchester United opened the doors to outside investment, British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe looks set to buy a 25 percent stake in the English Premier League club.

A proposed deal worth a reported £1.3 billion (\$1.6 billion) is expected to be ratified at a United board meeting on Thursday.

But the fact that the Glazer family will remain in control of the club comes as a bitter disappointment for most fans, who were desperate to see the back of the unpopular Americans.

"It would be wildly optimistic to think the Glazers are acting in the interests of supporters or are making ownership decisions which don't centre on their

own priorities," the Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST) said in a statement this week.

United's fortunes on and off the field have suffered since the Glazers took charge at Old Trafford in a leveraged takeover in 2005 for £790 million.

The brilliance of former manager Alex Ferguson kept the Red Devils at the top of the English and European game during the early years of the Glazer reign.

However, United have not won the Premier League since Ferguson retired in 2013 and last lifted the Champions League back in 2008.

A miserable start to this season has left Erik ten Hag's men 10th in the Premier League

and at risk of an embarrassing early Champions League exit after losing their opening two group games for the first time.

Ratcliffe, founder of petrochemicals giant INEOS, will reportedly seek to take control of the club's football operations in return for his sizeable investment.

But many question how a minority owner can have the sway in practice to control the core operation of a business.

"How does a minority shareholder stop cultural decline across a whole organisation if the people who have overseen this decline still have a majority shareholding?" Gary Neville, a former United captain turned pundit and businessman, asked on social media.

Moreover, it is unclear where the proceeds from Ratcliffe's investment will go.

Figures from March showed the club's debt has spiralled to £970 million.

But funds are also required for a long-awaited upgrade of the club's stadium.

Old Trafford remains the UK's largest club stadium, with a capacity of more than 74,000.

However, it has aged during the Glazers' reign while United's rivals have modernised their stadiums.

Manchester City's Etihad ground was selected for the UK and Ireland's successful bid to host Euro 2028, thanks to better facilities.

There is no big screen capable of showing fans replays of VAR



incidents at Old Trafford and supporters being soaked during a 1-0 defeat to Crystal Palace last month due to a leaking roof. AFP