Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Indonesian envoy lauds Pakistan as valued friend in South Asia

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio hosted a grand reception today to mark the 78th Anniversary of the Independence and the Armed Forces Day of Indonesia. The reception was attended by a large number of government dignitaries, diplomats and eminent members of civil society. (Details on Page 5)

Only 10 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 5, Saturday, October 21, 2023



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(a) @daily spokesman







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See off After concluding his visit to China, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HAg Kakar leaves for Islamabad on Friday.

Pakistan, China reiterate resolve to further enhance partnership

During PM Kakar's visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs

Spokesman Report

China have reiterated the resolve nized that the Belt and Road to move forward together on the path of development, and accelerate the building of an even closer Pak-China Community with a Shared Future in the new era.

In a joint statement, after completion of Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's visit to China, the two sides reaffirmed their support for each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns.

During the visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs. covering cooperation on the BRI, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, development cooperation and export of agricultural products to China.

Both the countries reaffirmed that mutual trust remains at the core of China-Pakistan relation-

They agreed that China and Pakistan are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and iron brothers and friendship between

Initiative is a strong driver of world economic growth, provides a platform for international economic cooperation, opens up space for common development around the globe and has become a widely welcomed international public good as well as an important practice in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Both the sides agreed to work more closely together on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and usher in a bright future of peace, development and win-win cooperation.

The two sides recognized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as a pioneering project of the BRI, has yielded fruitful outcomes in the 10 years since its inception and has now entered a new stage of high-quality development.

Both the countries also reaffirmed the resolve to jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation the two countries is time-tested corridor, a green corridor and an

The joint statement further build CPEC into an exemplary ment project and agreed to fast ation, they agreed to strengthstated that the two sides recog- project of high-quality Belt and track its implementation. Road cooperation.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar Port as an important node in cross-regional connectivity, the two sides agreed to speed up development of the Port and its auxiliary projects.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the progress of the desalination plant, the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), the Pak-China Friendship Hospital and other projects. Both the sides reiterated their resolve to make Gwadar a high-quality port, a regional trade

hub and a connectivity node. Recognizing that the ML-1 upgradation is an important project under the CPEC framework and is of great significance to Pakistan's social and economic development, the two sides agreed to carry out the common understanding of the leaders of the two countries to implement

the project at an early date. The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the important progress made in the preliminary work of the Karakoram Highway

They affirmed their resolve to further move forward to launch preparatory work for D. I. Khan-Zhob Road Project to build momentum towards enhancing connectivity and socio-economic development of Pakistan, under

They also agreed to actively promote the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan's industrialization, and encourage Chinese companies to set up manufacturing facilities in Pakistan.

The two sides reiterated that CPEC is an open and inclusive platform for win-win cooperation, and welcome third parties to benefit from investments in CPEC cooperation priority areas such as industry, agriculture, ICT,

science and technology. Both the sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the mining industry, including in the fields of geological survey, joint research on geology and minerals, training of talent, and planning of mining industrial parks.

open corridor, and continue to (Raikot-Thakot section) realign- Under Agricultural cooperen cooperation in areas such as crop cultivation, prevention and control of animal and plant diseases, agricultural mechanization, exchange of agricultural technology, and trade in agricultural products.

They acknowledged the recent momentum for increase in business exchanges between the two countries and further resolved to facilitate B2B exchanges. Both the sides also agreed to make efforts to enhance the level of bilateral people-to-people exchanges and facilitation.

The two sides announced that the Khunjerab pass would function all year round and agreed to step up the infrastructure construction and management of the Khunjerab pass and improve its passage conditions.

They expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation on Currency Swap Agreement and Renminbi settlement and clearing, and agreed to further strengthen financial and banking cooperation. Pakistani side thanked China's valuable support for its financial sector.

Sri Lankan Army Commander lauds Pak Army's professionalism

Pak, Sri Lankan Army Chiefs discuss ways for enhancing bilateral defence ties



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Commander of the Sri Lankan Army Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Friday.

During the meeting, matters of professional interest, and ways for enhancing bilateral defence ties were discussed, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Sri Lankan Army Chief for its professionalism and successes in the ongoing oper- dignitary.

ations for bringing peace and stability in the region.

The COAS highlighted that Sri Lanka had historic relations with Pakistan and its armed forces, particularly in the fields of defense and training cooperation. The visiting dignitary will also witness the Passing Out Parade at the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul on Saturday.

Earlier on arrival at the GHQ, the Sri Lankan Army Commander laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, A smartly turned out contingent praised the Pakistan Army of the Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the

Aid to reach Gaza in 'next day or so': UN

 $UN \, human itarian \, chief \, says \, engaged$ in advanced negotiations



GAZA/CAIRO: The United Nations has announced that the first aid delivery into Gaza via the Rafah border crossing with Egypt is expected to occur "in the next day or so."

Martin Griffiths, the UN humanitarian chief, stated that they are engaged in advanced negotiations with relevant parties to facilitate the aid operation. The UN's aim is to ensure a swift and secure start to this humanitarian effort.

While the exact timing remains uncertain, there is hope for a prompt and dents displaced.

sustained delivery of aid. The humanitarian community emphasises the urgent need for a mechanism to transport aid into southern Gaza, all while continuing to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Desperately needed international aid is accumulating in Egypt near Gaza, where Palestinians are facing critical shortages of food and water due to ongoing Israeli bombings. The situation in Gaza has deteriorated rapidly, with over one million of its 2.4 million resi-

SC to take up pleas seeking timely elections on Oct 23

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Friday will hear pleas for elections to be held within 90 days on October 23 (Monday).

The development was notified a day after Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa hinted at the Supreme Court's plan to hear petitions seeking timely conduct of polls in the country after the caretaker government took over in August.

The petitions will be heard by a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa and consisting of Justice Athar Minullah and Justice Aminuddin Khan.

The pleas have been filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) and

At UN, Pakistan calls for countering disinfo, fake news campaigns

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has warned that a wave of online disinformation and fake news represents an "emerging and unconventional" threat to a stable world order and called for "urgently" addressing the phenomenon.

"The issue of disinformation, hate speech and fake news needs to be analyzed, debated and addressed from the perspective of security, development and human rights, with a view to promote workable solutions", Ambassador Usman Iqbal Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN General ASsembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with special political and decolonization matters.

In this regard, he said the revelation of a vast clandestine network waging an information war against Pakistan for more than 20 years was an example of "bad" state actors.

"They are continuing in their campaigns, targeted at Pakistan, the people of occupied Jammu and Kash-



mir, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and lower' caste Hindus," Ambassador Jadoon added.

Disinformation campaigns, he said, were accompanied by "no information" strategies to suppress the freedom of expression when some states choose to impose information blackout, institute digital surveillance and target journalists and others who dare to report the truth.

The vast and viral disinformation about the ongoing Middle East crisis underlines the need for fact-checking

and promoting information integrity, the Pakistani envoy said. Given the potential to inflict harm, he underscored the need to accelerate the formulation and adoption of a Code of Conduct to ensure information integrity in digital spaces that have been turbo-charged by artificial intelligence.

"The rapid rate at which hate speech, Islamophobia, racial profiling and discrimination are being spread, in traditional media and particularly in the digital space, poses an unprecedented pervasive threat to social order, stability and the rule of law," Jadoon said.

At the outset of his remarks, the Pakistani envoy expressed gratitude to the international community for standing by Pakistan during climatechange-induced floods there, and said that such disasters demonstrate the need for timely and accurate infor-

In conclusion, he said, "Pakistan will continue to play its active and constructive role, including as the current chair of the Committee on Information, to promote effective outcomes of these challenges." APP

4 terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat operation

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: At least four terrorists were killed and another was injured and apprehended by security forces during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) carried out on reported presence of terrorists in general area Semu Wanda of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district last night, the military said on Friday.

"During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists, resultantly four terrorists were sent to hell, while one terrorist got injured and was apprehended by the security forces," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

PM says ties with China cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy

Spokesman Report

URUMQI: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said relationship with China is cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and an anchor for regional peace and devel-

Talking to Party Secretary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Ma Xingrui in Urumqi on Friday, he recalled his meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang in Beijing and appreciated strong personal commit-ment of the Chinese leadership to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

Reiterating the importance of Xinjiang for Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwaar ul Kakar underscored that the

region held a specific significance due to its geographical, historical and cultural affinity with Pakistan.

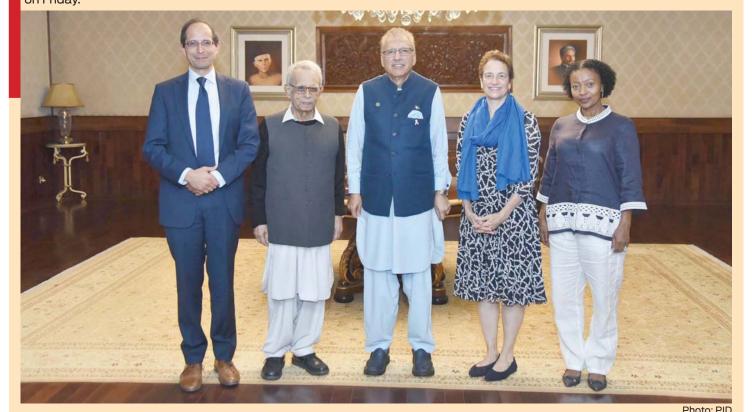
He stressed the importance of deepening of linkages between Xinjiang and the neighbouring areas of Pakistan in diverse fields ranging from trade and investment to cultural and people-to-peo-

Thanking the Prime Minister for visiting Xinjiang, Party Secretary Ma Xingrui stated that there is immense potential to deepen Pakistan-Xiniiang ties in multiple domains. He expressed Xinjiang's willingness to explore business and trade opportunities in Pakistan and to further facilitate commercial and peopleto-people ties via Khunjerab-Sost border crossing.

The Spokesman

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Rhodes Trust, United Kingdom, at Aiwan-e-Sadr,



Pakistan for enhancing cooperation with UK in field of media: Solangi

Information Minister says Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the United Kingdom

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said Pakistan is desirous of enhancing cooperation with the United Kingdom in the field of media.

He was talking to British High Commission's Political Counselor Zoe Ware, who called on him in Islamabad on

attaches great importance to ies to identify disinformation its relations with the United and hatred being spread in the is the biggest challenge.

Kingdom.

tering the narrative of hatred and disinformation. UNDP's Safe Digital Environment programme also came under

Murtaza Solangi said UNDP's Safe Digital Environment programme will help identify disinformation and narrative of hatred. He said this project will enhance knowledge, skill and capacity of key government organi-The Minister said Pakistan zations and their functionaronline space. He said misinformation, disinformation and and bilateral relations, counthere is a need to overcome this ing of journalists.



challenge. He said fake news, circulating on the social media, Academy will play a lead role in

elp from Britain's modern enhancing media cooperation fake news is a global issue and media syllabus for the train- formation and hate narrative. between Pakistan and the Unit-

He said Information Service this regard. He said awareness academy regarding the disin-

During the meeting, views ed Kingdom.

were also exchanged on bilateral cooperation in the fields of film and drama.

Murtaza Solangi said film and drama play a cardinal role in highlighting culture and positive image of a country. He also informed the Political Counselor about activities regarding the upcoming polls in the country. He said elections will be held as per schedule to be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The Political Counselor of the British High Commission The Minister vowed to take sessions will be organized at the assured her full cooperation to promote bilateral cooperation

US Embassy opens another Lincoln Corner at UAJK

Mark Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: The US Embassy Islamabad and the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) have formally solidified their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish another Lincoln Corner in the university.

The MoU paved the way for the establishment of the stateof-the-art Lincoln Corner at the King Abdullah Campus (KAC) of the university for a duration

The MoU was signed by Tina Malone, Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the US Embassy, and Meritorious Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Qureshi, Registrar of UAJK, at a ceremony held on Friday at KAC. nity to emphasize the enduring nology that facilitate open UAJK's request to open anoth-

condemns genocide,

NA Speaker

massacre of Palestinians in

Staff Reporter

in Islamabad on Friday.

He said the world must

this darkest hour of human's

not be a silent spectator in

history, urging it to come

forward immediately and

play its due role not only in

stopping the mayhem and

barbarity of Zionist forces

tinian issue in accordance

cil and OIC Resolutions.

but in resolution of the Pales-

with the UN Security Coun-

Gaza



The ceremony was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. Cynthia Nicholas, Regional Public Engagement Specialist, and students.

Tina Malone, who was Islamabad, took the opportues es equipped with modern tech-

friendship between Pakistan and the United States. She underscored the contributions of Pakistani Americans to the developofficials from the US Embassy, ment of the United States and Deans, Principal Officers, and a commended programs like large number of UAJK faculty Lincoln Corners for fostering strong people-to-people ties. She further described Lincoln making her maiden visit outside Corners as sophisticated spac-

dialogues with Pakistani audiences, promoting prosperity and expressed her deep appreciation for the partnership with UAJK and commended the university's management, faculty, and students for their commitment to strengthening ties with the US Embassy. She also expressed her delight at the natural beauty of Kashmir and the privilege of visiting Muzaffarabad during her first-ever trip outside Islam-

In his speech, Registrar Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza referred to the inauguration of the Lincoln Corner at King Abdullah Campus as a momentous occasion and expressed profound gratitude to the

er Corner at KAC. Dr. Murtaza highlighted the original Lincoln mutual understanding. Malone Corner established in the city campus in 2007 as a beacon of knowledge and mutual understanding that has connected UAJK to the world, particularly the United States.

He emphasized the noble intention behind establishing these centers, which was to provide students, faculty members, and the general public with access to information about global and international affairs, with a specific focus on the United States. Over the years, Lincoln Corner has evolved into a vibrant hub of knowledge, enabling research, education, and cultural exchange, offering valuable US Embassy for entertaining information and a platform for

PML-N caravans depart for Lahore to welcome Nawaz

Party is preparing for a grand welcome for Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that TA: Pakistan Muslim Leaguegenocide, massacre and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza and adjoining Lahore from all across Pakistan areas is condemnable and for the party's grand power show reprehensible. He expressed to welcome supremo Nawaz these views during his visit Sharif on October 21. to the Embassy of Palestine

The party has booked multiple special trains to ensure that its supporters are able to attend the Minar-e-Pakistan rally.

Two trains from Balochistan, one from Naseerabad and one from Quetta, have left for Lahore while a large number of PML-N workers led by the party's provincial leadership departed from Karachi's City Railway Station.

These special trains have been decorated with party lead-

Karachi President Salman Khan Nawaz (PML-N) leaders and shared that 5,500 workers had workers are converging in approached them for tickets but 3,000. "The rest of them will be sent to Lahore via bus."

Former governor Mohammad Zubair, while speaking to the media at the station, said that they were aware that the enthusiasm will keep on rising.

"Such a big number of people have not travelled from Sindh for a political rally before this," claimed Zubair. He added that Nawaz will speak about the welfare of the people in his address and that the PML-N is developing an agenda for the

On the other hand, the situ-

LAHORE/KARACHI/QUET- ers' pictures and flags. PML-N ation also turned embarrassing for the PML-N as multiple workers started protesting over a lack of space on the train. They they could only accommodate called on the party leaders to respect them as they also wished to go to Lahore. However, they were later provided seats.

Meanwhile, another special train will depart from Hyderabad at 3pm today led by PML-N Sindh President Shah Muhammad Shah.

A convoy has also left from Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Muzaffarabad to reach Lahore

led by Dr Mustafa Bashir. Bashir claimed that more than 10,000 Kashmiris will be at the Minar-e-Pakistan for the

mega rally. A day earlier, all the legal

hurdles in the smooth return of the PML-N supremo were finally removed after he was granted protective bail in two graft cases, while his arrest warrant in the Toshakhana case was also suspended by an accountability court.

The three-time former prime minister had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for bail in Al-Azizia and Avenfield references, which approved the pleas, granting him bail till October 24.

at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif has reached Dubai where he will meet the party leaders and spend a busy day in the Gulf state. He also had a meeting today with a key UAE figure.

President for enhancing coop b/w Pak universities, **Rhodes Trust**

 $\label{lem:president} President \, Dr Arif Alvi \, phones \, families \, of \\ soldiers \, martyred \, in \, Zhob \, attacks$

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the need to enhance cooperation between Pakistani universities and the Rhodes Trust at the University of Oxford.

He was talking to a delegation of Rhodes Trust headed by former Senate Chairman Waseem Sajjad and CEO of Rhodes Trust of UK, Elizabeth Kiss in Islamabad on Friday.

The President urged the Pakistani universities to strengthen their linkages with world's famous institutions particularly the University of Oxford. The President said the counseling

of the students would help enrich their capabilities. The Rhodes Trust CEO apprised the president of the education sector

the Pakistani students.

ly members of the soldiers martyred in different terrorist attacks in Zhob city of Balochistan recently. The president telephonically interacted with the families of Major Syed Ali Raza Shah and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed, martyred in October 8, and conveyed his condolence.

The president recalled that his interaction with brave individuals like Major Syed Ali Raza Shah in the past was a matter of pride for him. The president also telephoned the family of Havaldar Abdul Sattar who was martyred in a terrorist attack in Zhob on September 28. The president paid tribute to the martyrs who laid their lives for the country. President Alvi also lauded the services of the martyrs for the country and also paid tribute to their families. and the provision of scholarships to He prayed for elevation of the ranks of the martyrs in paradise and for Meanwhile, President Dr Arif strength to bear the loss with forti-Alvi on Friday telephoned the fami-tude.

Pakistan joins China's club of lunar base partners

BEIJING: Pakistan has joined astronauts on the moon by the end China's expanding club of partners of this decade. The timeline to build in an ambitious project to build a an outpost on the south pole coincides research station on the moon's south pole, an area of "mystery, science and intrigue".

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar, who is currently in China to attend the Third Road and Belt Forum (BRF), jointly witnessed the signing of an initial cooperation agreement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing on Wednesday.

The China National Space Administration said on Friday cooperation would cover areas including the engineering and operational aspects of the Chinese lunar base programme. China, which aims to become a major space power by 2030, has already secured cooperation from Russia, Venezuela and South Africa.

It has fixed a target to land its Reuters

with NASA's more ambitious Artemis programme, which aims to put US astronauts back on the lunar surface in December 2025, barring delays.

India created history, becoming the first ever to reach the unexplored moon's south pole — the part of the lunar surface which is permanently hidden from Earth's view — this August. It became the fourth country in world to land on moon and first ever to land a spacecraft near its south pole, just days after a similar Russian mission failed, and the fourth overall to achieve a soft landing.

Both US and India plan to send astronauts to the moon by 2025 and 2040, respectively. The last time a human set foot on the moon was in 1972 under the US Apollo program.

Funeral prayers of martyred soldiers offered



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Namaz-e-Janaza of Lance Naik Tabbasum ul Haq Shaheed, Sepoy Naeem Akhtar Shaheed, Sepov Abdul Hameed Shaheed and Sepoy Farman Ali Shaheed were offered at their respective hometowns.

They embraced shahadat in two different encounters in North and ism from the motherland at all cost.

South Waziristan districts on Thursday. Shuhada were laid to rest with full military honour.

Senior serving military officers, relatives of Shuhada and large number of locals of the areas attended the funerals.

These sacrifices strengthen our resolve to stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terror-

Maritime sector holds potential for Pakistan's economy: Naval Chief



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that Pakistan's maritime zones have large deposits of natural resources which can enormously contribute to strengthen Pakistan's economy. He addressed the participants of 25th National Security Workshop

Chief of the Naval Staff said that Pakistan Navy besides providing impregnable defence of Pakistan's maritime frontiers also contributes towards development of mari-Pakistan, private sector needs to of Maritime Sector.

invest in maritime related industries and can enormously benefit from it. Naval Chief highlighted that we need to increase Pakistan's flag carriers particularly in the private sector, which will save significant foreign exchange presently being paid to foreign shipping companies as freight charges. While highlighting the challenge of marine pollution, he said that it is a clear and present danger for Pakistan and needs to be addressed on urgent basis.

Earlier, the participants were briefed on Pakistan Navy chaltime sector. However, in order to lenges and responses including PN exploit full maritime potential of contributions towards development

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Saturday, October 21, 2023

JI chief blasts 'elite' for their role in dire state of affairs

B Quratul Ain Asim

VEHARI: Jamaat-e-Islami Emer Sirajul Haq has asserted that those portraying themselves as saviors before the nation are, in fact, responsible for the dire circumstances faced by the people.

In an address to a public gathering on Friday, he highlighted that a few families and individuals who remained in power for decades had always prioritized their own interests over those of the country. Their actions, he said, had weakened the democracy and damaged the national economy.

Haq emphasized that the governments had relied heavily on foreign loans which they often spent to fund their personal luxuries and protocols. The flawed policies of previous administrations, he said, have led to a surge in inflation and unemployment, burdening the common man with additional taxes to offset national debts. The elite themselves, he said,



always managed to evade substantial

tax obligations.

The JI leader lamented that the pervasive inflation has rendered the life of an ordinary citizen exceedingly difficult, with many struggling to make ends meet. Moreover, he underscored that a significant portion of the population continues to grapple with challenges such as lack of access to clean drinking water and the inability to send their children to school, primar- the region. ily due to poverty.

Highlighting the plight of southern Punjab, Haq painted a bleak picture of the region, where inadequate infrastructure and dilapidated roads have compounded the struggles of people. He criticized the prevalent culture of broken promises by ruling parties and local feudal lords, who have failed to address the persistent issues faced by

Assuring a resolution to the challenges faced by southern Punjab upon assuming power, he urged the people to elect a courageous and honest leadership in the upcoming elections.

Haq emphasized that only capable leadership could effectively advocate for the causes of Palestine and Kashmir while steering the country back on the path to progress.

Hunting

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in Fishing at the bank of the Rawal Lake during pleasant weather in Federal Capital.

Golden Jubilee of Gomal University is Completing in 2024, VC

Mazir Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Gomal University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah has said that the Golden Jubilee of Gomal University is being completed in

This mother scholar has served the residents of this region, and now we will ensure the restoration of his majesty. He expressed these

views on the occasion of a consultative meeting held at the Gomal University Alumni Forum Islamabad regarding the golden jubilee cele-

brations of the university. Gomal University Alumni Forum

Convener Director Pharmacy Services Polyclinic Dr. Amina Khan, Senior Gomalian Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto University Dr. Syed Ghulam, President Alumni Forum Farid Khan, Daily Jang Bureau Chief Rana Ghulam Qadir, Regional In-charge Press Information Department Dera



Ismail Khan Muhammad Fazal Ur Rehman was present. It was decided in the meeting that next year Gomal University will complete 50 years of establishment.

Full celebrations will be organized in this regard and Golden Jubilee celebrations will be held without putting a financial burden on the Mother of Knowledge.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr.

Shakib Ullah said that Gomal University is an honor and pride for us, this mother of knowledge enlightened thousands of people of this backward region including me with precious knowledge and gave us honor and dignity.

He said that it is our responsibility to deliver a prosperous university equipped with modern educational facilities to the new generation.

He said that the number of students in Gomal University has exceeded twenty one thousand.

Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Today, this mother scholar is serving in the academic and research field through various small and large

programs. VC Dr. Shakib Ullah further said that the alumni of Gomal University are our asset, the spirit of the Alumni Forum towards the Golden Jubilee celebrations is commendable.

On this occasion, the leader of Gomal Univer-

sity Alumni Forum Islamabad paid tribute to Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakibullah for joining the consultation meeting before the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Further said that the Golden Jubilee celebrations should be organized and worthy of the prestige of the institution, and Alumni across the country will take full part in it.

PSO ascends to new heights, asserting market dominance with record-breaking profits

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the national energy icon, has showcased its unwavering determination and resilience by achieving remarkable milestones in the first quarter of the financial year 2023-2024. In this period, PSO reported an unprecedented quarterly profit after tax



of PKR 21.89 billion, resulting in an impressive earnings per share of PKR 46.62. Additionally, PSO achieved its highest ever quarterly gross sales of PKR 976 billion.

During a meeting held on October 20, 2023, the company's Board of Management (BoM) reviewed the group's performance for the first quarter ended September 30, 2023. The group also posted its highest ever Q1 net profit after tax of PKR 23.99 billion translating in earn-

ings per share of PKR. 51.10. Against the backdrop of galloping inflation, regressed growth, geopolitical tensions and a global increase in oil prices, the petroleum industry experienced a decline in product consumption. However, PSO navigated these challenges seamlessly, while upholding its commitment to nationwide fuel supply.

The company further consolidated its dominance in the white oil segment by increasing its market share by 4.3%, closing the quarter with a commendable 53.1% market share. Notably, PSO's market share in diesel and gasoline increased by 4.5% and 4.2% respectively, reaching 55.0% and 47.9%.

The black oil segment faced a challenging quarter with a 63% decline in sales due to low furnace oil-based power generation, however, PSO maintained its leadership in black oil segment with a market share of 29.6% at the end of the quarter.

In an effort to further strengthen the company's robust supply chain and infrastructure, PSO rehabilitated 24 thousand tons of existing storages at Sihala and Zulfiqarabad during the period. Additionally, the construction of 91 thousand tons of new storages is currently underway at Faqirabad, Faisalabad and Mehmoodkot. Embracing a forward-looking approach, PSO utilised its digital capabilities to propel growth and enhance operational efficiency by successfully automating an additional 2 terminals at Mehmoodkot and Shikarpur, taking the total to 5.

Hameed Abaro has started The Sindh Rozgar program



HYDERABAD: Sindh-born bureaucrat Abdul Hameed Abaro has started The Sindh Rozgar program to bring the youth towards busi-Hameed Abaro Belong from Badin he is serving as Commissioner in Federal Board of Revenue FBR, Mr. Abaro is currently posted as Commissioner FBR in Quetta. Abdul Hameed Abaro gave a detailed briefing about the idea and plan of Sindh Rozgar program in a special conversation with The Daily Spokesman newspaper. The Daily Spokesman was asked how the idea of bringing the unemployed to business came to you? Abdul Hameed Abaro replied that since I was appointed to a government position, most of the people used to request to give me a job and of course the number of these people was large and it was very difficult for me to give them jobs, so I Thinking about what to do for these youths, I got an idea that why not bring these unemployed youths to business instead of jobs, and then put this thought into practice under the name of Sindh Rozgar Program. Mr. Abaro further said that through the Sindh Rozgar Program, the unemployed people of different cities of Sindh were determined to set up small scale businesses in the Capital City of Sindh, Karachi, and when he announced the program, he got a lot of feedback. The Spokesman newspaper asked what is the procedure for joining this program, Abdul Hameed Abaro said that his method is very easy, whoever is a candidate. contact us and we will send him to Karachi free of charge after the interview. We will also take responsibility for accommodation and food, then we will set up a complete vegetable push card. In response to a question, Abdul Hameed Abaro said that so far more than 350 people have expressed their desire to find employment in Karachi, with whom we are in constant contact, while initially after the interview, 10 people were given vegetable push cards. There are those whose accommodation and food have been provided free of cast, we will gradually increase their number. The Daily Spokesman asked why you chose only the vegetable business? Abdul Hameed Abaro, who brought the Sindh employment program, said that there is a broad idea behind bringing the unemployed youth towards vegetable business. The idea is that Sindh is an agricultural province. They do not get wages, because they are producers but not suppliers, they do not have direct access to the market, so they cannot get the full fruit of their production. He said that through this program, we will train to youth who join this program that they not to buy vegetables from the vegetable market in Karachi. We will create a direct supply chain for them with the growers of different cities of Sindh, which will benefit both the vegetable buyers and sellers. Earlier, the farmers used to buy vegetables at a low rate in the vegetable market and they used to earn money by selling them in the market at high prices. Now, through this program, there is a golden opportunity for the farmers to directly communicate with the Sindh Employment Program team to get a fair wage for their crops.

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

👺 Fatima Ibrahimi

he 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.

tial 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 The return of Palestinians goal of demanding the right of

to their homeland is essen-

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 return and receive compensation, a right denied by the usurping Zionist regime and its allies.

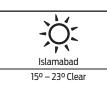
Displaced Palestinians, like all denied it, passing international

human beings, have the right to laws to prevent its realization. leave or return to any country, including their own, under the International Charter of Human Rights and the Covenant on United Nations organization's 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 Palestinian refugees the right to 110 United Nations resolutions emphasizing the Palestinians' right of return, the Zionist usurper regime has consistently

Despite years of patience, the hope of the return of Palestinian refugees according to the 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.

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Fajr			
Zohr	11:53 am		
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Maghrib	5:29 pm		
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EMERGENCY

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AmirMir clarifies eviction policy targets no specific nationalities

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir refuted claims of targeted legal action against specific nationalities residing illegally in Punjab, emphasizing that the government's focus is on foreign elements $contributing \ to \ terrorism$ in the country. He clarified that the recent measures do not exclusively target Afghans, but encompass all unlawfully present foreign-

While acknowledging the involvement of Afghans in recent anti state activities, Minister Mir stressed that the said policy aims to deal with all foreign individuals residing illegally in Pakistan. Notably, the 1.4 million Afghan refugees, who have received temporary authorization from NADRA, are not included in this initiative. These refugees, of which 1.64 million reside in Punjab, possess valid registration cards, affirming their legal status in Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference at the DGPR office, Minister Mir explained that the Punjab government's approach aligns with the federal government's efforts to repatriate unlawfully residing foreigners. A deadline of October 31 has been set for individuals, including those with expired visas, to either furnish their documentation by November 1 or depart from Pakistan.

Minister Mir dispelled misinformation regarding eviction actions against Afghan journalists, underlining Pakistan's historically empathetic stance towards refugees and migrants. He assured that this compassionate policy will persist in the future, emphasizing, however, that all foreign residents must adhere to constitutional and legal provisions.

Emphasizing the November 1 deadline for action against illegally residing foreigners, Minister Mir emphasized its finality, with no extensions granted thereafter.

PM to establish endowment fund to help needy in Azad Kashmir

跨 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq while reiterating his commitment to turn AJK into a welfare state, has said that the government was set to establish endowment fund to provide financial assistance to widows, divorcee, orphans and disabled persons. While talking to a private TV channel, the PM said as per the scheme 20 thousand rupees will be given to the needy per month.

With regard to the launch of a new political party, he said that consultations were going on among the members of the Forward Block to create a consensus on the matter. He said that the coalition government has worked very hard to improve governance in the region.

He said that in an attempt to reduce the expenditures several initiatives that including curtailment of Prime Minister's protocol, abolishing discretionary powers Azad Kashmir that the government took



and minimizing expenses of Prime Minister's House were taken by the government. He said that funds worth 11 billion rupees were received from the federal government and spent in a transparent manner.

"It was for the first time in the history of

a bold stance and suspended the notification regarding the imposition of additional taxes in Electricity", the PM said, adding that demands of the civil society and traders community were legitimate.

He said all the demands including the demand for providing flour on subsidized rates stand fulfilled now. He said that the AJK was currently producing 2700 megawatts of cheap electricity, whereas the total power consumption in the region was 400 MWs. He said that there was no formal agreement on the Neelum Jhelum power project.

The former governments, he said, have shown criminal negligence in this regard. Replying to a question, he said that the government would negotiate with the Action Committee according to the constitution and law. He said that the tax money of the public should be spent on the welfare of the people. The Prime Minister said that the portfolios will be alloted to the ministers this month.

Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf called on Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Ahmed Jawad Rabei. (Report on Page 8)



RCCI organizes solidarity rally for Palestine

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted a meeting to express its support for Palestine followed by a solidarity walk. Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment attended the meeting and rally as a special guest. President RCCI Mr. Saqib Rafiq expressed deep condolences and unwavering solidarity to the Palestinian people during this time of hardship.

A resolution was also adopted unanimously for the condemnation of atrocities and human rights violations by Israel in Palestine. The house demanded the world powers, UN and OIC to play their role for resolving the conflict, permanent peace and humanitarian aid for Palestine.

Muslim brothers and sisters our people in solidarity, world.

Rafiq. At this difficult hour of

firm support for peace, justice, and a better future.

in Palestine are not alone," compassion, and hope. She remarked President Saqib condemned in the strongest terms the unabated Isratime, we stand with them in el's atrocities, oppression and siege of the Gaza Strip, resulting in a grave humanitarian Ms. Mushaal Hussein tragedy. The resolution of Mullick said "At this crucial Palestine and Kashmir issues "In this difficult time, our moment, we stand with is vital for durable peace in the

SVP Mr. M. Hamza Sarosh & VP Mr. Faisal Shahzad. Former Presidents. members, members from Trade Associations, women members, distinguished RCCI members & students from various institutes attended the meeting & also participated in the short walk.

Nomination of Justice Irfan Saadat as SC judge approved

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Friday unanimously approved the nomination of Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, as a judge of the Supreme Court. "A meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan ('Commission') was convened to consider the nomination of Justice Irfan Saadat Khan," a press release said.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa stated that Justice Irfan Saadat Khan met the stipulated requirement as he was knowledgeable, well-experienced and versartile, had an upright character, and was also the most senior Judge among the chief justices and judges of all the high courts. All the JPC members present in the meeting unanimously approved the nomination, which was also endorsed in writing by the Law Minister, who was abroad.

The nomination of Justice Irfan Saadat Khan by the Commission will be sent to the Parliamentary Committee. The other item on the agenda of the meeting was to determine the criteria for appointment of high court judges. The CJP had written to the JCP members and had sought their views. Copies of the suggestions that were received were provided to the members, who sought time to consider the same. It was decided to extend the date for receiving of submissions till October 27, which will be considered in the next meeting of the Commission. APP

Locally-produced medical devices to ensure affordable treatment: Seminar

№ City Desk

KARACHI: Healthcare experts urged for the government support and collaboration of stakeholders to develop the local medical devices and equipment sector in the country to meet the local demand of hospitals and medical units.

Speaking at the seminar "Boosting Medical Devices Development in Pakistan" at the 20th Health Asia Exhibition on Friday, Dr Shahid Noor, Chairman, Saman-e-Shifa Foundation said that Pakistan's should set up a full-fledged sector for producing the medical devices at the international standards to ensure the affordable treatment to its masses.

He added that local manufacturers in collaboration with universities have developed more than 20 important equipment including ventilators, cardiac stents, glucometer and a number of new devices are being produced at present.

Our mission is to decrease the reliance of imported medical devices, but to develop our standard at part with global standards to export made-in-Pakistan brands to different countries with a pride as similar to our locally-made football is utilized in international sports events.

He urged the government to waive off duties on the raw material of the medical devices which will also accelerate the production of this emerging sector in Pakistan.

Dr Abdul Bari, CEO, Indus Hospital said the local production of healthcare devices will decrease drastically the cost of treatment of critical health issues in the country which always goes up due to impact of Dollar versus Rupee disparity. On the other hand, he added, the supply chain of local industry will be streamlined which will ultimate-

Other speakers were HEC Chairman Sindh, Tariq Rafi, Vice Chancellor NED University Sarosh Lodhi, Dr Farhan Essa, Prof Dr Murtaza

On the second day of the 20th Health Asia, several seminars were also held on breast cancer, CPR and manual defibrillator handling. There are nearly 150 companies participating in the trade fair including foreign companies from China, Hungry, Iran, etc.

LCCI Pioneer Business Group Chairman Ali Hussam condemns Israeli airstrikes on Gaza

Staff Reporter



LAHORE: In the wake of the devastating Israeli attacks on Gaza, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Pioneer Business Group Chairman Ali Hussam Asghar has joined the global chorus of condemnation against the ongoing violence.

The recent Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have resulted in a significant loss of life and destruction. Reports indicate that the attacks have taken the lives of over 4,000 Palestinians, and a Gaza hospital

was targeted, leading to the tragic deaths of more than 100 patients. Ali Hussam Asghar, Chairman of Pioneer Business Group, emphasized the need for a swift resolution to the crisis, stating, "The violence in Gaza is a tragedy that cannot be ignored. We join the global call for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the path of peace and dialogue." The international community continues to express outrage at the disproportionate use of force and the loss of civilian lives.

- Calls for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian assistance to Gaza are intensifying as world leaders, humanitarian organizations, and activists unite in their condemnation of the attacks.

In the face of the unfolding crisis, the global community remains dedicated to ending the violence and facilitating a return to negotiations for a lasting peace in the region.

Ali Hussam Asghar's voice of condemnation adds to the growing global outcry against the violence and underscores the urgent need for an end to the conflict and a path toward reconciliation.

What should be the system of government of Pakistan?

to hold elections at the end of January 2024, which has brightened the possibilities of ending the uncertain political situation. There was anxiety in political and non-political circles and in the people. Rumors were rife that several constituencies were planning to extend the caretaker government's term by

The caretaker government adopted a good and worthwhile strategy to avoid any kind of rhetoric and concentrate all its energies on solving the country's problems. From which very positive results have started coming. Business circles and economists have started appreciating the performance of the caretaker government.

Due to the necessary measures taken by the concerned Ministries, the value of rupee is increasing gradually against the dollar. According to the latest reports, the dollar has falltaken to reduce the wastage in elec-

tion Commission has theft. The question arises in the mind expressed its intention of a common Pakistani that why the governments have not done this in the last several decades.

The reason for this seems to be that elected and unelected governments have always preferred not to do anything that would diminish their popularity. No matter how important it is to the country's economy. Prevent theft of electricity. Prevention of smug-

No political party is interested in doing important things like improving the performance of state-owned national enterprises and speeding up their privatisation, as doing so puts their vote bank at risk. Unfortunately, almost all politicians, if they are out of power, devote all their energies to overthrowing the ruling government as quickly as possible and regaining power, and when they are in power themselves, all such work.

They do things that increase their vote bank so that they can stay in en below 280 rupees. Steps are being power for longer. Even if by doing so the country's economy will get worse.

that the current western parliamentary system of government has failed. Therefore, presidential system of

government should be adopted. It time of President Pervez Musharraf. government they get

more opportunities to do corruption. Presidential

system, martial law and parliamentary $system\, of\, government$ have been tried in Pakistan. But neither system succeeded. There are numerous reasons for this. Is it

not a fact that the purpose of creating $\;\;$ (Hilal Imtiaz) in his book "Deen Islam Pakistan was to establish an Islamic welfare state but unfortunately all the governments gave preference to personal interest over national interest.

He turned away from the principles of Islam. The religion of Islam

was limited to religious rituals by the

ecently, the Elec- tricity transmission and prevent its There has been a debate in the country religious leaders. Instead of uniting the Nation of Islam, it spread hatred through division. Some religious schools supported suicide terrorism. Political rulers made economic deciwas seriously considered during the sions that only benefited the elite. The rich got richer and the poor got poor-But all the politicians openly opposed er. The continuation of his policies has it because in the present system of made it impossible for the poor to live

in the country today. People are committing suicide because of hunger. The founding chair-

man of Global Think Tank Network, former Federal Minister and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Engineer Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh

Complete Nizam Hayat" After covering all the problems of Pakistan in detail, I have presented the best and workable suggestions and clearly stated that all the systems of government tried in Pakistan so far have failed and the time has come to experiment more.

Instead of establishing a welfare Islamic system of government in Pakistan, which was envisioned by its founder. Quaid-i-Azam wanted the system of Pakistan according to the Qur'an and Sunnah, but due to his death, the rulers got an open license to arbitrariness and to save the feudal system, the elites united to implement the British parliamentary system and the British system of government.

And to get rid of the laws Pakistan was created, the same laws were imposed in the country. In this way, the goal of the establishment of Pakistan could not be achieved. On July 1, 1948, Quaid-i-Azam, while addressing the opening ceremony of the State Bank, said that the system of government of Pakistan. Constitution and laws have to be corrected. It would be a great injustice to maintain the old British neo-colonial system of government. Because it provides protection only to the corrupt and unscrupulous elite and is not even compatible with

the fundamental principles of Islam. Dr. Akram Sheikh has written in his book that the system of Pakistan. Constitutions and laws should be made completely keeping in mind the commands of Allah Ta'ala and His likes and dislikes. The difference between state and government should be understood. Loyalty to the state is indispensable. Therefore, political governments should not be allowed to dare to amend the constitution to undermine the very foundations of

the state. The head of state should be an expert in state affairs. He has the authority to appoint national key positions on the basis of merit. He has also written in his book that a high-level advisory council should be formed. Which consists of 25 or 30 members. Women should also get representation in it. The criteria for the selection of the members of this council should be among those who have the following abilities: 1. Honest and trustworthy and prefer the national interest over personal interest-2. Educated. experienced. Be a patriotic Pakistani

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Pakistan's earns \$448 million from IT services' export during July-August 2023

akistan earned US \$448.971 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a growth of 5.15 per cent as compared with the US \$427.000 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 4.65 per cent as it surged from US \$345.470 million last year to US \$361.518 million during July-August 2023. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 196.04 per cent, from US \$0.328 million to US \$0.971 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also increased by 4.60 per cent, from US \$121.733 million to US \$127.329 million.

The export of repair and maintenance services decreased by 3.74 per cent from US \$0.187 million to US \$0.180 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services witnessed an increase of 10.17 per cent, from \$96.529 million to \$106.350

Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review dipped by 27.94 per cent from US \$0.680 million to US \$0.490 million. Among the information services, the exports of information-related services decreased by 4.05 per cent, from US \$0.222 million to US \$0.213 million whereas the exports of news agency services also declined by 39.52 per cent, from US \$0.458 million to US \$0.277 million.

The export of telecommunication services increased by 7.56 per cent as these went up from US \$80.850 million to US \$86.963 million, the data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 3.47 per cent during the months as its exports increased from US \$34.770 million to US \$35.977 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services also increased by 10.65 per cent, from US \$46.080 million to US \$50.986 million during this year, the PBS ata revealed.

China is to Boost Pakistan's Economy with Innovative Concept of BRI - I

Fouzia Noreen

he China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a transformative project since its inception in 2013, becoming the centerpiece of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

As we enter the second phase of CPEC, China aims to further enhance Pakistan's economy with innovative concepts with the visionary approach of President Xi Jinping to explore the key aspects of the 2nd phase, including industrial cooperation, agricultural development, socioeconomic upliftment, and the establishment of tax-free business zones.

1. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to connect Asia with

Europe and Africa through a network of infrastructure development projects, fostering regional integration, and driving economic growth. CPEC, as an integral part of the BRI, serves as the linchpin for connectivity between China's western regions and the Arabian Sea. The BRI envisions a modern Silk Road, promoting trade, investment, and cultural exchange among participating countries. The 2nd

ening the economic ties between China and Pakistan.

a) Enhanced Connectivity: The BRI envisions the development of a modern Silk Road, connecting countries through infrastructure networks, including roads, railways, ports, and digital connectivity. The 2nd phase of CPEC focuses on enhancing connectivity within Pakistan and with neighboring countries, promoting trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges. This connectivity will not only benefit Pakistan but also contribute to regional development and tability.

b) Trade and Investment Promotion: The BRI aims to promote trade and investment by reducing barriers, enhancing market access, and fostering economic cooperation among participating countries. The 2nd phase of CPEC, with its focus on industrial cooperation and the establishment of SEZs, will attract foreign investment and facilitate trade, enabling Pakistan to diversify its economy and reduce trade deficits. This collaboration will also create new opportunities for Chinese and Pakistani businesses to explore joint ventures and expand their operations.

c) Cultural Exchange and People-to-People Connectivity: The BRI emphasizes cultural exchange and people-tophase of CPEC aligns closely with the people connectivity as essential pillars of

objectives of the BRI, further strength- economic cooperation. The 2nd phase of country that offer special incentives and CPEC, with its focus on socio-economic aims to improve the quality of life for the people of Pakistan. This collaboration will foster cultural understanding, educational exchanges, and tourism, strengthening the bonds between China and Pakistan and promoting mutual understanding and cooperation.

> d) Global Economic Integration: The BRI seeks to promote global economic integration by connecting markets, facilitating trade, and fostering cooperation among countries. The 2nd phase of CPEC. with its emphasis on economic diversification and the development of various ectors, will contribute to Pakistan's integration into the global economy. This integration will enable Pakistan to tap into new markets, attract foreign investment, and enhance its competitiveness on the international stage.

> The second phase of CPEC focuses on industrial cooperation, agricultural development, socioeconomic upliftment, and the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These SEZs will attract foreign investment, promote industrialization, and generate employment opportunities, acting as catalysts for economic growth, technology transfer, and skill development.

SEZs are designated areas within a

benefits to attract domestic and foreign upliftment, education, and healthcare, investment. In the 2nd phase of CPEC, Pakistan aims to establish several

> SEZs across the country. These zones will serve as industrial hubs, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and investor-friendly policies. The SEZs will be equipped with modern infrastructure, including roads, electricity, water supply, and waste management systems. This will ensure a conducive environment for businesses to operate efficiently.

> To attract investment, the SEZs will offer tax exemptions or reductions on income tax, sales tax, customs duties, and other levies. This will significantly reduce the cost of doing business and encourage both local and foreign companies to set up operations in these zones. SEZs will have implified and expedited procedures for business registration, licensing, and permits. This will minimize bureaucratic hurdles and enable companies to establish their operations quickly.

> The SEZs will provide a secure and investor-friendly environment, with measures in place to protect intellectual property rights and ensure ease of doing business. This will instill confidence in investors and attract a diverse range of industries to the SEZs.

To be Continued



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

Pakistan-US Person-to-Person Connections

matic relations with Pakistan following the country's independence in 1947. We work closely with Pakistan on a wide array of issues ranging from energy, trade and investment, health, clean energy and combating the climate crisis, to Afghanistan stabilization and counterterrorism. The United States has been one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment in Pakistan and remains Pakistan's largest export market. Trade and investment relations

between the United States and Pakistan continue to grow, and the U.S. government supports this relationship by organizing business-to-business trade delegations, providing technical assistance, and promoting business opportunities for U. S. companies to develop U. S.-Pakistan commercial part-

Though both countries have had business-to-business and diplomatic relations for almost the past 76 years, it is also of great significance to know how people from both countries picture each other.

Person-to-Person Connections:

Person-to-person connections between Pakistan and the United States are quite common, and they encompass a wide range of interactions, including social, cultural, educational, and professional exchanges. Here are some ways in which individuals from Pakistan and the USA connect with each other:

Diaspora Communities: These are the communities dispersed from their original homeland. There is a significant Pakistani diaspora in the United States, with many Pakistani Americans living and working there. These individuals maintain strong ties with their homeland and often engage in cultural and social events that promote Pakistani traditions and

he United States established diplo- United States for higher education, contributing to academic and research collaborations between the two countries. This fosters cross-cultural exchanges and intellectual partnerships.

Tourism: Both Pakistan and the USA attract tourists from each other's countries. Tourists have the opportunity to experience each other's cultures and build personal connections through travel and tourism.

Business and Trade: Business professionals and entrepreneurs from both countries

engage in trade, investment, and business partnerships. These connections can lead to lasting relationships and collaborations.

Cultural Exchanges: Cultural exchange programs, such as music festivals, art exhibitions, and film screenings, provide platforms for people from Pakistan and the USA to appreciate each other's cultural

heritage and create connections. **Perspectives and Considerations:**

Perspectives of people from both countries about each other can vary widely depending on individual experiences, exposure to media, education, and personal interactions. It's important to remember that the views of both nations about each other are not monolithic, and they can be shaped by a range of factors. Here are some common perspectives and considerations:

Positive Views: Many Pakistanis hold positive views about Americans. They may admire aspects of American culture, such as music, movies, and technology. Some Pakistanis have had positive experiences with Americans through educational exchanges, business interactions, or personal friendships.

Political Views: Political events and policies, particularly related to U. S.-Pakistan relations, can influence Pakistanis' perspectives. Opinions about American foreign policy decisions, such Education: Many Pakistanis come to the as drone strikes or military interventions, may

impact how some Pakistanis view Americans. Cultural Misunderstandings: Cultural differences and misunderstandings can sometimes lead to misperceptions. For example, differences in social norms, customs, or communication styles can be sources of confusion or frustration.

Educational and Professional Experiences: Pakistanis who have studied or worked in the United States often have a more nuanced and positive view of Americans. Educational and professional exchanges can foster understanding and appreciation of American society.

Media Influence: Media, both local and international, can shape perceptions of Americans and Pakistanis for each other. The portrayal of Americans in Pakistani media and the influence of American media on Pakistani society can impact how Americans are perceived and vice versa.

Personal Interactions: Personal interactions among both nations, whether through friendships, family ties, or professional relationships, can significantly influence one's perspective. Positive personal interactions can lead to more favorable views.

Humanitarian and Aid Efforts: Some Pakistanis may have positive views of Americans due to humanitarian and aid efforts by American organizations during times of crisis, such as natural disasters.

It's important to note that people-to-people connections between Pakistan and the USA can be diverse and multifaceted, reflecting the broad range of interactions and relationships that exist between individuals from these two nations. These connections contribute to a deeper understanding of each other's cultures, values, and perspectives. It is crucial to approach any assessment of perspectives with an understanding of this diversity and avoid making sweeping generalizations. People's views are shaped by a complex interplay of factors. Engaging in open and respectful dialogue can help bridge cultural gaps and foster mutual understanding. Writer is Member of UN and President Pakistan Department Of Peace

Where did the Al-Aqsa storm cause injuries?

Kiran Asim

reviews and comments from the

Senior analysts and independent journalists from Europe and the Russian Federation have written openly about the losses to Israel. People who are disturbed by videos of innocent civilians being bombarded by

a look at some points and try to see it in the current situation.

Due to excessive influence in the Western and Eastern media, the attack by Hamas was called a conspiracy plan aimed at maintaining Israeli supremacy, while this attack was completely off-the-shelf. Hamas attacked with complete homework, disrupted security and achieved its goals with 100% success. A

pro-Israeli writer even wrote that maybe all the people of Hamas and Hezbollah had shifted to Huwevi, that the intelligence agencies could not trace such a big plan.

carry their guns close to their bodies even when they sleep, but they trusted their defense electronics so much that they were completely careless and the result was slaughtered like chickens. The response of the world's self-proclaimed

number one army in this attack and its reaction was so cowardly that dozens of analysts said that the Israeli army can only kill innocent children and innocent civilians. Fighting with warriors is not their thing. Their war skills are only media propaganda. The combat skills of a trained Israeli soldier were inferior to those of a twelve-year-old Palestinian child. This war of Hamas is actually a trap for Amer-

ica and Israel. On the one hand, America is fight-Taiwan's front will be opened and at the same they will overcome two thousand."

he ravages of war have drawn many time, North Korea will attack South Korea. Thus, the bankrupt America will be given the last push. Sensing this threat, the United States had taken an aggressive stance against Iran earlier, but suddenly the American intellectuals seemed to be backing away from their position. After the Israeli president's decision to enter Gaza, America has jumped into the war unwillingly. Analysts the free world's thinking about Israel should take are calling it an Iranian success. The possible visit

of the Palestinian president to

The Chechen president's announcement to send troops to Palestine is not only a strategic success of the Russia-Iran bloc, but also shows that the United States and the Western world can only fight with countries with inferior defense capabilities.

The final blow to Israel and the United States will be dealt from within the United States. Under the open border policy, thousands of young people are entering the United States on a daily basis. Many American analysts Every member of the Israeli security forces are commenting that Wagners and members of armed organizations spread around the world are entering under the guise of refugees. Along with a regular American war, American power would be eroded by internal attacks. Last days, Elon Musk himself highlighted this issue during Eagle Pass coverage.

> No matter what Western propaganda says, even if there are not many martyrdoms of innocent Palestinians due to Israeli air superiority, the idol of Israeli power has been shattered. Independent Western analysts and we have seen the battle between the Mujahideen and the Israeli army as a practical interpretation of this verse.

"If there are one hundred of you who persevere, they will overcome two hundred of them, and if ing a war in Ukraine. After Israel joins the war, there are one thousand, by the command of Allah,

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Indonesian envoy lauds Pakistan as valued friend in South Asia

78th Indonesian Anniversary of the Independence and Armed Forces Day celebrated



Spokesman Report

Republic of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio the 78th Anniversary of the Independence and the Armed Forces Day of Indonesia. The reception was attended by a Adam highlighted significant achievelarge number of government dignitar- ments of modern and developing Indo-

of civil society.

The Federal Minister for National ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Food Security & Research Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik was the Chief Guest hosted a grand reception today to mark and Vice Admiral Abdul Samad was the

Guest of Honor on the occasion. In his welcome address, Ambassador ies, diplomats and eminent members nesia as the world's largest democracy, reflecting strong spirit of mutual coop-

a G-20 member with trillion dollar economy and its strong commitment to contribute for world peace and security with an inclusive approach. He added that Indonesian National Armed Forces Day are an integral part of this consistent struggle for a more progressive and prosperous Indonesia with their motto of Three services, One Determination,

eration among three military services.

Talking about Indonesia-Pakistan relations, he said the growing two-way ties are a good example of multi-dimensional constructive engagement and productive cooperation.

He deeply appreciated support and cooperation of Pakistan as a valued friend in South Asia during course of Indonesian progress and expected

enhanced strategic engagement for the faction with the growing momentum mutual benefit of both countries in the future. The Ambassador gladly pointed out that mutual fascination for each other's culture has grown in recent years, which is reflected by the display of Indonesian Batik with Pakistani traditional design of motif in the reception.

The Chief Guest Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik in his remarks expressed satis-

of bilateral cooperation and suggested further expansion and diversification in multiple areas of interest. The special feature of the reception was an entertaining performance by Indonesian artists from Padang, West Sumatra Province of Indonesia, reflecting the diversity and charm of Indonesian culture.

跨 Photos: Raja Farid

Israel levels Gaza district as Palestinian death toll reaches 3,785

Situation inside Gaza is 'beyond catastrophic'; desperately needed international aid piles up near border

GAZA: Israel levelled a northern Gaza er saw, with Ahmed Ali, head of the district on Friday after giving families Egyptian Red Crescent, saying he a half-hour warning to escape, and hit was getting "two to three planes of an Orthodox Christian church where aid a day". The situation inside Gaza others had been sheltering, as it made is "beyond catastrophic", said Sara was expected soon.

More than 3.785 been killed including more than 1,500 dren are rising." children, Palestinian officials say. The UN says more than a million have been made homeless.

Desperately needed international aid piled near Gaza, with Palestinians in dire need of food and water after relentless bombing by Israel, still reeling from the bloodiest attack in its history. Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the group launched an attack from the Gaza Strip on October 7

In response, Israeli warplanes have preparation for a ground invasion thev say is coming soon. The United Nations says more than one million of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced and that the humanitarian situation is worsening by the day, with no green light yet to send in the trucks lined up at the border.

Medicine, water purifiers and blanairport near Gaza, an AFP report- sion that new orders would come soon.

the numbers of casualties amongst chil-

Egyptian state-linked broadcaster Al Qahera News had said the Rafah crossing — the only route into Gaza — would open on Friday, but Cairo later said it needed more time to repair roads.

In Geneva, the WHO's emergencies director called a deal struck by US President Joe Biden to allow in 20 trucks "a drop in the ocean of need". "It should be 2.000 trucks," Michael Ryan said. Within Israel, still coming to terms with the deadliest attack in its 75-year levelled entire city blocks in Gaza in history, the drumbeat of war was growing louder, as leaders rallied troops for a ground offensive.

Decked out in body armour, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited front-line troops near Gaza. urging them to "fight like lions" and 'win with full force". Defence Minister Yoav Gallant also toured the front line, telling some of the tens of thousands kets were being unloaded at El Arish of troops awaiting the ground inva-

"Right now you see Gaza from afar, soon you will see it from te inside. The order will come soon," he said, predicting "difficult" battles ahead.

During a rare address from the Oval clear that a command to invade Gaza Alzawqari, UNICEF spokeswoman Office, Biden urged the United States for the Gulf. "Time is running out and to take the lead in supporting Israel and Ukraine, saving he would make an "urgent" request to Congress for aid

"American leadership is what holds the world together," Biden said in just the second primetime speech to the nation of his presidency from behind the historic Resolute Desk.

While solidly backing Israel, he also pointed to the plight of those trapped in Gaza, saying they "urgently need food, water and medicine". Fresh from a whirlwind trip to Israel this week, Biden is hoping to staunch the possibility of a wider Middle East war.

The United States has already moved two aircraft carriers into the eastern Mediterranean to deter Iran or Hezbollah, both allies of Hamas, from getting

But fears of a wider conflagration are growing, with Israel announcing plans to evacuate the northern city of Kiryat Shmona after days of clashes with Hezbollah fighters along the border



A picture taken from the southern Israeli city of Sderot shows smoke ascending over the northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli airstrike. Reuters

Key Middle East players Abdel King Abdullah II have warned the what they said was the "collective Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt and Jordan's conflict could spread and condemned punishment" of Gazans. AFP/Agencies

Canada cuts some consular services | UK rights group calls in India amid murder row

India denies any connection to the shooting outside a Sikh temple in June

NEW DELHI: Canada on Friday said it was in the capital. temporarily suspending in-person operations at consulates in several Indian cities and warned of visa processing delays amid a diplomatic dispute over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia.

The announcements affecting consulates in Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai came hours after Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said Canada has withdrawn 41 diplomats from

Despite the dispute, two senior Indian government sources told Reuters the uproar would not spill into a trade dispute or impact investment, with imports from Canada continuing to flow. Bilateral trade touched \$8 billion

India last month asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau cited what he said was credible evidence of a potential link between Indian agents and the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India denies any connection to the

shooting outside a Sikh temple in June. "The Consulates General of Canada in Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai are temporarily suspending in-person operations," said a statement from the Canadian High Commission, or embassy, in New Delhi, adding that services remain normal

Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) department said it was reducing employee numbers in India to five from 27, with visa processing times likely to be impacted even though the majority were handled abroad.

"Canada has a strong connection with Indian citizens, and will continue to welcome them, whether they wish to come here to visit, work, study, be reunited with loved ones, or live permanently in the country," it added.

Around 2 million Canadians, some 5% of the overall population, have Indian heritage. India is also Canada's largest source of foreign

students, roughly 40%. India has dismissed as absurd Trudeau's suspicions that its agents were linked to the murder of Nijjar, 45, a Canadian citizen whom

New Delhi had labelled a terrorist. The Indian foreign ministry defended its downsizing of Canada's diplomatic presence and rejected Joly's statement that it violated the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations.

The state of our bilateral relations, the much higher number of Canadian diplomats in India, and their continued interference in our internal affairs warrant a parity in mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa," it said. Reuters

for demos against Israeli aggression in Gaza

over the massacre of innocent Palestinians in Gaza and occupied territories by apartheid Israeli forces, various freedom-loving groups in the UK called for the National March for Palestine - Stop the War on Gaza at Marble Arch in London on Saturday.

The call for nationwide demonstration in London was jointly made by Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Stop the War Coalition, Tehreeke-Kashmir UK and other rights groups

Addressing a news conference, pro-Palestinian leader Ceinwen Hilton called on people of conscience to come out on Saturday to extend moral support to suffering Palestinians.

"Birmingham supporters of freedom, justice and

equality in Palestine have been stunned and horrified at events in Gaza," said "Disgracefully, the horri-

fying bombardment, cutting

BIRMINGHAM: Enraged off supplies of water, electricity, food and medical supplies and the forced displacement of Palestinians to the south of Gaza is illegal under international humanitarian law (but) has been supported by the UK government and the leader of the Labour Party," she said, reading a joint statement by the UK-based

Hilton said the bombing of the al-Ahli Baptist hospital "shocked people to the core." Nearly 500 people were killed when Israeli forces launched airstrike on the hospital in Gaza on Tuesday night.

'Israel, the members of the UK government and opposition who have support Tel Aviv, stand accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity which are happening now, and which should be immediately condemned and stopped," the joint statement, backed by Fahim Kayani, Stuart Richardson and Naeem Khan, said.

Finally UNSC sanctions against Iran ended

NEW YORK: Secretariat of the United Nations and Peacebuilding Affairs also confirmed in Security Council, by sending a note to the member states of the United Nations, officially ends the provisions of clauses 3, 4 and 6 of Annex B of Resolution 2231, including missile tests, restrictions on the export and import of missile items to Iran, as well as sanctions related to confiscation of property and providing financial services to Iranian individuals and institutions under the sanctions of the Security Council has informed the countries.

According to the provisions of Appendix B of Resolution 2231, these restrictions continued for 8 years after the implementation of the JCPOA (October 18, 2023), which finally ended automatically at midnight last night

The cancellation of the mentioned restrictions takes place while in recent years, extensive political and legal efforts have been made by the United States and Western countries to accuse and build a consensus in the international community in order to lay the groundwork for the continuation of these sanctions, which finally with the political and legal failure of Western countries to restore the previous resolutions of the Security Council, the said restrictions were officially terminated.

In addition, the mentioned changes have been applied at 12:00 midnight on the United Nations website and the integrated list of United Nations sanctions. Ms. Rosemary A DiCarlo, the UN Under Secretary-General for Political

a separate letter addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran the termination of the mentioned regulations and the withdrawal of Iranian individuals and nstitutions from the list of the Security Council. Other international sanctions of the Secu-

Iran had already been terminated on the day of implementation of the JCPOA and subsequently the restriction on conventional and light weapons according to the resolutions of the Security Council in October 2020.

rity Council against the Islamic Republic of

With the lifting of the remaining restrictions on October 18, 2023, all sanctions related to Iranian individuals and entities at the United Nations have been terminated.

It should be noted that despite the finalization of the termination of these restrictions, the Western countries yesterday in a media effort and by issuing a statement of a limited group of aligned countries tried to doubt the finalization of the said process, which finally issued an official note of the United Nations, on the termination the mentioned restrictions have been approved.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced in an official statement that it considers the claim of the United States and European countries to continue these restrictions on national capacity despite the termination of international restrictions as a violation of Article 25 of the United Nations Charter. IRNA

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation					
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index					
Current	Prev. Close				
50,731.86	50,365.15				
Day's High	Day's Low				
50,952.67	50,332.75				
Index Value	Change				
10,961,234,990	+366.71				
Percentage	Time				
+0.73%	20 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTS	SE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change				
7,402.14	-97.39				
Percentage	Time				
-1.30%	20 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1				
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average				
Index Value	Change				
33,301.01	-113.16				
Percentage	Time				
-0.34%	20 Oct, 12:51 pm GMT-4				
Asia Pacific: Nikk	cei Stocks Average				

Change

-171.26

Time

20 Oct, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

31,259.36

Percentage

-0.54%

Currency	Buying	Selling		
Australian Dollar	175.15	176.9		
Bahrain Dinar	735.47	743.47		
Canadian Dollar	204	206		
China Yuan	37.98	38.38		
Danish Krone	39.03	39.43		
Euro	295.1	298		
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96		
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46		
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.54		
Kuwaiti Dinar	893.55	902.55		
Malaysian Ringgit	58.29	58.89		
NewZealand \$	164.88	166.88		
Norwegians Krone	25.28	25.58		
Omani Riyal	718.24	726.24		
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19		
Saudi Riyal	74.5	75.3		
Singapore Dollar	200	202		
Swedish Korona	25.47	25.77		
Swiss Franc	307.55	310.05		
Thai Bhat	7.68	7.83		
U.A.E Dirham	77.75	78.5		
UK Pound Sterling	342.6	346		
US Dollar	280.5	283.2		

ACCA's Global Ethics Day 2023 Events Shine a Spotlight

№ News Desk

LAHORE: ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) hosted a series of high profile events to celebrate Global Ethics Day 2023 from 17-19 October in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad respectively on the theme 'Ethics for a Better World' featuring leading policymakers and prominent business and thought leaders.

The three events brought together thought leaders, experts, and professionals from diverse sectors to discuss and deliberate on sustainability, positive work culture, leadership, regulatory governance and digital transformation from an ethical stand-

The Chief Guests at the three cities were Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor Punjab, Akif Saeed, Chairman, Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan and Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Former Minister of State for Investment and Founder, Nutshell Group. The esteemed Chief Guests shared their insights on harnessing Pakistan's enormous potential for growth, leveraging its 240 million-strong population and abundant indigenous human resources and capital. Emphasizing the importance of bold initiatives, they highlighted the significance of embracing digital transformation and ethics as essential tools for bolstering national and global productivity. They concluded with a call to action, inspiring a collective commitment to ethical practices that have the potential to drive Pakistan's prosperity and its contributions to the global community.

At the Karachi event, prominent speakers contributing to the dialogue of inclusive and sustainable economic development included Asim Siddiqui, Country Managing Partner, EY Ford Rhodes, Asif Jooma, CEO, Lucky Core Industries Ltd., Armughan Ahmed Kausar, Chief Compliance Officer, Habib Bank Limited, Ehsan Malik, CEO, Pakistan Business Council, Farrukh Khan, CEO, Pakistan Stock Exchange, Kanza Afzal, CFA, General Manager and Chief of Staff, Engro Corporation, Muhammad Rizwan Dalia, Chief People Officer, K-Electric, Shaista Ayesha, CEO, SEED Ventures and Syed Shahab Shahid, FCCA, Regional Director Finance & Planning, Daraz.

Commerce Minister Holds Meeting with Chinese EXIM Bank President

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Commerce, Industry & Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, was given a warm welcome in Shanghai by Mr. Ren Shengjun, the President of the EXIM Bank. The meeting was convened to discuss the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and the pivotal role of China in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan's economic growth.

President Mr. Ren Shengjun commenced the meeting by expressing his desire to see Pakistan become China's hub for productivity and development, emphasizing that now is the opportune time to seize these prospects. He was encouraged by the progress of CPEC and recognized the positive impact of infrastructure developments on connectivity and Pakistan's foreign trade.

President Mr. Ren Shengjun disclosed that EXIM Bank had concluded its internal processes for debt restructuring, which would facilitate transactions in RMB and further enhance trade relations. He commended the establishment of the PCC as a promis-



visit, underscoring its significance in enhancing communication.

Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz responded by ing mechanism for driving private investment emphasizing the vital role of China as a key facilitated the generation of surplus electricity, opment to both nations.

and thanked Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz for his partner in the Belt and Road Initiative, which has already transformed lives in Pakistan. The initial phase of BRI infrastructure development has eradicated electricity outages and

The Minister highlighted the upcoming phase of BRI, focused on private-to-private sector cooperation, and praised Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for expeditiously removing bottlenecks and fast-tracking major projects. Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Faisalabad, each equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to facilitate industrial growth.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced the formation of the Pakistan Corporate Consortium (PCC), comprising ten top-performing business houses, aiming to partner with potential Chinese investors for investment and the establishment of Joint Ventures. The Minister requested EXIM Bank's support in relocating industries to Pakistan.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthen economic ties and enhance cooperation between Pakistan and China, a partnership set to bring prosperity and devel-

ICCI delegation visits Indonesia to participates in Trade Expo 2023

Maveed Ahmad Khan

JAKARTA: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar is in Indonesia these days to participate in the 38th Trade Expo Indonesia Hybrid Edition 2023, which is being organized by the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia at Indonesia Convention Exhibition Centre, Jakarta from October 18-22, 2023. The Expo is showcasing various categories of products including food & beverages, home living, digital & services, beauty & personal care, chemical, energy & industrial products, medical equipment & healthcare products and fashion, textiles & accessories. Muhammad Shabbir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Hamayun Kabir, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Akhtar Hussain and others are in the ICCI delegation. The ICCI delegation also visited the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry to explore the possibilities of direct business linkages between the private sectors of Pakistan and Indonesia. Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Azhar ul

Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan considers Indonesia an important country of Muslim world with great potenwhich can be further increased as both ficial outcomes.



countries have great potential to improve it. He said that Pakistan is a major importer of palm oil from Indonesia and proposed that Indonesian investors should invest in palm oil cultivation in Pakistan as the country consumes around 4.5 million tons of edible oil a year. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia can enhance cooperation in many fields including tourism, mines & minerals, textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, information technology & e-commerce. He said that regular exchange of trade delegations and participation of private sectors of both countries in each other's trade fairs and exhibitions would help boost bilateral trade up to the real potential of both countries.

ICCI delegation members also shared tial for business relations. He said that the useful ideas to further strengthen bilateral bilateral trade between Pakistan and Indo- cooperation between the private sectors of

Iben Rifa, Vice Chairman, Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN Indonesia) welcomed the ICCI delegates and discussed with them various options for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is an important non-traditional trading partner of Indonesia and they want to further strengthen trade ties with Pakistan. He emphasized the immense potential for mutually beneficial economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia and highlighted the importance of longterm collaboration with ICCI to unlock the untapped potential in both markets. He said that the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry is ready to work with ICCI to promote networking opportunities and explore potential collaboration nesia in 2021 was around US\$ 4.3 billion, both countries to achieve mutually benefor lasting business partnerships between the private sectors of both countries.

Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 launched

跨 Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The 2023-24 edition of the Huawei ICT Competition has been launched globally. The competitive ICT talent exchange event developed by Huawei for university/ college students globally promotes the healthy development of the ICT talent ecosystem and supports the integration of industry and education.

Some of Pakistan's brightest young minds participated in the ICT Competition last year where students from Pakistan won the second and third prizes in the Network Track and third prize in the Innovation Track at the Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 Global Final concluded at Huawei Headquarters in Shenzhen, China.

Globally 120,000+ students, 2,200+ Colleges/ Universities in 85 Countries Huawei ICT Competition track focusing on IT technologies such as Cloud, Big Data for Software and OS such as openEuler, openGauss and tion track will look for inno-



vative solutions using AI, harmony OS, IoT and Cloud and Big Data.

Huawei is building a robust ICT talent ecosystem and accelerating the digitalization progress of the world by launching more Huawei ICT Academies, releasing talent white papers, and holding the Huawei ICT Competition. The global platform offers the youth the opportunity to apply their tech knowledge, accelerate their learning and network with their peers globally.

Together with the Huawei ICT Academy, the Huawei Innovation Competition, Seeds for the Future program, joint university labs, and other initiatives, thousands of young people and regions have joined the in the region benefit from an advanced skills development in the four forward-looking pipeline every year, equipcompetition tracks. With ping them with the necessary an eye on the future, the skills to lead digital transfor-Competition tracks are: the mation and development Network track for IP tech- efforts within their counnologies, Datacom, Secu- tries. Huawei's commitment rity and WLAN; the Cloud to enhancing digital skills and Pakistan is evidenced in the numerous projects and and AI; the Computing track initiatives underway in the country and the resounding success of Pakistani youth in Kunpeng; and the Innova- the opportunities offered by

PTA Triumphs at LEAD Awards 2023 for Child & Youth Safety Online

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) emerged victorious at the LEAD Awards 2023 in recognition of its commitment to ensuring child and vouth safety online. The award was received by Director PTA (Head of Child Online Protection Committee) in a ceremony held in the UAE by SAMENA Telecommunications Council.

PTA's significant achievements in this domain includes MoU with UNICEF, the allocation of an emergency short code (1121) for reporting child abuse, and carrying out Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) survey by UNICEF Global as part of the 'Disrupting Harm Programme'. Pakistan has become the 12th country to conduct the KAP survey.

PTA has also collaborated with TikTok to promote online safety in 100 government schools through awareness videos, booklets, and toolkits. Additionally, PTA's extensive awareness campaign involves curated videos, articles, public notices, SMSs, and



ic scholars, cricketers, and the entertainment industry.

These efforts have earned PTA the LEAD Award and positioned Pakistan as a leader in safeguarding the digital future of its community engagement involving Islam- youth. The LEAD Awards recognizes the com operators and various stakeholders.

accelerated efforts by regional technology providers, corporates, telecom operators, and regulators. SAMENA Telecommunications Council is a tri-regional association spanning 25+ countries, representing tele-

FFC Wins Best Corporate and Sustainability Report Award for Year - 2022

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited once again secured top ranking in the 'Best Corporate and Sustainability Reports for the Year-2022' maintaining its traditional corporate excellence.

First position in Best Overall Corporate Report Award for the 15th time

First position in Best Corporate Report in the Chemical Sector Award for the 19th time Joint First position in Best Sustainability Report Award for the 7th time

It is testament to FFC's

good governance practices, integrated thinking and transparent reporting of both financial and non-financial infor-

The awards announced by a joint committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP) at the Ceremony held at ICAP, Karachi on 12th October,

Syed Imran Rizvi and Syed Mustafa Haider, represented FFC at the event and received the awards.

Zong 4G signs MoU with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD:: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital network, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industries (LCCI). This cation and digitalization.

Through this strategic alliance, Zong 4G's Enterprise Solutions will tions." play a pivotal role in meeting the evolving communication needs of LCCI and its esteemed members, as it aims to foster collaboration and synergies between LCCI and its member companies.

Speaking on behalf of Zong 4G, the official spokesperson expressed unwavering commitment to advancing the digitalization of Pakistan's corporate sector. He stated, "Together, Zong 4G and Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industries (LCCI) landmark partnership is set to revo- are dedicated to building synergies lutionize the landscape of communi- that would empower LCCI and its member companies with comprehensive digital communication solu-

Mr. Kashif Anwar, President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), highlighted the significance of this collaborative effort during the MoU signing ceremony. He stated, "This partnership

corporate sector of the city, harnessing the data and state-of-the-art tech-

holds great promise for enriching the nology prowess of Zong 4G, providing unwavering support to LCCI." This collaboration underscores

Zong 4G's unwavering commitment to spearheading and facilitating digital transformation for the industry.

World Cup 2023

Australia beat Pakistan by 62 runs

The Aussies managed to restrict the Green Shirts to 305 runs after posting a colossal 368-run

BENGALURU: An impressive Australia Friday defeated Pakistan by 62 runs to clinch their second successive victory in the ongoing World Cup at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, India.

The Aussies managed to restrict the Green Shirts to 305 runs after posting a colossal 368-run target courtesy of a 259-run stand from David Warner and Mitchell Marsh.

Pakistan were off to a great start as their opening duo of Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique had a 134-run partnership — the first time a Pakistani opening pair had a century stand against Australia in a World Cup match.

However, Abdullah was removed after scoring 64 runs as he got a top edge on Marcus Stoinis' delivery. Soon after the right-handed batter lost his wicket, Imam, too, followed him to the pavilion for 70 runs.

Pakistan were 154-2 in 23.4 overs and were in dire need of a big partnership to get back in the team but their skipper Babar Azam was removed by Adam Zampa just after scoring 18 runs courtesy of an excellent catch by Pat Cummins.

The Green Shirts kept on losing wick-

ets at regular intervals but after the arriv-The Green Shirts were all out for 305 al of Iftikhar Ahmed, it looked like Pakiruns in 45.3 overs. stan would get in the game once again as

Australias Adam Zampa (C) celebrates with teammates after taking the

wicket of Pakistan's captain Babar Azam during the 2023 ICC Men's

Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between Australia

and Pakistan at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Friday.

Batting first, Australia posted 367 runs the 33-year-old started hitting boundon the scoreboard, recording the biggest

total against Pakistan in the World Cup. Warner and Marsh formed a 259-run stand and created history as that was Australia's highest-ever opening stand in World Cup cricket. It was also the Hazlewood.

first time Pakistan conceded more than a 200-run partnership in World Cup

The opening stand was also Australia's second-highest for any wicket ever and the second-highest by any team ever.

Marsh scored 121 runs before Afridi dismissed him while Warner posted 163 on the scoreboard — the highest individual score against Pakistan in World Cup cricket, beating Andrew Symonds' 143 in 2003.

Shaheen Afridi was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan as the 23-year-old bagged five wickets, his second World

Playing XI

Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Imamul-Haq, Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Haris

Australia: David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Steven Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins (capt), Adam Zampa, Josh

Milan face Juve amid betting scandal

Adam Zampa provided the Aussies

the much-needed breakthrough and

removed Iftikhar and Mohammad

Rizwan in back-to-back overs.

Serie A leaders defend two-point lead as closest challengers Inter take on Torino

MILAN: AC Milan will defend their two-point Serie A lead on Sunday night when they face Juventus, a huge match which threatens to be overshadowed by a gambling scandal rocking Italian football.

Battere \bar{d} by reports that former midfield star Sandro Tonali gambled on Milan matches while still playing for the team he supported as a boy, the seven-time European champions will try to hold off local rivals and closest challengers Inter Milan who take on Torino on Saturday.

Juventus are four points behind Milan in third but have again been engulfed in controversy as Nicolo Fagioli became the first player to be punished for illicit gambling, just weeks after Paul Pogba was suspended for doping violations.

The 22-year-old was suspended for seven months on Tuesday after admitting to betting on football matches as a criminal investigation into illegal gambling platforms and organised crime bleeds

certain to be slapped with a lengthy worldwide ban, while disgraced paparazzo Fabrizio Corona, who has spent time in jail for extortion, has been threat- Football Federation (FIGC) Gabriele ened with legal action after also accusing Roma attacker Stephen El Shaarawy and



on matches.

"He has never gambled and has no interest in doing so," said El Shaarawy's legal team, adding that the accusations were "totally unfounded and slanderous".

The affair hangs over this weekend's action with Corona and mainstream outlets publishing a raft of rumours and Tonali, now at Newcastle United, apparent leaks from the public prosecutors office in Turin which is leading the criminal probe.

On Thursday the head of the Italian Gravina said "we will never abandon these young men", who have admitted Lazio defender Nicolo Casale of betting gambling addictions.

"I have the duty... to defend the dignity of young Italians who have become cannon fodder," said Gravina, who has also brushed off calls to step down by Italy's ruling right-wing government

Milan coach Stefano Pioli has a clutch of starting players unavailable either Simeone will likely be tasked with leadthrough injury or suspension and will ing the line for Napoli. have to nick his third-choice goalkeener

suspended for his red card at the end of last season, scoring four times in seven the frantic 1-0 win at Genoa before the matches while his star teammate recov

Marco Sportiello succumbed to a calf injury which will likely keep him out of action for at least a month.

Also suspended is left-back Theo Hernandez while injured Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Rade Krunic will continue their absences in midfield.

However Pioli will be to count on Olivier Giroud, who will return to his usual position of centre-forward after excelling between the sticks at Genoa following Maignan's send-

Ailing Napoli kick off the weekend's action at Verona in the midst of an early-season crisis which has wiped the sheen from last season's historic title triumph.

Seven points behind Milan in fifth and soundly beaten by Fiorentina last time out, Napoli are without star striker Victor Osimhen who picked up a hamstring injury on international duty and midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo

With Osimhen out for around a month

The Argentine striker has always been Antonio Mirante for a big test of Milan's a willing contributor from the bench and was extremely effective when Osimhen France 'keeper Mike Maignan is was out of action at around the same time international break, and on Thursday ered from a hamstring problem. AFP

Djokovic to open 2024 at United Cup

World number one to spearhead Serbia in mixed teams' event; no Nadal with Spain

SYDNEY: World number one Novak Djokovic will open his 2024 season at the mixed teams United Cup in Australia, but injury-plagued Rafael Nadal was not on the Spain team announced Friday.

Djokovic will spearhead Serbia at the tournament from December 29-January 7 in Sydney and Perth as he builds towards the defence of his Australian

Nadal was part of the Spain team in 2023 before injuring his hip at the opening Grand Slam of the year. He has been out of action since and underwent surgery in June.

Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley said this month Nadal planned to make his return to Grand Slam tennis at the Australian Open, which follows the Unit-

Nadal responded on social media by thanking Tiley for his "confidence", without confirming if he would appear.



Adelaide and Auckland in early Janu- for the Australian Open.

There are ATP events in Brisbane, any that Nadal could also use to prepare

Nine of the world's top 20 men and five of the top 10 women will feature at the United Cup, with defending champions the United States among the favourites, led by Jessica Pegula and Taylor Fritz.

Poland, spearheaded by world number two and four-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek, were named top seeds for the 18-nation event.

Other big names to sign on include Stefanos Tsitsipas, Casper Ruud, Alexander Zverev, Maria Sakkari, and Caro-

They are all set to play in a format designed to showcase both the men's and women's game and the unique equality in tennis," said tournament director Stephen Farrow.

Countries will be drawn into six groups of three and compete in a round-robin format. Each tie will feature one men's and women's match as well as a mixed doubles clash. AFP

Shaheen Afridi equals multiple records with fifer against Australia



LAHORE: Australia's David Warner and Mitchell Marsh put on a masterclass in power-hitting against Pakistan as the fivetime champions posted a daunting total of 367-9 in their World Cup group game on Friday.

Amidst the carnage by Australian batters, Shaheen Afridi emerged as the standout performer among the Pakistan bowlers, securing five wickets and concluding with impressive figures of 5-54. This outstanding feat has propelled him to equal the record for the most wickets by a fast bowler after 48 ODIs. Shaheen Afridi's tally of 95 wickets in 48 ODIs matches that of Mitchell Starc, who also achieved the same milestone in the same number of matches.

Furthermore, Shaheen Afridi has etched his name alongside cricket legend Shahid Afridi by equaling the record for the most fifers for Pakistan in World Cups. Following his stellar fifer against Australia in Bengaluru on Friday, Shaheen Afridi now boasts two fifers in World Cups, mirroring Shahid Afridi's own achievement of two fifers in the prestigious tournament.

However, amidst these individual achievements, Pakistan found themselves on the wrong side of some unwanted records. David Warner and Mitchell Marsh forged a remarkable partnership, amassing 259 runs for the first wicket, marking Australia's highest-ever opening stand in World Cup cricket. This also marked the first occasion where Pakistan conceded more than a 200-run partnership in World Cup cricket. Agencies

Syed Fakhar Ali welcomes IOC decision to include baseball in 2028 Olympic Games

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, President of the Pakistan Baseball Federation and Vice President of the Asian Baseball Federation, has warmly welcomed the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to include baseball in the 2028 Olympic Games.



The Pakistan Baseball team was unable to participate in the recent Asian Games held in Huangzhou, China, which resulted in them losing their fifth position in Asia. This absence allowed the Philippines to accumulate 129 points. To regain their standing, Pakistan now needs to secure victory in 55 international matches. It's worth mentioning that each match victory earns them 2 points, but various championships offer higher points, including the Olympics Games, Asian Games, Asian Championship, West Asia Cup, and South Asian Games.

Syed Fakhar Ali Shah also emphasized that Pakistan Baseball faces the challenge of participating in international competitions due to limited funds. He underscored the importance of improving their position to secure continued support. Shah appealed to both the government and private companies to provide their support, believing that with their backing, Pakistan can aim for medals in future competitions.

Zone-IV Whites moved into semifinal of A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Solution Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Due to Brilliant unbeaten Century 108 by Rana Areeb Aftab and Mukaram Ali 13 not out added 50 runs for the last wicket Partnership and deadly bowling by Asad Ahmed captured 6 wickets for only 14 runs Zone-IV Whites moved into Semi Final from Group "D" of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tour-



nament after beating Zone-V Whites by one Wicket at Landhi Gymkhana Ground

In the another match played at KCCA Stadium Zone-II Blues upset Zone-III Whites beating by 5 runs due to fine bowling by Abdul Hayye 5 for 27 runs. Scores in brief:

Zone-IV Whites beat Zone-V Whites by One Wicket at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-V Whites 179 all out in 33.3 overs. Abdullah 94 6x4, Muhammad Akbar 28, Najab Ali 19. Asad Ahmed. 6/14. Zone-IV Whites 181/9 in 45 overs. Rana Areeb Aftab 108 9x4

4x6 not out, Asad Ahmed 16, Mukaram Ali 13 not out. Rizwan ullah (mf) 3/38, Najab Ali 2/20. In a another Match Zone-III Blues beat Zone-III Whites by 5

runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-II Blues 100 all out in 30.1 overs. Muhammad Hasnain 26. Sahil Raj Kumar (rls) 4/25, Zayyan Saeed Khan (rmf) 3/14, Asadullah Khan 2/15.

Zone-III Whites 95 all out in 39.4 overs. Syed Malik E Ashtar 29. Abdul Hayye (rlb) 5/27.

Don't go after world rankings: Watson

Two-time Masters champion says majors finding path for LIV golfers is 'common sense'

MIAMI: Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson said Thursday that major tournaments making a path for more LIV Golf competitors despite fading world ranking points is "common sense" and "coming

The 44-year-old American spoke ahead of Friday's start of the LIV Golf League Team Cham-

pionship at Doral. Watson was concerned about last week's decision by the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) board to deny ranking points for the 54-hole events of the Saudibacked LIV Golf League, whose

Major championship representatives were among the OWGR decision makers, but Watson says he expects the majors will find another way to include top LIV talent to ensure elite fields at their events.

"I think (a resolution) will be coming soon. Again, I have no idea. Nobody has called me and asked me, but it's common sense," Watson said.

"Writing is on the wall that something is going to change in the near future."

LIV Golf has only American Brooks Koepka, a five-time players are banned from PGA major winner who captured this Tour events that offer OWGR year's PGA Championship, and

Australian Cameron Smith, the a different event." 2022 British Open champion, among the world rankings top 50, a cutoff point for many major entry methods.

"We shouldn't go after world ranking points," Watson said. "We should go after top 10, top 15, on our points list on LIV should get into majors. Makes it easy. These guys are so good. The top 10 this year could play against anybody.

"The PGA Tour has more people so they will have a bigger chunk of their money list in the majors. We're a smaller group, so we have a smaller chunk. And that's how it should be instead of putting rankings on people. You can't rank somebody that plays in

Dustin Johnson, a past US Open and Masters winner, says he thinks major leaders are working on a system to ensure top LIV talent in majors.

"I would imagine that all the majors are talking, that there's something they're trying to work out to figure out how it is to get the best players playing in their tournament," Johnson said.

Among those who have plunged in the rankings despite quality LIV results include American Talor Gooch, who won three LIV events and this year's season points title, and Chile's Joaquin

"I don't have the world rank-



ing right now, but I know I have majors right now, trying to figure the game to be competing on the out what I could do to get into the majors and be winning majors," majors. Hopefully there's some Niemann said. way that we can get into those "It has been kind of hard not

having the option of being in the Niemann, who plans to go

British Opens, said he knew he was risking major appearances when he jumped to LIV. "It has been a little bit frustrating the last couple months know-

through qualifying for US and

ing that I'm going to be outside the top 50 and not going to be able to get into the majors," he said.

"Obviously it was something I considered, but then I knew the vision that LIV had in helping the game grow. And I thought like the majors, they should do something.

"There's a lot of those guys right here that are not able to play in the majors right now... Hopefully they find a way to have the best players in the world in majors." AFP