

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
پی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی خدمت میں اگر کوئی شخص صدمہ لاتا تو نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم فرماتے کہ اللہ! فلاں کی آل اولاد پر لقمہ چھیننا نازل فرما۔ میرے والد صدق لائے تو نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ! ابی اوی کی آل اولاد پر چھین نازل فرما۔  
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6332)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Pakistan has world's most sensitive polio surveillance system: Minister

The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported that a 24-month-old child has been diagnosed with polio in Karachi district, Sindh. This is the fourth polio case reported in Pakistan this year. The government has assured that emergency measures are being taken to eradicate polio. (Details on Page 3)

DAYS REMAINING

9

**Only 9 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan**  
Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 9 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Reception

LAHORE: Former Prime Ministers Mian Nawaz Sharif addressing during the public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan in Provincial Capital on Saturday.



Photo: Online

## After 4 years exile

# Nawaz returns home promises no 'politics of revenge'

PML-N supremo earlier landed in Islamabad for a brief 'stopover', ending his four-year self-imposed exile in London

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, Nawaz Sharif, made a return to Lahore's iconic Minar-e-Pakistan monument on Saturday, ending his four-year self-imposed exile in London.

In a demonstration of their political prowess and to celebrate the return of their leader, the PML-N orchestrated a massive rally at Minar-e-Pakistan ground. Party members from across the country congregated at the site, bringing with them contingents of enthusiastic supporters from their respective constituencies.

Addressing the homecoming rally, Sharif made it unequivocally clear that he had no intention of pursuing a politics of revenge.

In his opening remarks, Sharif began with a poignant Urdu couplet, "KAHAN SE CHED-UN FASANA KAHAN TAMAM KARU," symbolising his resilience despite enduring political suppression, exile, and imprison-

ment. He went on to highlight his achievements during his previous terms as prime minister, notably in eradicating power outages and reducing electricity tariffs.

While expressing his desire for reconciliation, Sharif revealed that he still carried the weight of lingering sorrows, reminiscing about his late mother and wife. He fondly recalled how his return to Pakistan was always a joyous occasion, marked by the warm welcome of his late wife, Begum Kulsoom Nawaz.

However, Sharif couldn't help but lament the restrictions he faced during his imprisonment in Adiala Jail, especially the inability to make a phone call when his ailing wife was in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in London.

The former prime minister emphasized his commitment to a principled and dignified politics that refrained from making derogatory statements. However, he inadvertently mentioned the name of his political adversary, Imran Khan, while comparing

their respective tenures. Sharif also highlighted his unwavering stance on crucial national matters, notably his refusal to forego conducting nuclear tests despite external pressures. He pointed out that during his tenure, bread and petrol were affordable, priced at Rs4 and Rs60, respectively. He drew attention to the exchange rate of the US dollar, which surged beyond Rs250 in 2022, leading to a sharp increase in inflation.

Contrary to earlier reports suggesting that Sharif's address would primarily focus on economic performance and avoid criticism of those involved in his removal, the former prime minister couldn't resist touching on the Panama verdict. He argued that this verdict had hindered Pakistan's progress and development.

Sharif underlined the instrumental role of his PML-N government in potentially securing Pakistan's inclusion among the G-20 economies, stressing

their commitment to serving the people and maintaining affordable prices for essential goods. He also reminded the crowd of the extensive motorway construction projects across Pakistan.

Drawing attention to staggering electricity bills in August 2022, Sharif expressed regret over the exorbitant rates imposed on the people. He highlighted a specific case in which a consumer received a bill of Rs1,317 in May 2016, but the same individual faced a bill of Rs15,687 in August 2022 interestingly during the PDM government led by his brother Shehbaz Sharif.

In a touching moment, Sharif recited two couplets by Iftikhar Arif and Mirza Ghulam, conveying the profound emotions he had endured for the nation. These couplets captured the essence of his commitment and sacrifice for Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif, while calling himself a "son of the soil," expressed his deep sorrow over the unfair treatment he had

received despite his significant contributions to Pakistan. While highlighting the mistreatment he had endured, he reiterated his commitment to a politics free from revenge.

Sharif also noted that, out of the last 23 years, he had only spent seven in Pakistan, enduring periods of exile and imprisonment for the remainder. He expressed the belief that if he had been able to serve continuously during those years, Pakistan might have prospered.

Sharif emphasized the importance of cooperation with neighbouring countries in Pakistan's foreign relations, as opposed to confrontations.

He made a powerful statement by waving the flag of Palestine in solidarity with the Palestinian people, demanding an end to hostilities and aggression.

Sharif stressed the significance of all state institutions adhering to the Constitution, as it serves as a cornerstone for Pakistan's sustainability.

## PM Kakar, President Abbas discuss situation in Palestine

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar telephoned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday, to discuss the latest situation resulting from the ongoing brutalities of Israeli occupation forces against innocent Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's strong condemnation of the incessant and lethal bombardment by Israeli occupation forces, particularly the bombing of Al-Ahli hospital. He termed these as deplorable and wilful acts of Israeli aggression against innocent Palestinians that resulted in loss of more than 3000 precious lives and left over 12000 injured.

Both leaders emphasized the need for the international community to urge Israel to immediately halt the blood-

shed. They also agreed on the necessity of lifting the blockade on Gaza to facilitate delivery of vital humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected people. Pakistan has also dispatched its first batch of humanitarian assistance for Palestinian people that landed in Egypt yesterday.

The Prime Minister stressed that the international community, particularly the United Nations, needed to take resolute measures to resolve this crisis and uphold established principles of justice, humanity and international law.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian conflict, based on the "two-state" solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign and viable Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the borders that existed prior to 1967.

## Pakistan, China to boost coop in mainstream media



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have decided to strengthen cooperation between their mainstream media.

This came at a meeting between Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and a Chinese media delegation led by China's Political Counsellor Miss Bao Zhong.

It was decided to highlight China Pakistan Economic Corridor related projects through PTV, Radio Pakistan and APP.

It was agreed to further strengthen practical cooperation in joint reporting and exchange of media delegations.

In his remarks, the Information Minister said Pakistan values Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road initiative.

He said BRI is a manifestation of bringing peace and prosperity through economic development.

Murtaza Solangi stressed the important role of media in creating public awareness about the centrality of CPEC and ironclad friendship between the two countries.

The Information Minister said Pakistan will strengthen ties and cooperation in various fields with China in the new phase of high-quality development of CPEC.

He expressed Pakistan's desire to benefit from Chinese development experience. He said we will benefit from China's successes in diverse fields including poverty alleviation, research and development, information technology and media.

## UN agencies welcome aid convoys' entry into besieged Gaza

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator Martin Griffiths welcomed the entry of an aid convoy into Gaza on Saturday, the first since the start of deadly Israeli bombing of the ravaged enclave two weeks ago.

The 20-truck convoy that passed through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt carried life-saving supplies provided by the Egyptian Red Crescent and the UN, including enough water for 22,000 people—but only for one day.

The items were approved to cross and be received by the Palestinian Red Crescent, with UN support.

## War crimes enough evidence to impose sanctions on Israel: experts

LAHORE: Lawmakers and human rights (HR) activists told the international community on Friday that damning war crimes were enough evidence to impose economic and defence sanctions on Israel for unleashing the reign of terror against innocent Palestinians.

Talking to APP, Special Assistant on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that war crimes and genocide were taking place in the Palestinian territory, regretting that nobody was punishing Israel for its crimes. She said the perpetrators of the Gaza Strip, and contributing urgently to the entry of relief and humanitarian aid for civilians.

Former lawmaker, senator Sehar Kamran strongly condemned the Israeli indiscriminate attacks, oppression and killings of innocent civilians, adding Israeli bombing on hospitals and civilian population is enough evidence to impose war crimes on Israel. She urged the international

community to take strict defence action against Israeli barbarism and demanded economic and defence sanctions on Israel. Kamran strongly condemned horrific crimes committed by the Israeli military against the Palestinians, adding genocide of Palestinians by Israeli forces is intolerable for the whole Muslim world.

Israel and its military forces, the occupying power, bears full responsibility for the fate of civilians in the Gaza Strip, while the real tragedy they are subjected to under bombardment, siege, and starvation, without electricity, food, or clean water, are being forced to abandon their homes, she underscored.

She denounced Israel for its policy of indiscriminate collective punishment that it applies in a flagrant violation of both international law and international humanitarian law, as well as its legal responsibilities as an occupying power, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

## Voluntarily repat of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan continues

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The voluntary repatriation of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan is continuing on daily basis.

According to details, 4423 Afghans returned to their country on Friday.

A total of 56,179 Afghan refugees have so far been repatriated. This will have a positive impact on the region.

The illegal Afghans living in Pakistan have been given a deadline of 31st October by the government to leave the country and now ten days are left for expiry of this deadline.

## Gohar conducts successful meetings with Chinese Business Leaders



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ijaz concluded a series of highly productive meetings with China's prominent business leaders and investment groups on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. These meetings were aimed at strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and China and exploring various investment opportunities in Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz met with Wang Zihai, Director of China-Pakistan (Qingdao) International Cooperation Hub. Dr Gohar conducts successful meetings with Chinese Business Leaders. The discussions centred on investment opportunities in Pakistan, including areas such as Civilian and Defense equipment, EV Lithium Batteries, Solar Panels, and Semiconductors. The role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating these opportunities was a key point of conversation.



## End of 4-year exile

ISLAMABAD: A view of the plane private airline landed at Islamabad International Airport as three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived back in Pakistan on October 21 after four years of exile, primed to make a political comeback ahead of elections.



Photo: Online

# PTI criticizes grant of protective bail to convicted Nawaz

*PTI says all state resources, machineries being mobilized to make Minar-e-Pakistan's jalsa a success*

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee said that the grant of protective bail by the Accountability Court and the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to the convicted criminal and fugitive PML-N supremo in a light-speed in total disregard of the law and constitution raised serious questions about the independence of the judiciary of the country.

PTI core committee said that at present, Pakistan reduced to a state deprived of the constitution and a victim of the worst political engineering by the state elements.

They said that it was evident from the ongoing shameful state facilitation to the national criminal to pay way to bring him to the throne by trampling the justice system and all laws of the land.

The forum pointed out that the fugitive PML-N supremo,

who was being brought to the country under the notorious London Plan in sheer violation of laws, had been convicted in serious graft cases from the trial court to the Supreme Court.

PTI Core Committee said that on one hand, the country's laws and justice system was compromised for the national criminal, while on the other, the courts have been put on political trials to target the "sadiq and ameen" (truthful and honest) leader of the nation for political revenge.

They pointed out that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was being deprived of freedom and the right to represent the nation by implicating him in a factitious and fabricated case of CIPHER after the baseless Toshakhana case.

PTI Core Committee contended that the chief justice, who had been delaying decisions of dozens of cases against PTI Chairman, provided judicial shelter to the certi-

fied national criminal within one and a half hour.

The forum stated that the judiciary, which abolished the biometrics requirement for the national criminal to be tried in the High Court, was depriving PTI Chairman of a fair trial in an absurd case like CIPHER by conducting trial of his case behind the bars.

The participants of the meeting highlighted that the neutral status of the judiciary like all other state institutions has practically been destroyed during the last 18 months in general, while in the last 6 months in particular.

PTI Core Committee continued that the justice has become a combination of long proceedings, unnecessary delays, biased judges, predetermined decisions and deprivation of fundamental legal rights in the case of PTI, especially PTI Chairman.

They lamented that the role of the judiciary with regard to the restoration of the constitu-

tion and the protection of the people's democratic right to vote has badly shattered the confidence of the nation.

The forum said that 24 million Pakistanis were deprived of all basic rights, including the constitution, law, justice, democracy and the right to vote, in order to implement the compromises made in closed rooms with a criminal who escaped from prison on the pretext of illness.

They stated that all the state and government resources and machineries were mobilized under the state patronage to welcome the public rejected criminal.

The forum pointed out that the Minar-e-Pakistan's public meeting today (Saturday) was not actually organized by the PML-N but by the government of Pakistan and its subsidiaries.

PTI core committee contended that the vehicles were being seized from across the country, whereas the entire state

machinery, including the police and district administration, had been entrusted with the task to make the public gathering of this national criminal a success.

They underlined that these people actually considered the people as slaves, but the fact was that even if these guardians of this convicted person were hanged upside down, they could not make this corrupt and certified criminal acceptable for the people.

PTI Core Committee meeting strongly negated the impression of any kind of division or discard within the party, adding that the forum was advancing organizational decision-making with complete unity, harmony and consensus in the light of PTI Chairman's leadership and directives.

They made it clear that the elements who wanted to see division and discard within PTI at any level would remain disappointed and ashamed as always.

## Aun Ch.'s brief meet with Nawaz draws Istehkam Party's ire

*'Nothing to do with the meeting,' says Jahangir Tareen-led party*

LAHORE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) has decided to issue a show-cause notice to their Additional Secretary General Aun Chaudhry over his meeting with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif.

"IPP has nothing to do with Chaudhry's meeting with Nawaz Sharif", the party said, while distancing itself from the meeting that took place at the Lahore airport.

Geo News obtained a video that showed the IPP office bearer meeting the former prime minister and former finance minister Ishaq Dar at the Allama Iqbal International Airport shortly before Nawaz's departure to Minar-e-Pakistan.

The party has also sought a written response from Chaudhry if he met the PML-N elder "in a personal capacity".

Chaudhry — a former aide of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan — had thrown his weight behind Jahangir Khan Tareen and resigned as special adviser to the Punjab chief minister in August 2021 after he was asked to clarify his position on whether he stands with Tareen or the party in the wake of the differences between Imran and Tareen in connection with a high-profile sugar

scam.

Meanwhile, commenting on Nawaz's return, IPP spokesperson Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the country is being unnecessarily involved in the May 9 and May 28 debates.

"Surrendering oneself before the court is the first step towards improvement," Awan said while commenting on the PML-N supremo's existing legal woes.

Three-time former prime minister Nawaz returned to Pakistan today after a four-year-long self-imposed exile in London, in a grand welcome by his party at Lahore's Minar-e-Pakistan.

The former prime minister briefly landed in Islamabad, where he signed and filed appeals against the convictions he was jailed for before he left the country in 2019. After a few hours' stay, Nawaz flew to Lahore to kick-start his party's campaign for next year's election in a rally of thousands of his supporters.

Addressing a massive crowd, the PML-N supremo said that he had no intention of taking revenge on his political opponents and at the same time asked all constitutional institutions to join hands for the country's development. Agencies

## LHC orders strict action against smoke-emitting vehicles

LAHORE: In order to curb the rising smog levels, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday ordered the authorities concerned to take strict action against smoke-emitting vehicles.

The court also gave conditional approval for continuing construction work on the Babu Sabu interchange project. Justice Shahid Karim issued the orders while hearing different petitions seeking the court order to check rising smog.

PM2.5 concentration in Lahore is currently 26.2 times the WHO annual air quality guideline value, according to IQAir.

Smog is a type of air pollution that is a mixture of smoke and fog. It is usually caused by the release of pollutants such as vehicle emissions, industrial fumes, and smoke from burning fossil fuels. Brick kilns are known to be a leading cause of air pollution in the northeastern part of Punjab.

At the outset of today's hearing,

Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa apprised the court that a warning had been issued to factories in Kasur and assured that surprise visits would be made to implement the court's orders.

He submitted that efforts were being made to raise awareness among the people for the plantation. The commissioner further submitted that a ban had been imposed on digging roads and places without prior approval.

However, the court noted that it imposes a fine but environmental officials reduce the fine after manipulation. The court observed that first a fine should be imposed on smoke-emitting industries, if they did not comply then demolish them.

The court also came down heavily on the city's deputy commissioner over inaction and observed that deputy commissioners and police station officials (SHOs) should come out in the field. Agencies

## Canadian PM says India's actions causing hardship for millions

*Trudeau said the expulsion of some of Canada's diplomats will hamper travel and trade*

OTTAWA: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday the Indian government's crackdown on Canadian diplomats was making normal life difficult for millions of people in both countries.

Trudeau spoke a day after Canada said it had withdrawn 41 diplomats following an Indian threat to unilaterally revoke their status.

New Delhi is angry that Trudeau last month suggested Indian agents might have been involved in the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader in

Canada. India denies the allegation.

"The Indian government is making it unbelievably difficult for life as usual to continue for millions of people in India and in Canada. And they're doing it by contravening a very basic principle of diplomacy," Trudeau said.

"It's something that has me very concerned for the wellbeing and happiness of millions of Canadians who trace their origins to the Indian subcontinent," he told reporters at a televised press conference in



Brampton, Ontario.

Trudeau said the expulsion of some of Canada's diplomats will hamper travel and trade and pose difficulties for Indians studying in Canada.

Read more: The cold war between India and Canada

Around two million Canadians, 5% of the overall population, have Indian heritage. India is by far Canada's largest source of global students, making up for roughly 40% of study permit holders.

The Indian foreign ministry earlier rejected the idea it had 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 in a statement. Canada now has 21 diplomats remaining in India.

The U.S State Department on Friday backed Canada in the dispute over diplomats.

"We have urged the Indian government not to insist upon a reduction in Canada's diplomatic presence and to cooperate in the ongoing Canadian investigation," said spokesperson Matthew Miller. Reuters

## China, Central Asia gear up for upgraded cooperation riding on BRI boons: Experts

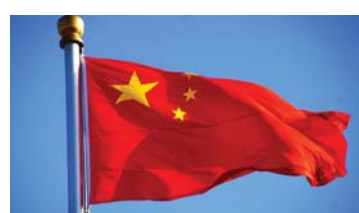
BELJING: China and the five Central Asian countries are expected to yield more upgraded economic cooperation projects marked by a green, digital economy in the next ten years, experts said, following the tangible results that have been delivered from opportunities released by the just-concluded third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), which marked the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and ushered in what Chinese President Xi Jinping called another "golden decade" of BRI cooperation.

The comment came after an official announcement by the Foreign Ministry that Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Member States in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and pay an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic from October 24 to 27, at the invitation of Prime Minister Akybek Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Zhou Rong, a senior research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Saturday that Li's visit could well reflect the vital importance that China attached to its friendly neighbour. "It is believed that Li will well implement the consensus previously reached and offer China's efforts conducive to maintaining the region's stability, security and prosperity," Zhou said.

The economic cooperation between China and the five Central Asian countries have been on a rapid upgrading track over recent years, shifting from



traditional areas such as infrastructure, transport and energy toward green and digital economy and other newly-emerging industries.

China and the five Central Asian countries launched an action plan for green technology development on Wednesday to promote cooperation on green technology in ecology, agriculture and biodiversity, in a bid to address the region's massive challenges such as climate

change, ecological degradation and environmental crises. It was kicked off during a high-level forum on green development held simultaneously with the third BRF in Beijing.

"A continuously upgrading cooperation model is being forged riding on the boons of BRI, and more small yet beautiful projects are expected to land in Central Asia in the next decade under the initiative," Zhou added.

Traditional trade is also burgeoning between China and Central Asia. Last year, China's imports of agricultural, energy and mineral products from the five Central Asian countries jumped over 50 per cent from a year earlier, while exports of mechanical and electronic products to them increased by 42 per cent. APP



# USAID Team visited WUM for supporting women's education

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: A meeting with USAID team was held at Women University Multan. Vice-Chancellor's Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, welcomed the team.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Mamoona Khan, Registrar, Dr. Kanwal Rehman, Director ORIC, WUM, and Ms. Sundas, AR Scholarship Branch. The principal participants included Mr. Shiraz Ashraf, a Senior Field Advisor from USAID, Dr. Shaheryar Naveed, Director Center for Learning Excellence from Fatima Jinnah Women University, Islamabad, and Mr. Mazhar Iqbal, National Project Coordinator Research from NSRP.

The central theme of the meeting was to explore innovative approaches that move beyond traditional academic presentations, focusing on practical solutions and impactful projects that can be showcased at the upcoming Consortium Conference in 2024.



The participants, including the mentioned individuals, emphasized core areas of focus, including improving women's access to economic opportunities, enhancing girls' access to education, bolstering maternal and child health, combating gender-based violence, and increasing women's political and civic participation in Pakistan. Collaborative efforts and research were underscored as crucial mechanisms for achieving these goals, with the support of organizations like USAID and NSRP. WUM and its partner institutions, particularly FJWU, are committed to developing and implementing initiatives that advance gender equality and female empowerment, making the Consortium Conference 2024 a catalyst for meaningful change.

## Progressive group congrats PAPGAI newly elected office-bearers

**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: Progressive Group has congratulated Saad Haleem Khan and Abdul Wadood Alvi on being elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Pakistan Association of Printing and Graphic Arts Industry (PAPGAI).

PAPGAI members have elected both Saad and Alvi for the second time to lead their industry which shows the amount of trust they have in their leadership.

Progressive Group's President Khalid Usman, Deputy Secretary Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, Haji Riaz ul Hassan, Ch Wajid Ali, Tauqeer Malik and others in a joint statement on Saturday hoped that both the gentlemen would leave no stone unturned to work for the economic prosperity of the country and solution to the problems faced by the printing and graphic arts industry in particular.

Progressive Group also assured its full support to the newly elected leadership of PAPGAI their support and to be their voice on all platforms in its struggle to make the printing and graphic arts industry of the country a success.

## Caretaker CM visits construction site of Multan Shujaabad Road Flyover

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the construction site of Multan Shujaabad Road Flyover, ordered to complete the project ahead of schedule.

Shaking hands with the contractor and staff, briefing, instructions of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi to ensure high construction quality of the project.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the construction site of Multan Shujaabad Road Flyover and ordered the completion of Shujaabad Road Flyover ahead of schedule. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi shook hands with the contractor and the staff.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi was briefed about Shujaabad Road Flyover Project. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered to ensure high quality of Shujaabad Road Flyover Project. And directed to identify the alternative route. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Commissioner, RPO, DC, CTO and other officials were also present.

## 20th Health Asia promotes healthcare facilities in Pakistan

KARACHI: The 20th edition of Health Asia concluded in the Expo Center Karachi, which attracted thousands of medical professionals, health experts, and paramedic staff in different fields of the healthcare industry.

On the concluding day, various seminars were held on the topics of radiology, cardiac surgery, good lab practices, gynecology, etc.

Speakers at different seminars urged healthcare professionals to adopt technology and the emerging trend in healthcare practices to provide quality treatment to patients.

They urged that healthcare experts, doctors, and paramedic staff foster teamwork and collaboration to ensure better care and treatment at their respective healthcare units.

The exhibition and seminars were attended by various dignitaries and people from various walks of life.

Renowned hospitals, diagnostic labs, producers of surgical items and media devices, medical equipment providers, and manufacturers set up nearly 500 installations at the 20th Health Asia Exhibition.

Farhan Anis, Vice President of Ecommerce Gateway, said that the public at large cares about their health with a serious approach in the post-COVID-19 era, which is a good omen for the nation's well-being and living standards.

He added that Health Asia is a unique platform that provides a great opportunity for all stakeholders to develop a roadmap towards a better healthcare sector in the country.

## Kaira welcomes Nawaz, suggests holding elections

ISLAMABAD: A senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Qamar Zaman Kaira on Saturday welcomed the arrival of Ex-Prime Minister and Chief of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz in the country.

Talking to a private television channel, he said there is a need to hold general elections across the country to resolve people's issues.

Free and fair elections are the solution to all problems, he added.

In reply to a question about PML-N's politics, he said burying old politics by senior leader of PML-N, was a good omen. Agencies

## FIR lodged in man's torture, humiliation case

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad police have booked men in an FIR for allegedly subjecting a man to torture and humiliation.

The police spokesman informed here on Saturday that the FIR was lodged at Phuleli Police station on complaint of Erum Qureshi, sister of the alleged victim Zubair Qureshi, on the directives of SSP Hyderabad Amjad Ahmed Shaikh.

He added that the FIR contained the sections 147, 149, 343, 355 and 504 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) under the crime number 138/2023.

Qureshi alleged that her brother, who was a tailor by profession, was kept hostage for 3 days during which he was constantly beaten and humiliated. The accused even shaved his hairs and mustaches besides blackening his face. The alleged torture was also recorded in a video which was shared on social media.

The spokesman said the SSP had directed the police to arrest the accused persons. The police are investigating the case and have launched a search for the accused. Agencies

## Swat Police plays important role for maintaining peace in region: IG KPK

SWAT: The Inspector General of Police for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, said on Saturday that Swat police had an important role in maintaining peace in the region.

He was addressing to the elders of Chuprial in Tehsil Matta during his visit to the Swat Valley.

He emphasized that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police force's sacrifices are well-known and we continue to honor the memory of our fallen heroes.

During the visit, Regional Police Officer Muhammad Ali Khan and District Police Officer Swat Shafiqullah Khan Gandapur received a warm welcome at the Chuprial police station.

The IGP highlighted the peaceful and cooperative nature of the people of Swat, who actively support the police in maintaining stability in the region.

## Support for Gaza

KARACHI: Supporters of Palestine Foundation take part in a rally against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Efforts underway to enhance tax culture for boosting economic of country: Qadir

QUETTA: Chairman of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Resources, Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, stated on Saturday that measures are being taken to increase tax compliance and promote a tax culture in the interest of boosting the country's economy.

In a statement issued here, he mentioned that a meeting was held with the Chairman of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Chairman of the National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) to discuss the stability of the country's economy and consider important suggestions.

During this crucial meeting, practical suggestions were discussed for sharing taxpayer data and increasing the number of taxpayers. There

is an urgent need to increase revenue to manage the state's affairs and pay off debts, he emphasized.

Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir emphasized the importance of coordination between the two institutions to ensure effective revenue collection. Immediate and effective steps need to be taken to expand the tax base and maintain transparency.

He further noted that NADRA and the Federal Board of Revenue would exchange data related to tax matters. This mutual cooperation will enhance tax collection efficiency and contribute to transparency.

Increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio was considered a significant goal, and the Chairmen

of FBR and NADRA agreed to remove obstacles hindering the growth of the taxpayer base. All proposed recommendations were thoroughly examined, and the Chairman of FBR reiterated the commitment to enhancing tax compliance and promoting a tax culture.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee added that the Chairman of NADRA assured the Chairman of FBR that the data requested by FBR for a substantial increase in revenue collection was in the best interest of the country and the nation.

He stressed that the country is facing severe economic pressure, and all institutions and classes must work together to successfully address this economic crisis. APP

## Siraj emphasises youth's role in shaping country's future

KHANEWAL: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq underscored on Saturday the role of youth in shaping the future of the country.

Speaking at a rally in Khanewal, Haq lamented the prevailing system, noting that it disadvantages the poor and primarily benefits mafias and thieves.

He emphasised his party's desire to challenge the dominance of oppressive feudal lords and create space for the common people within the democratic process. Haq stressed the need for the ordinary citizens to be represented in legislative bodies.

Highlighting the significance of the country's youth, Haq expressed that the nation is blessed with a vibrant and dynamic younger generation.

He questioned why the country remains reliant on financial assistance from institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

JI senior leader Hafiz Naeemur Rehman announced a rally in solidarity with Palestinians in Karachi on October 15 (Sunday).

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Naeem schooled the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), saying, "The OIC remains silent on the issue after passing a single condemnation resolution."

He urged the country's government to send the army to help the Palestinians in these difficult times.

# PMA Kakul hosts impressive passing out parade

**Our Correspondent**

ABBOTABAD: The passing out parade of cadets of 148th PMA Long Course, 67th Integrated Course, 35th Technical Graduate Course and 22nd Lady Cadet Course was held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul on Saturday.

Cadets from Iraq, Maldives, Nepal, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Yemen were also amongst the graduates. Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the chief guest on this occasion, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

PMA Kakul hosts impressive passing out parade for diverse groups of graduates. The chief guest reviewed the parade and gave awards to distinguished cadets. The coveted Sword of Honour was awarded to Academic

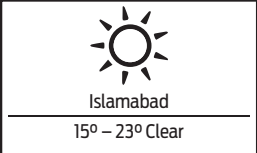


my Senior Under Officer Muhammad Abdur Rehman Awan of 148th

PMA Long Course. The President's Gold Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Muhammad Hamza Khalid of 148th PMA Long Course.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Overseas Gold Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Shreejan Baniya of 148th PMA Long Course from Nepal. Commandant's Cane were awarded to Course Under Officer Muhammad Najam Azam of 67th Integrated Course and Course Under Officer Fareeha Kainaat Arif of 22nd Lady Cadet Course. Chief of Army Staff Cane to Company Quarter Master Sergeant Frasad Toufique of 35th Technical Graduate Course. Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, Lieutenant General HLVM Liyanage also graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr    | 4:54 am  |
| Zohr    | 11:53 am |
| Asr     | 3:48 pm  |
| Maghrib | 5:28 pm  |
| Isha    | 6:51 pm  |

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad  | 9222596    |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**Workshop on National Radiation Emergency Plan concludes**

ISLAMABAD: A five-day national workshop on "National Radiation Emergency Plan (NREP) for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies" organized by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) concluded on Friday.

The workshop was inaugurated by Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inaam Haider Malik, (HI M) on October 16.

The objective of the event was to gauge and enhance national resilience and preparedness in case of a potential nuclear or radiological emergency.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the coordination between the relevant stakeholders in the area of radiation emergency preparedness and response as per the NREP.

The workshop had participation from a diverse range of professionals, including disaster management authorities, district management authorities, medical professionals, government representatives, and first responders etc.

Muhammad Rehman, Member (Executive) PNRA expressed his gratitude to the participants, experts, and organizers for their enthusiastic participation at the closing ceremony and said that the workshop represented a significant milestone in the collective efforts of national organizations to ensure effective and timely response to nuclear and radiological emergencies.

# Pakistan has world's most sensitive polio surveillance system: Minister

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported that a 24-month-old child has been diagnosed with polio in Karachi district, Sindh. This is the fourth polio case reported in Pakistan this year.

The government has assured that emergency measures are being taken to eradicate polio. Meanwhile, poliovirus has been confirmed in environmental samples from four districts of Pakistan: Karachi, Rawalpindi, Chaman, and Peshawar.

Genetic testing has revealed that the virus found in all the samples belongs to the poliovirus cluster in Afghanistan.

Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan expressed concern over the recent surge in polio cases and environmental samples testing positive for the virus.

He said that Pakistan has the world's most sensitive polio surveillance system,



as rapid confirmation of the virus in environmental samples demonstrates that the system is working efficiently.

Dr Jan warned that the presence of viruses in the environment is a threat to every child. He said that polio is incurable and only the vaccine provides lifelong

protection to children.

The minister announced that the government will organize a polio vaccination campaign in November in the areas where the virus is present. He urged parents to ensure that their children receive polio drops in every campaign.

## Fancy flower pots

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in painting the fancy flower pots at a nursery in Sector H-9, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

# 30th WALEE, COAS Open Golf Championship concludes

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The 30th WALEE COAS Open Golf Championship, held at the iconic Rawalpindi Golf Club, has concluded leaving a lasting mark on the golfing community in Pakistan. This prestigious tournament brought together 607 golfers from golf clubs across the country, showcasing their talent and dedication in various categories.

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by the presence of Lt Gen Shahid Imtiaz, HI (M), President of Rawalpindi Golf Club and Commander of the 10 Corps. His presence added to the grandeur of the event.

The WALEE 30th COAS Open Golf Championship was made possible through the efforts of the WALEE Technologies team, the main sponsor of the Chief of Army Staff Open Golf 2023 Championship.



Ahsan Tahir, CEO-WALEE Technologies, expressed his enthusiasm for supporting this remarkable event, stating, "We are proud to be part of an event that not only celebrates the spirit of competition but also promotes camaraderie and sportsmanship. Golf is a game that requires precision and focus, qualities that are integral to our mission at WALEE Technologies. Congratulations to all

the participants and winners on their remarkable achievements."

In the amateur category, the COAS Open Golf Championship was clinched by Mr. Muhammad Shuaib Khan from Gymkhana Golf Club, Lahore. His outstanding performance displayed the potential and dedication of amateur golfers across the country.

The professional category

saw intense competition, with Mr. Muhammad Shabbir from Islamabad Golf Club emerging as the winner. His skill, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the sport earned him the top spot, making him a worthy champion.

Brig Zahid Hussain, Secretary of Rawalpindi Golf Club, commended the participants and sponsors, saying, "This championship wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiastic participation of golfers from all over Pakistan and the generous support of sponsors like WALEE Technologies. It's heartening to see how golf continues to unite people and promote a sense of community."

The 30th WALEE COAS Open Golf Championship not only celebrated golfing excellence but also contributed to the local community and the promotion of this cherished sport

## Authorities seal sheesha cafes to enforce IHC's order

ISLAMABAD: In a move to ensure public safety, authorities in Islamabad have sealed several Sheesha Cafes in different areas of the city in compliance of orders from the Islamabad High Court.

The Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, said that the owners of cafes are strictly prohibited from serving sheesha to customers until the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHSR & C) clarified the rules and regulations regarding the use of sheesha in public places.

The Assistant Commissioners city took action against the sheesha cafes in different areas under their jurisdiction, sealing two in F-6 and F-7 and one in Bahria Town.

The crackdown on sheesha cafes comes after a series of incidents in recent years in which people have been badly affected by use of sheesha smoking.

The Islamabad High Court had earlier ordered the authorities to take action against sheesha cafes, citing concerns over public safety. The court had directed the NHSR & C to clarify the rules and regulations regarding the use of sheesha.

The sealing of the sheesha cafes has been welcomed by many residents of Islamabad, who have been calling for strict measures to be put in place. However, some cafe owners have expressed their concerns over the move, saying that it will hurt their businesses.

## Academic Staff Association office-bearers call on Rector IIUI

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Office-Bearers of the Academic Staff Association (ASA) of International Islamic University, led by Prof. Dr. Tariq Javed and Dr. Faiz ur Raheem, President and General Secretary ASA respectively, called on Prof. Dr. Samina Malik, Rector IIUI here at the Faisal Masjid Campus. The Rector was informed that the teaching community expected that appointments on higher positions should always be according to the Statutes of IIUI. Prof Tariq informed that rules require appointment on the position of Deans to be chosen from among the 3 senior most available faculty members. Similar seniority is required to be followed for Chairpersons too.

Any step of appointing junior faculty members and ignoring seniority and rules must be discouraged. Such actions may result in distress among the teaching community and creates a non-conducive working environment. The university is already facing several issues of decrease in admissions, and many teachers are disheartened due to delays in holding of selection boards and not getting any promotion after lengthy service. In such a situation violation of rules and appointment of juniors can further deteriorate this academic environment. The delegation also demanded that the government of Pakistan announced a 30-35% pay increase in the current budget admitting inflation and difficult economic conditions of the government servants. However, the relief has not reached the IIUI employees so far. ASA demanded immediate release of the announced salary increase to ease the lives of IIUI personnel. The delegation also raised the issue of Welfare Fund. The Rector was informed that this is a voluntary fund which has been created so that the employees can get benefit from it at time of need. However, currently the fund is managed in a way that has created a distrust and the contributors are forced to think of stopping contribution to this fund and establish an independent fund of their own as there is mismanagement and employees are not getting proper benefit since last year and a half. It is strangest that people voluntarily giving monthly contribution have no representation in decision making about its utilisation. The current committees are constituted without following the Board of Trustees guidelines. Prof Samina assured that she will take up these issues with the authorities and ensured quick solutions. She further stressed that IIUI statutes are binding rules which cannot be violated or ignored.

## AIOU extends admissions deadline for ODL programs till Nov.07

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 07, for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students.

According to the AIOU, the programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B. Com), Associate degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, B. Ed programs, BBA, postgraduate diplomas and certificate courses.

The students can apply for admission to these programs until November 7 without late fee charges whereas continuing students can enroll themselves till October 25.

Admission forms and prospectus of all the programs are available on the university website. Admission forms for the Associate Degree programs (BA, B. Com) and B. Ed program are also available at the University's Regional Offices and SWIFT Centers throughout the country.

All the necessary information is available in the prospectus. Students can visit our regional offices or call the university helpline at 051-111 112 468 for further information.

## AFT to showcase cultural diplomacy, UN unity on Nov 2

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Devcom-Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will put up a second edition of 'All Flags Together' (AFT 2023) on Thursday November 2 at the PNCA premises. Different educational institutions and organizations will be collaborating to inculcate cultural understanding for peace and showcasing the strength of cultural diplomacy, said the Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed in a statement on Saturday.

Participation of over ten thousand is expected in the daylong activities of cultural engagement of youth and citizens, said Munir Ahmed adding, the cultural showcasing helps understanding each other and closing the gaps while working in collaboration leads to unity for peace and development. We shall aim to understand each other's national heritage and the valuable work for peace and development. The AFT 2023 has provided different national and international stakeholders to come together and share their thoughts, culture and work.

Giving the details of the event, Munir Ahmed said: "The event will provide youth to interact with diplomats and the UN officials during the youth conference and interactive panel discussion with the experts on 'Building Global Peace on Human Development and Cultural Understanding'. The daylong event will also include international food stalls, art and craft exhibition, showcase of organizations work, music and cultural performance. It will be a free-entry event for the public but on invitation cards that will be available on different outlets in the twin-cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi."

Munir Ahmed said: Reviving the AFT is meant to stand by the UN organizations and its member states that are struggling for human rights, ensuring protection of cultural heritage, promoting peace through interfaith harmony, democracy and development. Unity and understanding is imperative to mark the UN day annually on 24 October to celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The UN is the only global organization with the legitimacy that we need to back strongly to support its mandate.

# Pakistan Sweet Home organizes blood donation camp

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sweet Home Blood Bank and Zamurrad Khan (Hilal e Imtiaz) here on Saturday organized a grand blood donation camp at High Tech Texela with a mission to save innocent lives. A large number of young students donated blood at the camp.

Addressing on the occasion, Head of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamurrad Khan said that youth were the valuable assets of the country and the nations who sacrifice for their countrymen can change the destiny of the country. He said that today, he was extremely happy to see that the students of High Tech were fully engaged in the great mission of saving innocent lives by donating blood in large numbers.

Our youth is second to none in selfless service to humanity.



is admirable. Today, the selfless spirit of serving humanity has won the hearts of young students, he expressed.

Zamurrad Khan said donating blood is a great continuous charity and an act of worship.

Innocent children fighting with thalassaemia, hemophilia and blood cancer while we are not alone. If I have to trav-

el all over Pakistan for these children, I will go from city to city and collect blood donations for them, he said and added I am extremely grateful to the students, especially the administration, who responded to my voice today and participated in this good cause.

Undoubtedly, the young students always donated blood in large numbers for Thalassaemia affected children in every difficult situation, he said. He appealed to other educational institutions, colleges and universities including engineers, professors and lawyers and people from all walks of life and other circles to support us in this great journey of service to humanity and be our companions in this good work.

On this occasion, Asad Bin Azam, Project Director of Pakistan Sweet Home

Blood Bank, said that the blood donation by the students of Bahria University was actually an expression of solidarity with the children who were fighting a battle of life and death with thalassaemia.

He requested the youths and students to visit the blood donation camp of Pakistan Sweet Home Blood Bank anywhere in the city and help us save innocent lives by donating blood.

Asad Bin Azam further said that blood was donated by Pakistan Sweet Home Blood Bank and Zamurrad Khan on daily basis at various places of the city.

Pakistan Sweet Home is organizing blood donations for deserving patients fighting dengue and corona virus including thalassaemia, hemophilia, blood cancer and emergency cases, he added.



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# Return of Nawaz Sharif, a day of hope... - I

The tables turned swiftly and unexpectedly against Imran Khan and the PTI. Nawaz Sharif, who had been in self-imposed exile in London for over four years, was transformed from a declared absconder and disqualified for life from electoral contests into a free man. His arrival was marked with grand receptions by associates, loyal followers, and the public, symbolizing a night of celebration and a day of hope across the country. In a remarkable public address, he assured the establishment that he harbors no intentions of seeking political revenge. While outlining his economic agenda, he pledged to continue with his prior policies, likely with the same team. When discussing foreign policy, he emphasized the futility of maintaining an antagonistic stance toward neighboring nations. Instead, he advocated for breaking the cycle of dependency and harnessing Pakistan's abundant natural, divine, and human resources for progress and prosperity. Although not explicitly stated, he alluded to the consequences of those responsible for his downfall three times and warned against a repeat scenario for the fourth time. His confident demeanor, the warm reception at the airport, official protocols, and exuberance conveyed a resounding message: Nawaz Sharif has returned to the political arena with renewed vigor, especially with his potential challengers neutralized.

In a remarkable turn of events, a fate that appeared nearly impossible just a few months ago was transformed into a potential reality. The same strategy that was once employed to turn the judiciary, laws, and constitution against Nawaz Sharif was now used in reverse, effectively altering the constitutional landscape and institutions to his advantage. This remarkable shift allowed him to return from exile, fully exonerated and free of any charges, akin to a rebirth. Nawaz Sharif, who had been a vocal and staunch opponent of the Establishment, had consistently held them responsible for engineering his removal in 2017. He accused them of colluding with the judiciary to convict him in multiple corruption cases, leading to his lifetime disqualification from politics and subsequent exile in London. Surprisingly, the enduring animosity was set aside, and both sides forgave and forgot. The Establishment, despite its longstanding enmity, became Nawaz Sharif's proponents, facilitators, and supporters in his journey back to power. This once again exemplifies that, much like in international relations, in domestic politics, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies. This seemingly implausible turn of events was achieved through the unwavering determination, resilience, intelligence, and leadership of Maryam Nawaz, and none other. Her steadfast narrative, echoed by all PML(N) leaders without exception, maintained that their leader had been innocent from the very outset. They contended that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, the country had made significant progress and was poised for remarkable growth. They argued that a dubious plan was concocted as an experiment to elevate Imran Khan to power. To pave the way for his ascent, baseless and frivolous cases were fabricated against Nawaz Sharif. Ultimately, through collusion and subjugation of the judiciary, he was unseated, imprisoned, and disqualified for life on charges that belied constitutional and legal principles, effectively casting aside the foundations of justice. Their demand is straightforward: the reversal of all unconstitutional, unlawful, and arbitrary actions that had been used to remove Nawaz Sharif from power. They seek to rectify the injustices committed against him and the nation, restoring him to the same position from which he was ousted. Moreover, they call for an examination of all omissions and commissions that facilitated the rise of the PTI and the placement of Imran Khan in power.

This once seemingly impossible and unattainable narrative was gradually woven into reality through the sheer merit of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who displayed remarkable grit, tenacity, courage, and determination even in the face of daunting and formidable adversity. She orchestrated the political landscape with exceptional finesse, strategically positioning her power players and leveraging them effectively and intelligently. Her moves were marked by mastery, precision, and creativity, all executed at the right moments with strength and meticulous calibration to achieve the desired outcomes. First, she succeeded in fully exonerating her father, Nawaz Sharif, while confining Imran Khan to a political cage, dismantling his party, removing him from the mainstream media, ensnaring him in numerous legal entanglements, and rendering his return seemingly impossible—much like how Nawaz Sharif's return appeared infeasible just days ago. Once she had silenced Imran Khan, she adeptly shaped public opinion, maintained the core party leadership largely intact with a few notable exceptions, managed to keep the establishment content, curtailed her father's outbursts against the establishment, adroitly manipulated the media landscape, and kept potential contenders for the premiership at bay.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

To be Continued



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

## Diverges from original career

Last day I watched a video clip in which a woman inquired IG Punjab Dr. Usman you are Doctor! Mr. Usman replied, Yes, I am a doctor, and I have an MBBS degree from King Edward Medical College Lahore. He explained "Doctors often struggle to find jobs I could not find it, so I joined the police force after completing my CSS." Dr. Usman, an MBBS graduate from King Edward Medical College in Lahore, faced the challenging reality that many doctors in Pakistan encounter – the scarcity of job opportunities in the medical field. Despite his medical qualifications, he couldn't secure a job within the healthcare sector. Frustrated by the lack of opportunities, he decided to take a different path and joined the Punjab police force after completing his CSS (Central Superior Services) exams. This scenario reflects a common struggle for doctors in Pakistan, where the oversaturation of the medical job market often leaves highly-qualified individuals with limited options. Dr. Usman's decision to join the police force highlights the adaptability and resilience of professionals in their pursuit of meaningful employment, even when it diverges from their original career aspirations. When a highly trained professional, such as a doctor, finds themselves diverging from their original career path, it often signifies a significant shift in their life's trajectory. In the case of a doctor becoming a police officer, this transformation typically arises from challenges in securing relevant job opportunities within the medical field. This shift is not merely a career change but a profound pivot in one's life journey. Despite years of education and training in medicine, the scarcity of medical positions or an oversaturated job market can leave doctors like Dr. Usman with limited choices. Frustrated by the inability to practice medicine and driven by the desire for meaningful employment, some doctors explore alternative careers. Transitioning into the police force after completing relevant training or exams is a testimony to adaptability and resilience. This change often demands the acquisition of new skills, an adjustment to a different work environment, and embracing the responsibilities of law enforcement. While it may not align with the doctor's original aspirations, it offers an opportunity to serve the community, maintain job security, and find fulfillment in a unique and valuable way. The experience of a doctor becoming a police officer after facing difficulties in securing a medical job underscores the importance of adaptability and the ever-changing nature of career paths. It illustrates that one's professional journey can take unexpected turns, and the ability to pivot and explore new opportunities can lead to a fulfilling and purpose-driven career. In Pakistan, the prevailing challenge where qualified doctors frequently encounter difficulty in securing jobs is a pressing issue that requires innovative solutions. The dearth of opportunities for these highly skilled professionals not only leaves them disheartened but also signifies a missed opportunity for the nation's healthcare sector. As a consequence, the significant financial investment made by the government in their education, often totaling millions of rupees collectively, is at risk of being rendered futile. In addition to Pakistan, many countries, particularly in densely populated regions, there can be an oversupply of medical professionals. This oversaturation can make it challenging for every qualified doctor to find a suitable job. One proactive approach to address this predicament is for the government to support doctors in establishing their personal clinics or hospitals. By providing financial incentives, resources, and guidance, the government can empower these doctors to become self-employed and contribute to the healthcare infrastructure of the country. This strategy can have several benefits: Reduction in Unemployment: Supporting doctors in setting up their practices can significantly mitigate the problem of unemployment among qualified medical professionals. It allows them to utilize their skills and knowledge effectively. Improved Healthcare Access: Personal clinics and hospitals established by these doctors can expand healthcare access to underserved areas, both in urban and rural regions. This can have a positive impact on public health. Retaining Talent: Encouraging doctors to stay in the country and practice medicine prevents the loss of valuable talent to other countries and ensures a strong healthcare workforce domestically. To maximize the potential benefits of this approach, the government should not only provide financial support but also offer training, mentorship, and regulatory assistance to ensure that the newly established clinics and hospitals meet the necessary standards of care. In conclusion, supporting qualified doctors in establishing their personal clinics or hospitals can be a win-win situation. It alleviates unemployment, enhances healthcare access, boosts the economy, and retains skilled professionals within Pakistan. It is a strategic investment that can revitalize the healthcare sector while ensuring that the government's financial commitment to education reaps lasting rewards.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

To be Continued

## Digital Economy 2.0: A Game Changer for Pakistan - I

The recent visit of Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar of Pakistan to China underscores the enduring friendship and strategic partnership between the two nations. China and Pakistan share a commitment to supporting each other's interests, particularly on sensitive issues like Taiwan, the South China Sea, and matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the core of this diplomatic engagement is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which both countries consider a potent driver of global economic growth and a platform for international collaboration. Central to their collaboration is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the BRI. The leaders are determined to take CPEC to new heights, focusing on high-quality development across multiple sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and trade. A significant aspect of this partnership is the development of Gwadar Port, a pivotal node in cross-regional connectivity. The two nations are set to fast-track its development, aiming to make Gwadar a high-quality port, a regional trade hub, and a vital connectivity point. Infrastructure development is another key facet, with various projects, such as the ML-1 upgrade, Karakoram Highway realignment, and the D. I. Khan-Zhob Road Project, all geared toward enhancing connectivity and driving socio-economic growth. Cooperation extends to renewable energy and industrial development, with a focus on win-win outcomes and the inclusion of third-party investors. The agricultural sector is also rich in potential, with plans for crop cultivation, pest control, and technology exchange. The digital economy takes center stage in their partnership, with cooperation on IT industry development and digital infrastructure construction. Additionally, socio-economic initiatives under

the CPEC Working Group aim to enhance social and economic benefits. Both nations are eager to facilitate business exchanges and enhance bilateral people-to-people interactions while boosting cross-border trade, exemplified by the year-round operation of the Khunjerab pass. Financial cooperation and currency swap agreements are set to further strengthen their economic collaboration, while space science and technology cooperation will advance outer space exploration. The leaders engaged in discussions on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing peaceful resolution in line with international agreements. Terrorism remains a common concern, and both countries are committed to bolstering their counter-terrorism efforts. Deep concerns over the Israel-Palestine conflict were expressed, with a shared call for an immediate ceasefire and a two-state solution. Their shared vision emphasizes peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom in their global initiatives. Defense and security cooperation is pivotal in maintaining regional peace and stability. Their support for the United Nations and a commitment to multilateralism underpin their diplomatic endeavors. Both the nations pledge to enhance coordination on Afghanistan to ensure regional peace and stability, sealing their commitment to a future of mutual cooperation and understanding. China and Pakistan Pledge to Elevate Digital Cooperation for a Shared Digital Future. In a joint press statement released on 20th October 2023, during the recent diplomatic visit of Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to China, both nations unveiled an ambitious plan to intensify cooperation in the information technology (IT) industry and digital infrastructure development.



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

To be Continued



# Cairo Peace Summit ends without Gaza breakthrough

Arab leaders meet in Cairo but no agreement reached on containing violence in Gaza-Israel conflict

CAIRO: Arab leaders at a Cairo summit on Saturday condemned Israeli bombardment of Gaza as Europeans said civilians should be shielded, but with Israel and senior US officials absent there was no agreement towards containing the violence.

Egypt, which called the meeting and hosted it, said it had hoped participants would call for peace and resume efforts to resolve the decades-long Palestinian quest for statehood.

But the meeting ended without leaders and foreign ministers agreeing a joint statement, two weeks into a conflict that has killed thousands and visited a humanitarian catastrophe on the blockaded Gaza enclave of 2.3 million people.

Diplomats attending the talks had not been optimistic of a breakthrough, with Israel preparing a ground invasion of Gaza aimed at wiping out the Palestinian group Hamas that rampaged through its towns on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 people.

Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday Israel's air and missile strikes

had killed at least 4,385 Palestinians since the Hamas attack.

While Arab and Muslim states called for an immediate end to Israel's offensive, Western countries mostly voiced more modest goals such as humanitarian relief for civilians.

Jordan's King Abdullah denounced what he termed global silence about Israel's attacks, which have killed thousands in Hamas-ruled Gaza and made over a million homeless, and urged an even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The message the Arab world is hearing is that Palestinian lives matter less than Israeli ones," he said, adding he was outraged and grieved by acts of violence waged against innocent civilians in Gaza, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and Israel.

Read also: Jordan's King Abdullah: Displacement of Palestinians would be a war crime

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Palestinians would not be displaced or driven off their land.

"We won't leave, we won't leave," he

told the summit.

France called for a humanitarian corridor into Gaza that it said could lead to a ceasefire. Britain and Germany both urged Israel's military to show restraint and Italy said it was important to avoid escalation.

The United States, Israel's closest ally and a vital player in all past peace efforts in the region, only sent its Cairo charge d'affaires who did not address the meeting in public.

European Council President Charles Michel said the main goal of the summit was "to listen to each other."

However, "we understand that we need to work more together" on issues including the humanitarian situation, avoiding a regional escalation and a Palestinian-Israeli peace process, he added.

Israel has vowed to wipe the Iranian-backed Hamas group "off the face of the earth" over the shock Oct. 7 assault, the deadliest Palestinian attack in Israel's 75-year history.

It has said it told Palestinians to move south within Gaza for their own



safety, although the coastal strip is only 45 km (28 miles) long and Israeli air strikes have also hit the south.

The meeting was meant to explore how to head off a wider regional war. But diplomats knew public agreement would be hard because of sensitivities around calls for a ceasefire, whether to

include mention of Hamas' attack and Israel's right to defend itself.

Arab states fear the offensive could drive Gaza residents permanently from their homes and even into neighbouring states—as happened when Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes in the 1948 war following Isra-

el's creation.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said his country opposed what he called the displacement of Palestinians into Egypt's largely desert Sinai region, adding the only solution was an independent Palestinian state.

Egypt fears insecurity near the border with Gaza in northeastern Sinai, where it faced an Islamist insurgency that peaked after 2013 and has now largely been suppressed.

Jordan, home to many Palestinian refugees and their descendants, fears a wider conflagration would give Israel the chance to expel Palestinians en masse from the West Bank.

King Abdullah said forced displacement "is a war crime according to international law, and a red line for all of us."

Shortly before the summit opening, trucks loaded with humanitarian aid began entering the Rafah crossing into Gaza. Egypt has been trying for days to channel humanitarian relief to Gaza through the crossing, the one access point not controlled by Israel. Reuters

## French military intelligence says Israeli strike not behind Gaza hospital blast

French military intel says Gaza hospital blast likely caused by misfiring Palestinian rocket, not Israeli missile

PARIS: A blast at a Gaza hospital was not the result of an Israeli missile strike, but likely caused by a misfiring Palestinian rocket, the French military intelligence directorate (DRM) said on Friday.

Palestinian officials said 471 people were killed in the blast at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital on Tuesday. Gaza's health ministry blamed an Israeli air strike, while Israel said the blast was caused by a failed rocket launch by militants.

"There is nothing that allows us to say that it is an Israeli strike, but the most likely (scenario) is a Palestinian rocket that had a firing incident," the DRM said.

An unclassified US intelligence report seen by Reuters on Thursday said it judged that Israel was not responsible for the blast and estimated the death toll at 100-300 people.

According to the DRM, the impact crater was too small to have been caused by an Israeli missile.

"The most likely hypothesis is a



Palestinian rocket, which exploded with a charge of about 5 kilos," the DRM told reporters, adding that Palestinian groups had small-calibre rockets with that sort of explosive charge.

The DRM does not usually release such information, but on the instruction of President Emmanuel Macron decided to make its findings public given the contrasting accounts about

who is responsible.

It ruled out various possibilities, including fragments from Israel's Iron Dome air defence system or intercepted missiles being the cause.

Part of the analysis was based on open-source material ranging from the light structural damage at the hospital, including some broken windows, few destroyed vehicles and the relatively limited presence of civilian belongings at the blast site.

The DRM could not give the exact departing point of the failed rocket and did not place blame on any specific group.

It declined to estimate the death toll, but said that it was likely to be fewer than 471 given the impact.

Israel has responded to an Oct. 7 attack by Hamas gunmen who killed 1,400 Israelis by vowing to destroy the group, putting the 2.3 million people living in Gaza under siege. Strikes against the enclave have killed more than 4,100 people and left more than a million homeless. Reuters/Agencies

## Palestinians demand ceasefire instead of food as aid arrives in Gaza amid Israeli bombing

The first aid trucks loaded with humanitarian supplies arrived in southern Gaza on Saturday as Israel's nightmarish siege entered its 12th day amid its saturation bombing that martyred scores of Palestinians overnight with war-torn people demanding a ceasefire instead of food.

US President Joe Biden had said this week that an agreement had been reached for 20 aid trucks to cross through Gaza's Rafah border point with Egypt, and added on Friday he believed those first trucks would pass through within 48 hours.

Witnesses said aid trucks exited the crossing after checks and proceeded into Gaza's southern area including the major towns of Rafah and Khan Younis where hundreds of thousands of people displaced by Israel's unrelenting air war



are sheltering.

However, Palestinian officials were disappointed that fuel supplies were not included and added that the relief was only 3% of what used to get into Gaza in terms of medical and humanitarian aid before the crisis.

"Excluding the fuel from the humanitarian aid means the lives of patients and injured will remain at risk. Gaza

hospitals are running out of the basic requirements to pursue medical interventions," the Gaza health ministry said.

Israel's "total siege" of Gaza after the October 7 cross-border attack on southern Israel by militants of the Islamist movement Hamas has left Gaza's 2.3 million people running out of food, water, medicines and fuel.

The United Nations said the convoy included life-saving supplies that would be received and distributed by the Palestinian Red Crescent, with Hamas' consent. Israel has warned that no aid should end up in Hamas's hands.

UN officials say at least 100 trucks daily are needed to cover urgent, life-saving needs and that any aid operation must be sustainable at scale — a tall order now with Israel carrying

out devastating bombardments of the enclave day and night.

"No talks on captives until end of Gaza aggression"

Hamas said on Saturday it won't discuss the fate of Israeli army captives until Israel ends its "aggression" on the Gaza strip.

"Our stance with regards to Israeli army captives is clear: it's related to a (possible) exchange of prisoners, and we will not discuss it until Israel ends its aggression on Gaza and Palestinians," Hamas official Osama Hamdan, speaking from Lebanon, told a televised presser.

Israel pummeled the densely populated region despite Hamas releasing two American prisoners held in Gaza, providing a "sliver of hope" to desperate families. Agencies

## American mother, daughter released by Hamas reunited with family

Nearly two weeks after Hamas militants kidnapped hundreds of Americans in Gaza, a mother from the Chicago region and her teenage daughter were reunited with family inside Israel on Friday as relatives celebrated back home in Illinois.

Judith Tai Raanan, 59, and her daughter Natalie, 17, were handed over to Israeli forces at the Gaza Strip border on Friday, becoming the first captives whose release by Hamas has been confirmed by both sides since the latest round of Arab-Israeli bloodshed erupted.

The release was announced by Abu Ubaida, a spokesman for the armed wing of Hamas, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam

Brigades, and confirmed a short time later in a statement from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Israeli leader said the mother and daughter, from the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, were "on their way to a meeting point at a military base in the centre of the country, where their family members are waiting for them."

Reached by phone in Bannockburn, Illinois, outside Chicago, Uri Raanan, the teenager's father, said he spoke with his daughter by phone. "She sounds very, very good, very happy—and she looks good!"

Natalie Raanan's uncle, Avraham Zamir, said the family was joyful the pair had

been safely released. "But there are still many families whose loved ones are still being held hostage, and we will continue our efforts for their release," he said from his home in Illinois.

At a candle lighting for the start of the Jewish sabbath at sundown on Friday, Rabbi Meir Hecht, co-director of the Chabad House in Evanston, where Judith Raanan has worshiped for more than 10 years, said the Orthodox Jewish congregation hopes for "ultimate peace."

"Our prayers have been answered for Judith and Natalie," he said. "We will continue to pray for each and every one of the hostages."

According to both Netanyahu and relatives, the mother

and daughter were abducted from Kibbutz Nahal Oz during the surprise assault on southern Israel carried out from Gaza by Iranian-backed militants of Hamas on Oct. 7.

The pair were visiting the kibbutz, about a mile from the Gaza border as part of a trip that began in September to celebrate the Jewish holidays, the younger Raanan's high school graduation and the 85th birthday of her grandmother, family members said.

Friends described Judith Raanan to the New York Times as an artist and skilled cook of Israeli food who is devoted to her Jewish faith, which informs her paintings, and kept kosher in her home. She had recently worked as a

home aide for elderly people, the Times reported.

Natalie Raanan's brother, Ben Raanan, told the Denver Post his sister was weighing whether to find work in the fashion industry, become an interior designer or apprentice as a tattoo artist.

The mother and daughter were pictured in an image carried by Israeli media showing a group of uniformed Israel Defence Forces (IDF) personnel escorting them from the border moments after their release. The two appeared healthy as they walked through the illuminated darkness, hand-in-hand with Israeli Brigadier General Gal Hirsch, the IDF's chief hostage negotiator.

## India to declare dead 79 people missing in Himalayan lake floods

NEW DELHI: India has begun work to designate as dead at least 79 people who went missing in floods unleashed by a Himalayan glacial lake outburst two weeks ago, a senior official said on Friday, taking the death toll in the disaster to 179.

The floods triggered by torrential rain and overflow from the Lhonak Lake were among the region's worst in more than 50 years, washing away homes and bridges in the northeastern state of Sikkim, wedged between Bhutan, China and Nepal.

The state government has begun the process for such a designation of those still missing, by seeking the federal government's permission, since the law specifies an interval of seven years before a missing person can be declared dead.

"We have not called off the rescue efforts, but after two weeks it will be a miracle (to find them)," said state official Anil Rai.

Sikkim retrieved at least 40 bodies in the flood aftermath and the neighbouring state of West Bengal 60, said officials from the two states who are working to reconcile the official toll and eliminate double counting.

As climate change warms high mountain regions, many communities face the risk of dangerous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

Lakes holding water from melted glaciers can brim over and burst, sending torrents rushing down mountain valleys.

More than 200 such lakes now pose a high hazard to Himalayan communities in Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan, research in 2022 showed. Reuters

## Jordan's King says displacement of Palestinians, a war crime



CAIRO: Jordan's King Abdullah said in his opening speech at the Cairo Peace Summit on Saturday that the forced or internal displacement of Palestinians would be a war crime.

The summit is being held as Israel prepares a ground assault on Gaza following Hamas' attack that killed 1,400 people.

Read also: King Abdullah on Gaza: 'No refugees in Jordan, no refugees in Egypt'

More than 4,100 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's counteroffensive, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, amid a growing humanitarian crisis. Reuters

## Hamas attack aimed to disrupt Saudi-Israeli normalization: Biden

WASHINGTON: Palestinian group Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed about 1,400 people aimed to disrupt a potential normalisation of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia sought by Riyadh, US President Joe Biden said on Friday.

Biden suggested Saudi wanted to recognize Israel in the comments he made at a campaign fundraiser.

Saudi Arabia, a Middle East powerhouse and home to Islam's two holiest shrines, gave its blessing to Gulf neighbours United Arab Emirates and Bahrain establishing relations with Israel in 2020 under the previous US administration of Donald Trump.

Riyadh has not followed suit, saying Palestinian statehood goals should be addressed first.

"One of the reasons Hamas moved on Israel... they knew that I was about to sit down with the Saudis," Biden said.

"Guess what? The Saudis wanted to recognise Israel."

The potential normalisation of relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states was a top priority for Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his June trip to Riyadh, although he acknowledged no progress should be expected imminently.

Blinken told CNN on Oct. 8 that "it wouldn't be a surprise that part of the motivation (for the attack) may have been to disrupt efforts to bring Saudi Arabia and Israel together."

Biden told CBS' 60 Minutes in an interview that aired last Sunday that the prospect of normalisation was "still alive, it's going to take time."

Israel responded to the Oct. 7 attack by pounding Gaza with air strikes, killing more than 4,000 people, and has said it will act to free hostages taken by Hamas fighters while wiping out the group. Reuters



**Business**  
*Facilitation Centre to remove hurdles in investment process: SM Tanveer*

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer said on Thursday that establishment of a Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) in Lahore would help remove every obstacle in the investment process, as the officers of the relevant provincial and Federal departments would provide all facilities to investors under one roof.

In a consultative meeting with presidents of chambers of commerce and industry (CCIs) here at TEVTA Secretariat, he said that an effective digital system had been evolved through BFC for immediate redress of complaints of investors and industrialists.

"The Business Facilitation Center is an important initiative towards ease of doing business and the elimination of slowness in the investment process," he remarked.

SM Tanveer said that the one-window BFC would start functioning within next two months, asserting that all kinds of information regarding investment would be available in the knowledge hub of BFC.

He mentioned that performance of the Business Facilitation Centre would be monitored at all levels and the investor would be updated about the application process through the mobile app, he concluded.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar said that business community is satisfied and grateful to the caretaker government. Gujranwala CCI President termed the BFC a positive step by Provincial Commerce and Industry Minister and his department.

Punjab Industry and Commerce Department's Secretary Ehsan Bhutta briefed the meeting about the business facilitation centre highlighting its aims, objectives and importance.

CCIs Presidents of Faisalabad, Sialkot, Multan and Rawalpindi, and DG Industries, officers of Punjab Information Technology board (PITB) and other related departments attended the meeting. APP

**Cottage industry vital for poverty eradication, believes LCCI official**

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said on Saturday that cottage industry played an important role in poverty eradication in a country.

He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of All Pakistan Cottage Industry and Sweets and Bakers Association here. Butt also discussed with the delegation matters pertaining to closure of markets at 10 pm in the context of smog and Wednesday holidays and other issues being faced by the cottage industry.

He said that Lahore Chamber is trying hard to solve the problems of the cottage industry, adding that government should pay immediate attention to the restoration and improvement of this important sector. He was of the view that by paying attention to the cottage industry, the government can solve many economic issues, as cottage industry is proved very important all over the world.

He said that there is a huge demand for hand-woven carpets, embroidery work, brassware and traditional bangles at the global level. He said that cottage industry in urban and rural areas can grow more with less resources. Butt said that with the help of cottage industry, the people of rural areas would get employment, and migration from these areas to urban areas would also stop.

Ghulam Sarwar Malik, head of the delegation, said that Bangladesh has developed because of the cottage industry. Keeping this in mind, facilities should be given to the cottage industry in Pakistan as well.

Other members of the delegation were Rizwan Ahmed, Lutfullah, Rana Bilal Ahmed, Gulraiz Ahmed, Nadeem Abbas, Abdul Latif, Qari Ameer Ali Siddiqui, Muhammad Nafees, Muhammad Inam, Asif Chaudhary, Qudratullah Bhatti, Haider Javed, Nadeem Hussain, Abid Ali, Azmat Qayyum, AR Niazi and Shiraz Hussain. Agencies

# APBF for structural reforms as country facing daunting economic challenges

*The focus of the caretaker government to date is not on implementing structural politically challenging reforms*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has called for implementing structural reforms for good governance, curbing unproductive state expenditures, expanding the tax base, fostering public-private partnerships, and reallocating resources to critical sectors to stimulate sustainable growth, as the country is facing with daunting economic challenges, posing a serious threat to the viability of the industry.

The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that it is imperative to understand that fiscal discipline cannot be achieved and sustained without initiating structural reforms.

He said the focus of the caretaker government to date is not on implementing structural politically challenging reforms but on heavy reliance on realizing pledged foreign direct investment and crackdowns on markets infected by widespread speculations/smuggling with a view to taking the economy out of its ongoing deepening economic impasse. While one would no doubt support these measures yet economic reforms as well as improving governance are critical to ensuring that the economy moves out of the continuing logjam that



successive administrations have pushed it into.

The APBF Chief said that we must maintain fiscal discipline and establish controls to create fiscal space to extend relief to the masses.

Quoting the reports, he said that the budget deficit continues to grow, entangling Pakistan in an unrelenting cycle of debt. Even if we exclude the impact of debt servicing, our revenues fall short of covering other expenses, implying that all these are met from borrowed

funds. At the close of the fiscal year, Pakistan recorded a budget deficit of Rs 6.52 trillion, equivalent to 7.7% of the GDP, a slight decrease from the previous year's 7.9% of GDP. However, in absolute figures, the budget deficit surged by a substantial 24%, or Rs 1.26 trillion, within just one year.

Due to this bleak scenario, Maaz Mahmood said and added that the primary balance registered a negative Rs 690 billion in FY 2023. Encouragingly, Pakistan achieved a noteworthy reduction of Rs 1.3 trillion or 67% year-on-year in its debt portfolio at the primary balance level during FY 2023. According to the Fiscal Operation report the primary deficit, which stood at 3.1% of GDP in FY2022, was reduced to a more manageable level of 0.8% of GDP in FY 2023. This improvement has created some fiscal room, and with continued efforts we can attain a primary surplus, representing the fundamental level of financial discipline.

It is encouraging to note that at the consolidated level, the government successfully attained an overall primary surplus of Rs 503 billion. However, by end of the third quarter of FY 2023, overall budget's balance showed a negative figure of Rs 3.07 trillion. Yet, in the last quarter of FY 2023, primary surplus turned into primary deficit, with latter record-

ing a primary deficit of Rs 1.1 trillion.

The budget deficit in last quarter of FY 2023 surged to nearly 112% of the cumulative figures from July 2022 to March 2023. Pakistan's budget deficit for the initial nine months amounted to approximately Rs 3 trillion, but in Q4 FY23 alone, it registered a substantial increase of Rs 3.4 trillion. It's worth noting that in the latest budget documents released in June 2023, revised estimate for primary deficit in FY23 was Rs 421 billion.

However, there was a primary balance overrun of Rs 690 billion, marking an increase of Rs 269 billion, which is 64% higher than the revised estimates for FY 2023 shared earlier in June of the same year. Contrastingly, according to the budget document from the previous year, a surplus of Rs 153 billion was projected. This highlights the inadequacies in financial planning at ministerial level.

While many countries are implementing privatization policies for SOEs, Pakistan remains in debate over the issue without officially announcing any plans for disinvesting in such entities. Meanwhile, the government continues to inject substantial sums of money in the form of subsidies and grants each year to sustain the operations of these unprofitable entities.

**Souvenir**

BEIJING: Federal Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz receiving souvenir from Mr. Wang Zihai, Director of China-Pakistan (Qingdao) International Cooperation Hub on Saturday.



Photo: PID

## The Gaza crisis has brought new challenges to Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that the war between Hamas and Israel has posed threats to world peace and new challenges have arisen for Pakistan.

Tackling this issue will be a test for our policymakers, as this conflict may adversely affect the Pakistani economy, which is already going through a critical period, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain called for an immediate plan to insulate the economy from the fallout of the conflict.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that nothing can be said for sure about the duration of

this conflict and its effects, but international and political stability are badly affected and the distance between East and West is increasing.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel is very old, but after the attack of Hamas on Israel, there has been a big change in it, which was not even in anyone's imagination, that is worrying the world, he added.

The business leader said that after Israel's heaviest bombardment of Gaza and the resulting severe loss of life and property, the rulers of Egypt and Jordan refused to meet with the American president, while Saudi Arabia suspended the normalization of relations with Israel.

America has never faced such a response in the Middle East before, and Pakistan needs a balanced policy in this regard because it has to take billions of dollars in

loans from Arab countries, while American international organizations provide economic stability to Pakistan, and most of our exports are also to the United States or its influenced countries, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that China is Pakistan's closest friend and partner, and Pakistan also buys the most weapons from this country, which should also be considered. He said that in the current situation, such demands can be made by Pakistan on behalf of western countries, which will not be acceptable to our people and the Islamic world.

Rich countries use Pakistan in any way they want for their own interests, which is due to our economic weakness because our economic model has been built on the wrong foundations since day one, and now it has failed completely.

## SBP likely to hold policy rate at 22% after ease in inflation

*Rate remains on hold since July 2023*

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan's key interest rate is likely to remain unchanged this month at 22%, as inflation eases due to a reduction in fuel prices and a strengthened rupee, private media reported quoting a brokerage poll on Friday.

In its bid to control rising inflation in the country and support external balance, the SBP increased its policy rate by a cumulative 1,500 basis points since October 2021. The rate has, however, remained on hold since July 2023.

A survey of analysts and financial market participants by brokerage Topline Securities expected no change in the benchmark rate at the forthcoming policy review meeting, scheduled for October 30.

"At least 70% of participants expect the policy rate to remain unchanged at 22%. While 16% of participants expect the policy rate to down by 25bps to 100bps and 11% of participants expect it to down by more than 100bps," said Topline Securities, citing its poll.

"We also believe the SBP will keep the policy rate unchanged at 22% in the upcoming meeting." Many analysts foresee the SBP is done hiking rates and will stay on hold until at least March 2024.

There have been new developments since the last meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the SBP held on September 14. These will probably be discussed by the MPC in an upcoming meeting.

These include the sharp decline in Pakistan's current account deficit from \$164 million in August to \$8 million in September, the average 11% drop in local fuel prices (diesel and petrol), the stability of international oil prices at roughly \$90 per barrel, and the 7% increase in the rupee against the US dollar.

Cut-off yields in the most recent T-Bill auction have decreased by 30-45 basis points (bps) based on an anticipated fall in inflation. Currently, the cut-off yields for three, six, and twelve months are 22.2%, 22.39%, and 22.4%, respectively.

## Gold rates dip by Rs.150 to Rs.208,350 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.150 and was sold at Rs. 208,350 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 208,500 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.129 to Rs.178,626 from Rs.

178,755 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold

went down to Rs.163,741 from Rs.163,869, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$7 to \$1,992 from \$1,999, the Association reported. Agencies

# Pakistan Embassy in Hague organizes AI&Big Data Expo Europe

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Pakistan, the Hague in collaboration with Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) set up a 'Tech Destination Pakistan' pavilion in 'AI & Big Data Expo Europe', at RAI, Amsterdam on 26-27 September 2023. The IT companies from Pakistan namely Abacus Consulting, Royal Cyber, Brickclays, Xynotech, Coeus Solutions, Digifloat, Grayphite, NN Software, and Reach the Globe showcased their services / products in the Expo, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy, the Hague, Netherlands said on Saturday.

On first day of the Expo, Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar visited the Expo and met with Pakistani

exhibitors. Chief Executive Officer Abacus Consulting Fatima Asad gave presentation on opportunities in IT Sector of Pakistan. She presented Pakistan as an emerging market, offering huge potential not only for sourcing services but also as a very conducive market for investment. Ambassador Suljuk appreciated efforts of Pakistani exhibitors to promote professionalism and talent from Pakistan in IT sector.

Embassy of Pakistan, the Hague organised a networking event attended by Pakistani exhibitors and IT professionals, academia and professionals working in Netherlands-based MNCs. Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the Embassy to promote IT services exports. He said that webinars and in-person events have been held in

collaboration with PSEB, TDAP and the Pakistani IT professionals in the Netherlands. Participation of Pakistan in this Expo was part of business plan of the Embassy to showcase Pakistan's IT services sector.

The Embassy has also launched a series of webinars for awareness of Pakistani professionals about job opportunities in the Netherlands. He further informed that the efforts have come to fruition in the form of increase in export of IT services to the Netherlands from US\$ 9.8 Million to US\$ 23 Million and increase in number of IT professionals joining the Dutch companies.

The Embassy had arranged visit of a delegation of IT companies in May 2023. The visiting delegates expressed their satisfaction about Paki-



stan's investment eco system. Shurjeel Tousif, CEO SeQuenX, who was part of the delegation said that subsequent to his trip to Pakistan arranged by the Embassy, SeQuenX has opened up a software business development centre in Islamabad. This is line with the

vision to set up a software technology corridor between the Netherlands and Pakistan. To cement this, SeQuenX has also signed an MoU with COMSATS Global. Pakistani exhibitors were highly satisfied with arrangements made by the Embassy and also expressed opti-

mism to increase export of IT services. Fatima Asad-Saeed commended decision of the Government of Pakistan to participate in this Expo as well as efforts of the Embassy for facilitating participants and promoting networking with the Dutch companies. Mustafa of Royal Cyber said that there lies a huge potential in tech sectors of the Netherlands and Pakistani companies can complement their requirements befittingly. Ambassador Suljuk said that Government of Pakistan has recently constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) who have included IT among the priority sectors for investment. He appreciated efforts of PSEB and TDAP and thanked the participants. He encouraged Dutch businesses to explore opportunities in Pakistan.



## World Cup 2023

## Proteas thrash defending champions England

South Africa thumped defending champions England to secure an impressive 229-run victory

MUMBAI: South Africa thumped defending champions England to secure an impressive 229-run victory in the 20th match of the World Cup 2023 on Saturday.

Batting first at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, the Proteas took English bowlers to the cleaners piling up a massive total of 399 runs courtesy of Heinrich Klaasen's blistering 109-run knock. England however, were bowled out in the 22nd over at 170 runs.

With six points, South Africa are ranked number three at the points table as they have won three contests out of the four matches played in the tournament so far.

Chasing the 400-run target, England were on their way to suffering a 300-run defeat but a valiant effort by their tailenders, Gus Atkinson and Mark Wood, saved them as both batters built a 70-run partnership with the latter scoring an unbeaten 43 runs on 17 deliveries.

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England were on their way to suffering a 300-run defeat but a valiant effort by their tailenders, Gus Atkinson and Mark Wood, saved them as both batters built a 70-run partnership with the latter scoring an unbeaten 43 runs on 17 deliveries.



South Africa's players celebrate after the dismissal of England's captain Jos Buttler during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup between England and South Africa at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday.

Not a single English batter could hold their nerves and fell badly in front of the devastating Proteas' bowling attack as three of their four top-order batters — Dawid Malan, Joe Root and Ben Stokes — failed to score in double digits.

Wood emerged as the top scorer for England with 43 runs as the entire

English side was sent back to the pavilion for just 170 runs after losing wickets in quick succession.

All of the South African bowlers — Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jensen, Kagiso Rabada, Keshav Maharaj and Gerald Coetzee — wreaked havoc on the English batters and sent them all back to the

pavilion.

Earlier in the day South Africa — batting first — posted a massive 399-run total courtesy of a formidable batting display of their top and middle order.

Despite losing an early wicket of Quinton de Kock for just four runs in the first over, the Proteas did not falter and continued to play with an attacking mindset as Reeza Hendricks and Russie van der Dussen built an important 121-run partnership.

The remaining damage to the English bowlers was done by the 151-run stand between Klaasen and Marco Jensen.

Klaasen scored a rapid century, scoring 109 runs off just 67 deliveries with 16 boundaries while Jensen contributed 75 runs off just 42 deliveries, which included a blistering knock of nine boundaries.

For England, Reece Topley picked three wickets while Gus Atkinson and Adil Rashid bagged two each but it was not enough in front of the destructive Proteas batting.

South Africa will now play Bangladesh on October 24 at the same venue while England will take on Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on October 26. Agencies

## Sri Lanka triumph over Netherlands to secure maiden World Cup 2023 win

LACKNOW: Sri Lanka thumped the Netherlands to secure their first win in the ongoing World Cup 2023 on Saturday.

Batting second, the Islanders completed the 263-run chase in the 49th over securing a five-wicket win, their first in the mega-event.

Sri Lanka are currently ranked ninth in the points table with two points as they have lost three of the four games they have played in the tournament so far.

Sadeera Samarawickrama top-scored with 91 runs in 107 balls with the help of seven fours. Meanwhile, Pathum Nissanka notched up 54 runs in 52 balls whereas Charith Asalanka contributed 44 runs.

After losing two wickets for 52 runs, Nissanka and Samarawickrama added 52 runs in 40 balls for the third wicket. After Nissanka's departure, Samarawickrama accumulated 77 runs in 99 balls along with Asalanka to keep Sri Lanka on track during the run-chase.

Earlier, Sybrand Engelbrecht and Logan van Beek hit maiden one-day



international fifties as the Netherlands recovered from a poor start to post 262 against Sri Lanka.

The 35-year-old Engelbrecht reached his milestone off 65 balls with three fours and one six as the Dutch returned to action for the first time since their shock win against South Africa.

Van Beek went to his fifty from 68 balls with just a single boundary.

South African-born Engelbrecht and New Zealand native Van Beek helped the Dutch recover from 91-6, putting on a seventh-wicket partnership of 130.

It was ended when left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka clean-bowled

Engelbrecht for 70 with a score of 221.

Van Beek was eventually dismissed for 59 when he became recalled fast bowler Kasun Rajitha's fourth victim.

Madushanka finished with figures of 4-49 while Rajitha had 4-50.

Worryingly for the Sri Lankans, they coughed up 33 extras, 26 of which were wide. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, the Netherlands saw Rajitha send back Vikramjit Singh (four), Max O'Dowd (16) and Colin Ackermann (29) as they slipped to 54-3.

Madushanka picked up the wickets of Bas de Leede and Teja Nidamanuru before spinner Maheesh Theekshana grabbed the key wicket of skipper Colin Edwards (16).

The Dutch went 20 overs without hitting a boundary before Engelbrecht and Van Beek launched their rescue act.

After losing two wickets for 52 runs, Nissanka and Samarawickrama added 52 runs in 40 balls for the third wicket. After Nissanka's departure, Samarawickrama accumulated 77 runs in 99 balls along with Asalanka to keep Sri Lanka on track during the run-chase. Agencies

## Bhogle, Morkel highlight areas for Pakistan to address

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Harsha Bhogle has pointed out areas of concern for Pakistan ahead of their upcoming World Cup matches, following the Men in Green's defeat to Australia on Friday in the ICC World Cup 2023 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

"Australia are back in this World Cup but lots of questions confront Pakistan. Warner, Marsh, Zampa, Hazlewood the big gainers. The form of Starc a major concern. For Pakistan, the form of Babar, the lack of wickets for the new



ball and the continuing problems with spin," Bhogle wrote in a post on X.

Babar-led side fell short by 62 runs in their attempt to chase a 368-run target set by Australia, with Pakistan captain, Babar Azam's individual performance under scrutiny after being

dismissed for just 18 runs in 14 balls.

Babar has been facing a run drought in mega event, scoring only 5 runs against the Netherlands and 10 runs against Sri Lanka in the first two matches. However, he showed improvement in the third match against India, scoring a fifty.

The post-match analysis also included comments from Pakistan's bowling coach, Morne Morkel, who also highlighted the team's struggle to string together partnerships and the inconsistency with the ball.

"The last couple of games, that is one

of our talking points, to string partnerships together. I think in India that is the key, create pressure from both ends, keep the stumps in play, and at the moment, we're not doing that.

"We are not consistent with the ball. If you are going to lift that trophy on the 19th then we need to create consistency from both the ends," said Morkel after the match.

The former South African pacer said the team missed the presence of injured pacer Naseem Shah and his new ball alliance with Afridi in this tournament.

## Messi should have own Ballon d'Or category, says Guardiola

LONDON: Pep Guardiola says Lionel Messi should have his own category at the Ballon d'Or but admitted the World Cup winner and Manchester City hotshot Erling Haaland would both be deserving winners of the prize.

Messi, who recently left Paris Saint Germain for Inter Miami, is favourite to win the Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time after leading Argentina to World Cup glory last year.

Haaland could be his main rival after scoring 52 goals in 53 games to help City win the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season.

Guardiola knows the qualities of both players better than most, previously coaching Messi at Barcelona and currently managing Haaland with City.

"Always I said that the Ballon d'Or should be in two sections, one for Messi, and after look for the other one, so Haaland should win, yes," Guardiola said on Friday.

"We won the treble because he scored 50 million goals but of course Messi, if you tell me the worst season for Messi is the best for the rest of the players.



"Both deserve it, so what can I say?"

Guardiola added: "Egotistically, I would say I want Erling because he helped us to achieve what we achieved, I would love it, but I won't tell you it's unfair if Leo wins.

"It's nice that many players for Man City will be there for the first time in many years and challenging for these trophies. That makes us so proud for our organisation."

City are hoping to get back to winning

ways against Brighton on Saturday after losing their previous two league matches against Wolves and Arsenal.

City midfielder Calvin Phillips, who has struggled for game time under Guardiola, this week admitted he needs to play more at club level as he seeks to retain his place in the England squad ahead of Euro 2024.

That has increased speculation he could leave in January and Guardiola did not rule out the possibility.

"The transfer window is over, now we are here together. When we need a game with transitions, Calvin is perfect," he said.

"When there is something you need to do, there are still one or two players who can do it better. That's the simple reason.

"He will be here until winter. After, I don't know what will happen because nobody knows once the window is open."

Guardiola admitted it was "so important" that Rodri can return this weekend after the influential Spain midfielder was badly missed during his three-match suspension following last month's sending-off against Nottingham Forest. APP

## World Cup 2023

## Shaheen Afridi close to breaking another record



## Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan's lead pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi is closing in on another record for Pakistan during the ongoing World Cup 2023.

The left-arm pacer, who has picked 95 wickets in 48 matches, might soon become the fastest to bag 100 wickets in one-day internationals (ODIs) for Pakistan.

Shaheen only needs to pick five more wickets to beat Saqlain Mushtaq's record who reached the milestone in 53 matches.

During Friday's match against Australia, Shaheen overtook former Green Shirts' bowler Mohammad Amir to become the left-arm pacer with the second most international wickets for Pakistan.

The 23-year-old achieved the feat during the 18th match of the World Cup against Australia in Bengaluru on Friday.

The left-arm pacer had picked 259 wickets before Friday's encounter against the Kangaroos — the same as Amir — and with his first two victims, which were Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell, Shaheen officially overtook the 31-year-old and is now only behind the legendary Wasim Akram as the left-arm with most wickets for the Men in Green.

Shaheen took a fiver against Australia, taking his international wicket tally to 264 in a total of 127 matches (145 innings) while Amir bagged 259 wickets in 147 matches (177 innings).

Meanwhile, Wasim Akram took 916 wickets with his magical left hand in 460 matches (532 innings).

Shaheen bagged his second World Cup five-wicket haul, having recorded figures of 6/35 against Bangladesh during the 2019 tournament, which made him just the second Pakistan player — after his father-in-law — Shahid Afridi to have two World Cup five-wicket hauls to his name.

His figures of 5/54 on Friday are also the best for any bowler thus far in the 2023 World Cup.

## ICC World Cup 2023: Pakistan team departs for Chennai ahead of Afghanistan clash



Pakistan Men's cricket team departed for Chennai through a chartered plane from Bengaluru on Saturday for their next ICC World Cup 2023 fixture against Afghanistan, scheduled on October 21.

Upon their arrival, the Pakistan contingent will enjoy a rest day today and hit the nets tomorrow to prepare for the Afghanistan clash on Monday.

Pakistan is currently in fifth position in the ICC World Cup 2023 standings with four points in three matches, with a net run rate of -0.456.

Pakistan suffered a thumping 62-run loss to Australia, courtesy of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh's dominating centuries, followed by a disciplined bowling performance.

Set to chase a daunting 368-run target, Pakistan could accumulate 305 in response, before being bundled out in the 46th over.

Pakistan got off to a solid start as their openers Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq also fired with both scoring half-centuries.

The pair took Pakistan to 134 unhurt in 21 before Marcus Stoinis struck on his very first delivery to break the shackles as he outclassed Abdullah with a short-pitched delivery.

Stoinis then struck again in his next over to remove Imam and posted a major dent to Pakistan's pursuit by removing both set batters in quick succession.

Imam remained the top scorer for Pakistan with a 71-ball 70, hitting 10 boundaries.

Out-of-form Adam Zampa soon strengthened Australia's command by claiming the prized scalp of Pakistan captain Babar Azam (18), causing the green shirts to slip to 175/3 in 26.2 overs.

Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan then put together an anchoring 57-run partnership for the fourth wicket before Pat Cummins got rid of Saud.

Rizwan was then joined by Iftikhar Ahmed in the middle and he charged at the Australian bowlers before Zampa removed him in the 39th over.

Zampa then struck again in his next over and got rid of Pakistan's mainstay Mohammad Rizwan to put the five-time champions in complete control.

Australian bowlers then ran through their batting tail and soon booked Pakistan on 305 to taste their second consecutive victory, which lifted them to the fourth position in the ICC World Cup 2023.

Adam Zampa led the bowling attack for Australia with 4/53 in his 10, followed by two each from Stoinis and Pat Cummins while Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood struck out a batter apiece.

## Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023

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

Travelling reserves: Mohammad Harris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan

## Pakistan's remaining ICC World Cup 2023 fixtures

October 23 – vs Afghanistan in Chennai  
October 27 – vs South Africa in Chennai  
October 31 – vs Bangladesh in Kolkata  
November 4 – vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)  
November 11 – vs England in Kolkata

The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures, starting at 01:30 pm (PST).