

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرومان رسول
عبداللہ بن زمر نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے نبی کریم ﷺ سے سزا خلیفہ کے دوران آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے قوم کا کرنا جنہوں نے اونچی کوڑھ کر دیا تھا۔ آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ (اللہ کی قسم جیسی ہوئی) اس (اونچی) کوڑھ کرنے والا قوم کا ایک بہت ہی باعزت آدمی (قیدار نامی) تھا جیسے ہمارے زمانے میں ابو زمر (ابو زمر بن مظہب) ہے۔
(پنجگڑھی، ص 377)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



CPEC Cultural Carvan to promote cultural bonds between Pakistan, China: Jamal Shah

Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah said on Monday that his ministry planned to organize a cultural caravan by the end of this year aimed at transcending economic ties and strengthening cultural bonds between Pakistan, China and the Central Asian States. (Detail on Page 5)

DAYS REMAINING

7

Only 7 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 7 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

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Pinktober 2023

ISLAMABAD: A view of the President House illuminated with Pink Light, which indicates the Breast Cancer month to raise awareness about breast cancer, promoting early detection, and supporting individuals and families affected by this disease.



Photo: Online

Chinese investment to prove stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that the Chinese investment expected under the newly signed 20 MoUs would prove to be a stimulant for Pakistan's economic growth.

Addressing a press conference about his recent visit to China, the prime minister said 20 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed and hoped that the upcoming government would ensure consistency of the policy.

The prime minister, along with a high-level delegation visited China from October 16-20, mainly to attend the Belt and Road Forum where he also held bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

During the visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs,



covering cooperation on the BRI, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, development cooperation and export of agricultural products to China.

"The signing of 20 MoUs was very encouraging. This is after a long time that the MoUs in such a huge number were signed with China... We have brought along three guiding principles of coordination, cooperation

and consultation with us," he remarked.

He said the MoUs were yet in the planning stage and the assessment of the potential, market needs and impact on exports would precede their execution.

He said a designated cell at the Prime Minister's Office would carry out the follow-up of the bilateral and other engagements with China to pave the way for their implementation.

Mentioning his interaction

with the Chinese business leaders, he said under the second phase of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), the Chinese private business entities would invest in Pakistan's agriculture, mining and other sectors.

About the return of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Kakar said that he was a political reality and his adversaries should face him in politics.

About the economic situation,

he said for the first time in the country's history, the dollar rate had meaningfully reduced and that he would hold a follow-up meeting with provincial chief secretaries later in the day to ensure the trickle-down effect on the common man in form of commodities' prices and transport fares.

To another query, the prime minister said the existing business model of print media was flawed and would collapse. The print media entities should realign their business approach to thrive the private business instead of relying on the state.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Privatisation Minister Fawad Hassan Fawad, Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz and Planning Minister Sami Saeed accompanied the prime minister.

Pakistan successfully Launch of Ghauri Weapon System

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan today successfully conducted Training Launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command.

The launch was witnessed by Commander Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organization.

Commander ASFC appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces, which was reflected by proficient handling of Weapon System in the field and achievement of operational and technical objectives. He



also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards enhancement of Pakistan's strategic capability.

The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, CJCS and Services Chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on successful conduct of training launch

ECP seeks int'l oversight for upcoming elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omar Hamid Khan has directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to invite international observers for the upcoming elections, expediting the visa process within one week to ensure their swift arrival in Pakistan.

Omar Hamid Khan chaired an Inter-Ministerial meeting at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad to assess arrangements for the forthcoming General Elections and the invitation of international observers.

The Election Commission Secretary said the commission has adopted an open-door policy, extending invitations to international observers from across the globe to oversee Pakistan's elections.

The Secretary of the Election Commission issued directives to the Ministry of Interior and other relevant organizations to ensure the safety of international observers and to resolve all security-related matters within a two-week timeframe.



The Federal Board of Revenue was tasked with exempting international observers, including media representatives, from customs duties for their equipment and essentials while providing necessary support. To oversee these efforts, an Action Committee was formed, which will report on progress every 15 days.

Special Secretary Dr. Syed Asif Hussain, Zafar Iqbal Hussain and other senior officers participated in the meeting. Senior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Federal Board of Revenue and other related institutions also participated in the meeting.

Apart from this, the Joint Election Commissioners of the four provinces, who were appointed as focal persons regarding the observers, also participated in this meeting.

Sanjrani holds productive meeting with MCC in Beijing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday held a productive meeting with a high-level delegation from China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC) in Beijing that centered around increasing cooperation in the mineral sector. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interests, acknowledging the vital role of mineral resources in the economic growth of Pakistan.

The Senate chairman expressed his admiration for the MCC's contributions to Pakistan and commended their remarkable work, assuring the delegation of his full support in promoting the mineral sector in the country. He extended an invitation to the MCC delegation to visit Pakistan, underscoring the importance of their continued support in the country's economic development. Sadiq Sanjrani further recognized the MCC's remarkable achievements in transforming the Duddar Project



into a profitable and prosperous endeavour that significantly benefited the local population. The meeting witnessed the proposal of a groundbreaking new project in Chagai, operating under the auspices of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ). The Senate chairman pledged to invite key officials, SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council) representatives, and the MCC Chief to the grand launch event in Chagai. The MCC delegation reaffirmed its commitment to Pakistan, indicating a willingness to invest further in the mineral sector, with a special emphasis on Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To facilitate and elevate the mineral sector, the delegation suggested the establishment of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) for metal mining.

U.S. amb-at-large for religious freedom calls on FM Jilani, FS Qazi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain called on Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi here on Monday. In a meeting that took place here at the Foreign Office, FM Jilani reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights at home and abroad.

Foreign Secretary Qazi shared the policy undertaken to uphold human rights and freedom for all citizens.

Nawaz Sharif files applications for restoration of appeals in two references

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The legal team of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday filed applications to the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking the restoration of appeals in Avenfield property and Al-Azzia Steel Mills references. Amjad Pervaiz Advocate filed the applications on behalf of the former prime minister. It prayed the court to decide the appeals after hearing arguments on merit in the cases.

In the petitions, PLL-N leader Nawaz Sharif stated that he hadn't completely recovered from the ailment, adding he decided to return country due to the miserable economic condition of the country. He said that he was awarded the imprisonment sentence by the accountability court in his absence on July 6, 2018.

SC declares civilians' trial in army courts as null and void

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A five-member larger bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday declared the trial of civilian accused of May 9 vandalism and rioting as null and void. The court, in its 4-1 majority verdict, observed that the suspects of May 9 incidents should be tried in criminal courts.

The larger bench headed by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the cases and subsequently accepted the petitions while announcing the verdict. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan read out the short order, which was reserved earlier after the respondents concluded their arguments. The court, in its decision, said it unanimously declared the military courts null and void.

Ashrafi warns of conspiracies to divide Muslim Ummah over Palestine issue

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, on Monday asserted that there are conspiracies afoot to divide the Muslim Ummah concerning the issue of Palestine. Speaking to the media accompanied by Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Allah Wasaya, Syed Osama Bukhari, Mufti Syed Ashiq Hussain, and other respected Ulemas and Mashaihs, he expressed that the Pakistan Army took pride in the nation.

He also commended Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir for his resolute support for the Palestinian people, which he regarded as a heartfelt expression of solidarity with Palestine.

Court disposes of NAB reference against Dar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday disposed of a reference against former finance minister Ishaq Dar pertaining to holding assets beyond known sources of income. AC Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict on a petition of former minister.

At the outset of hearing, National Accountability Bureau Prosecutor Afzal Qureshi adopted the stance that no evidence had been found against the accused in the said reference, and the trial could not be proceeded in such circumstances. At this, the judge asked the NAB prosecutor to give this statement in writing. The court subsequently disposed of the reference against Ishaq Dar.

Address

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness program, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.



Breast cancer awareness message be disseminated at door-to-door level to reduce mortality rate: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed the need to disseminating the awareness message about breast cancer to every house across the country to ensure early detection of the disease and reduce the mortality rate.

He said Pakistan had successfully handled the polio disease and this experience also helped the government to successfully handle COVID-19 later on. Now, he said the country was also driving the breast cancer awareness campaign very effectively.

Addressing the Breast

Cancer Awareness Programme here, the president said awareness about other key health issues including mental health, stunting, and women health should also be raised along with the breast cancer awareness campaign as it was very important to keep woman healthy for a healthy nation.

Highlighting the family system in the country, the president said that a woman was the key member of a family that must be kept healthy, financially empowered and also be kept safe from any kind of harassment in the society.

Citing China's example, the president said the country's

rapid development was due to its special focus on health and education.

He maintained that due to lack of resources in the country, prevention should be focused to avoid chronic disease at later stage. First Lady Begum Samina Alvi urged the women to learn how to make self detection to ensure timely diagnose of the disease.

"Women should make habit of self examination for five months every month to minimize the death rate."

Appreciating the role of media in success of the campaign, the first lady said the media should continue its

role in raising awareness about the disease.

She informed that every year some 44,000 women die of breast cancer and the deaths could be avoided by early diagnosis.

She said the early diagnose ratio in the world was 98% however in Pakistan most of the cases were reported at third and fourth stages where the death chances went high. However, she expressed her satisfaction over increasing number of cases being reported at first and second stages due to the awareness campaign.

She said death rate among the breast cancer patients in

Pakistan was 48% which was alarmingly high. She asked the people not to feel any hesitation while discussing this disease.

Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on the occasion said the government needed to increase the health budget in the country up to 4% of GDP that was currently only 1% of GDP.

Country representative for Pakistan World Health Organization (WHO) Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala while addressing the ceremony appreciated President Dr Arif Alvi and First Lady Begum Samina Alvi for raising awareness about breast cancer in Pakistan.

PM for accelerated steps to trickle down impacts of reduced oil prices to common man

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Cartaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate steps for trickling down the impact of reduced prices of the petroleum products to the common man.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting to discuss the impact of oil prices' reduction on commodities' rates, instructed that the effect of reduction of petrol price by 12.38 percent and diesel by 4.7 percent should be trickled down to the common man at the earliest.



He said Rs 41 billion had been saved due to the stability in dollar rate and reduction in petroleum prices, and the relief would be extended to the common man.

The meeting was apprised of the recent oil prices reduc-

The prime minister appreciated the administration for taking steps to reduce oil prices and dollar rate, curb smuggling and transmitting their impacts to the common man.

He instructed the relevant authorities to strictly deal with the hoarders and profiteers, and viewed that the operation against power theft and smuggling had benefited the consumers.

He said 18 percent reduction of wheat price and sugar by 16 percent in Balochistan was welcoming.

He said due to the administrative measures, the prices of 24 commodities had been

reduced countrywide.

The meeting was told that remarkable reduction in the prices of agricultural production, electricity, transport fares and industrial production was being ensured.

The Planning Ministry was utilising the a software application "Decision Support System for Inflation" designed by the National Bureau of Statistics to monitor the prices of eatables.

The chief ministers of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, and Balochistan chief secretary briefed the meeting on the steps taken by them on the subject matter.

M. Phil student found dead from Karachi varsity's hostel

Bureau Report

KARACHI: An M. Phil student Mukhtiar Ali was found dead from Karachi University's (KU) hostel at HEJ Colony on Monday.

The ICCBS spokesperson said that an M. Phil student was found dead from a hostel's washroom in Karachi University's HEJ Colony. The spokesperson detailed that Mukhtiar Ali went to the washroom at 9:00 am and later some students brought his lifeless body out at 6:00 pm.

Ali was immediately shifted to the KU's clinic. Ali was enrolled in the organic chemistry's curriculum at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) in 2020 and doing research under the supervision of Dr Hina Siddiqui.

The spokesperson said that both PhD students of Dr Hina Siddiqui had left their studies.

All set to celebrate Azad Kashmir Founding Day on October 24

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 76th anniversary of the founding day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir will be celebrated on Tuesday (October 24) to commemorate the establishment of AJK state in 1947. The day will be celebrated with traditional zest and national fervor all across the liberated territory of AJK with the renewed commitment to continue struggle till the freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

The day will start with the presentation of 21-gun salute here in the state capi-

tal. Special prayers will be offered in mosques for the prosperity of Pakistan and early liberation of IIOJK. Special functions, flag hoisting and prayer ceremonies will be held at all district headquarters of the AJK state to mark the day. AJK President, the Prime Minister, members of AJK Legislative Assembly and other Kashmiri leaders will address various events to mark the occasion. Special tributes will be paid to the martyrs and heroes of the Kashmir liberation struggle with the pledge to never forget their enormous sacrifices. The day is observed to mark the formation of the first revolutionary govern-

ment set up under the leadership of 'Ghazi-e-Millat' Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. Sardar Ibrahim chaired the historic meeting that adopted the resolution of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan in 1947 at his Srinagar residence. AJK territory was liberated by the sons of the soil from the despot-ic Dogra rulers. The pattern of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is almost the same which is prevailing in Pakistan. AJK has an independent Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. The AJK is a self-governing state with its own prime minister, president, a separate flag and its legislature. The past 76 years has witnessed

enormous development in almost every sphere of life in AJK. Pakistan's government has significantly contributed in improving the lives of its people, infrastructural development and establishing a democratic setup. The AJK government's role with the diplomatic support of the Government of Pakistan has been vital part of Kashmiris' freedom struggle especially at international level. As per the international covenants Jammu and Kashmir, which is described as Jugular vein of Pakistan, is a disputed territory and as per the UNSC resolutions India cannot change the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.

COAS felicitates NUST graduates, underscores their responsibility to figure out challenges faced by country



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday felicitated the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) graduates on successfully accomplishing their goal and remarked that it was now incumbent upon them to figure out and analyse challenges facing the country and put their intellectual resourcefulness to find their solutions. Chairman NUST Board of Governors, COAS, General Syed Asim Munir as chief guest at the inaugural "Master Convocation Ceremony" conferred medals upon distinction holders.

The annual convocation week of the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) commenced here at the University's main campus, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students

received degrees during the course of convocation week. Degrees are being awarded to over 3500 graduates from all NUST Schools at the main campus in the 7 core disciplines. Addressing the graduates, the COAS extended his heartfelt felicitations to graduates, their parents and faculty. He commended NUST for developing a conducive ecosystem for teaching and learning – one that nurtures brilliant minds, who are fully poised to serve the nation. The army chief emphasized that education was not an option but a necessity. He highlighted that today was the beginning of a new chapter in students' lives, which heralded a significant change that demanded greater responsibility. He emphasized that this newfound responsibility should manifest in their personality and choices in the journey ahead. Earlier upon arrival, the COAS was received by Rector NUST.

Punjab govt decides to send medical aid to Palestine



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Caretaker government of Punjab has decided to send medical aid to Palestine.

As per details, the Caretaker Health Minister of Punjab Javed Akram said that Palestinians are in need of medical care at this stage.

He said that medical teams including nurses and doctors will be sent to Palestine after green signal from the federal government.

Earlier, Israel heavily bombarded Gaza overnight after warning it would intensify strikes ahead of a ground invasion, as the war entered its third week on Sunday.

As fears mount of a wider conflagration, the Pentagon said it was bolstering its forces in the Middle East to "assist in the defence" of US ally Israel amid "escalations by Iran and its proxy forces" across the region.

A first trickle of aid entered the besieged Gaza Strip on Saturday, but

the 20 trucks permitted to cross were described as a "drop in the ocean" given the "catastrophic" humanitarian situation for 2.4 million people.

It was the worst attack on civilians in Israel's history and coincided with the end of the religious holiday of Sukkot.

The retaliatory bombing campaign has killed more than 4,300 Palestinians, mainly civilians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, and reduced swathes of densely populated Gaza to smouldering ruins.

More than 40 percent of all Gaza's housing has been damaged or destroyed, according to the UN citing local authorities, and Israel has halted the delivery of food, water, fuel and electricity.

Israel has massed tens of thousands of troops around the enclave for a widely predicted ground invasion. It says its daily raids have already killed many Hamas leaders and military commanders.

Sheikh Rasheed rushed to hospital after health deteriorates

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed was rushed to the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC) on Monday after his health deteriorated.

According to details, the former interior minister was shifted to the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC) due to complaints of chest pain.

Sheikh Rasheed was immediately attended by medical professionals at the hospital's emergency department. Medical examinations, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), were swiftly conducted to assess his condition.

As a precautionary measure, the AML chief is being kept under observation at the hospital.

Recently, Sheikh Rasheed resurfaced after a month-long disappearance and condemned the May 9 riots while calling PTI chief Imran Khan a 'stubborn'.



Talking to a private news channel, the former interior minister said that he had been on a 'Chilla' (apparently spending time underground) for the last 40 days.

Rasheed – an ally of PTI chief Imran Khan – said that he had the opportunity to reflect on many things during the chilla in this age. "No one caused any harm during this period", he added.

The AML president further said that he always stood by Pakistan Army, noting that he had also suggested PTI chief that "one should keep good terms with the army". "I am proud to call myself the spokesperson of Pakistan Army", Rasheed insisted.

PM AJK congratulates Kashmiri nation on 76th Foundation Day

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has congratulated the Kashmiri nation on 76th Foundation Day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In his message, the AJK premier said that it was due to the glorious struggle and sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives to liberate the region from the clutches of Dogra Maharaja. Reiterating his government's full support to Kashmiris' ongoing struggle against India, the PM said that the people of Azad Kashmir stand in support and solidarity of the Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for right of self-determination. Lauding the supreme sacrifices and resilience of the Kashmiri nation in the face of Indian suppression, the PM said that the people in occupied Kashmir were scripting a new histo-



ry of resistance.

He said that the government and people of Azad Kashmir would never abandon their brethren under any circumstances. He said that the aim of the establishment of the revolutionary government in the liberated

territory (AJK) was to strengthen the freedom movement and liberate the rest part of the state from the India's illegal occupation.

He said that the coalition government would spare no efforts to strengthen the freedom move-

ment besides promoting the Kashmir cause at international level. Denouncing the Indian government's hostile policies, the PM said that since August 5, 2019, the occupied territory remains under Indian military siege.

He said that the occupied valley has been turned into the world's largest prison. He said that given the precarious situation in the region, there was a dire need that the United Nations should play its due role to help resolve the lingering dispute through implementation of its resolutions that guarantee the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. He expressed the hope that the day was not far when the people of Occupied Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. He said that after freedom the people of Kashmir would fulfill their ancestors' pledge to join Pakistan.

Azad Kashmir school chief calls for systematic campaign to make Kashmir people aware of its true history

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Secretary Education Schools Elementary Mr Razaq Ahmad Nadeem has said that a systematic campaign should be conducted to make the new generation aware of the true background of the Kashmir issue and the history of the sacrifices of the people of Occupied Kashmir for seventy-five years. The biggest challenge for the nations fighting in the field of resistance is the transfer of the struggle to the next generations. He expressed these views in Boys Degree College under the auspices of women's social organization Kashmir Women Alert "Kashmir in the mirror of history and occupied Kashmir." Pres-

ent situation of Kashmir and its possible solution while addressing the seminar as a special guest he remarked. The event was presided over by Ms. Samia Sajid, Chairperson of Kashmir Women's Alert, while Dr. Abdul Karim, Principal Post Graduate College, Muzaffarabad, hosted the event.

Mr Razaq Ahmad Nadeem Secretary Education Schools, Raja Tahir Mumtaz Khan Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad, attended as special guest and guest speaker Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission, Ms. Madiha Shakeel Lecturer Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Muzaffarabad, Dr. Abdul Karim Principal Post Graduate College Muzaffarabad partic-

ipated. The participants of the event Razaq Ahmad Nadeem, Raja Tahir Mumtaz Khan, Dr. Sajjad Latif, Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim, Prof. Madiha Shakeel, Ms. Samia Sajid said that the present region of Azad Kashmir has been liberated as a result of the brave struggle of the people here. The blood and sacrifices of Mujahideen and Ghazis are the foundations of the region. This journey of sacrifices is not over because the debt of freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir still remains.

The people of occupied Kashmir are conducting an unprecedented resistance in the world today. can be fought only by the resistance of the Palestinians in the world, where Israel is also massacring the people like India, but in

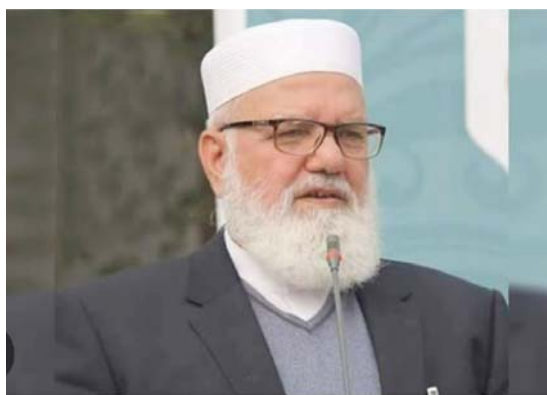
both places, the oppressive and colonial powers have failed to break the morale of the people. He said that the resistance can be transmitted from generation to generation only by informing the new generation about the sacrifices of the ancestors. It is the responsibility of social organizations, women and teachers to educate the new generation about the history of Kashmir, the legal basis of the Kashmir issue and the sacrifices of Kashmiri Muslims. Keep informing. He said that the nations that turn away from their history also lose their geography. Therefore, we have to keep the new generation connected with history. He said that occupied Kashmir has been turned into a prison by the Indian government.

Behavior of America, India and Europe is hideous, inhumane and Biased: Liaquat Baloch

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Amer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami and former parliamentary leader Liaquat Baloch has said in a statement released from Multan Media Center that protests against Israel-Zionist war crimes are going on all over the world. The behavior of America, India and Europe is hideous, inhumane and biased. Solidarity with Palestine is being expressed throughout the country. The leadership of the Islamic world should not delay and save the oppressed Palestinian people from oppression, brutality and genocide and massacre. If the First Qibla of Bait-ul-Maqdis is lost, the world of Islam will become permanently insecure and weak.

On October 25, the National Conference of Palestinian Scholars will be held in



Mansurah to support the freedom of Palestine and against the Israeli Zionist oppression, murder and looting, and on October 29, the Palestine Million March will be held in Islamabad.

Liaquat Baloch while addressing a public meeting after joining in Safdarabad Sheikhpura said that every party in Pakistan should get

full right of politics according to the constitution and law. Do not tie the hands and feet of others to honor any party. The benefactors who arranged the VIP to send Mian Nawaz Sharif out during the Imran Khan era, now the new benefactors are also arranging a similar VIP for his return. Why are the state institutions going through such hardships?

The fruit of which is bitter in favor of the nation. The indispensable process for political stability is to conduct clean and transparent elections, to restore the confidence of the people. Benazir Bhutto came from abroad, there was a big reception and a meeting was held at Minar Pakistan. In 2013, Imran Khan ascended the Minar Pakistan from public rally. And now Mian Nawaz Sharif came from outside and organized a public meeting with huge expenses like in the past. But this method of politics has proved disastrous for politics, democracy and parliamentary process. The Election Commission of Pakistan should declare 28 January 2024 as Election Day and the agreed code of conduct of all the parties should be followed, incidents of pre-election rigging should be stopped.

Tanoli hails EU's GSP Plus status extension for Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, Vice President-Asia Advertisement Association (AAA) and Former Sr. Vice President-German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GPCCI) congratulated the Government of Pakistan following the announcement that the European Union (EU) had officially extended Pakistan's Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) status for an additional four years, ensuring its continuation until 2027. This significant decision comes as a testament to Pakistan's dedication to upholding human rights, labor standards, and environmental protection.

The GSP Plus status has played a pivotal role in fostering trade relations and economic growth between Pakistan and the European Union, enhancing our export opportunities and creating a favorable business environment. This extension is a vote of confidence in Pakistan's commitment to the principles of good governance and sustainable development.

Acting HC Sri Lanka, Augustine Ruban Calls on RCCI President Saqib Rafiq



RAWALPINDI: Charge De Affair Augustine Christy Ruban, Sri Lankan High Commission called on Saqib Rafiq, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday.

Matters related to the enhancement of trade relations, close cooperation in various sectors including Pharmaceutical and Tourism, information sharing, chamber to chamber networking and strengthening of cooperation in all the sectors of investment of both countries were discussed during the meeting.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq gave a summary of current activities and future programs of the chamber. He said that trade relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are historic and there is a historical partnership between the two countries. In addition, there is a need to provide a platform for the two countries to forge important trade links. People-to-people contact and religious tourism provide excellent platforms to further expand bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he added.

Charge De Affair Augustine Christy Ruban, in his remarks said that Sri Lanka considers Pakistan an important trade partner in the region. Both countries have close and historical relations and there was wide scope to expand bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, he further added.

Mr. U. L. Niyas, Minister Counselor Sri Lanka, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad and Executive Member Mudassar Maqbool, among others, were also present on the occasion.

Four years old boy molested in Jand

ATTOCK: A four years old boy was molested by a 17 years old man in village Kot Chaggi in the limits of Jand Police station on Monday, police sources said.

Nisar Farooq- father of the victim has reported to Police that his four years old son named Muhammad Umer was playing outside his house when his neighbor 17 years old Muhammad Bilal took him to his house where he molested him. As he returned to his house and revealed his ordeal to his father who took him to the Police station. The victim was taken to teshil headquarters hospital Jand from where he was referred to district headquarters hospital Attock due to paucity of necessary medical testing facilities. After confirmation of the crime by medical authorities, Jand Police registered a case against the nominated accused and launched a hunt to arrest him.

Verification Process Completed of Students for PM Laptop Distribution



Multan: Dr Madiha Akram Focal person verifying the data of students for Prime Minister Laptop Distribution at Women University Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Distribution of laptops in Women University Multan will be done today, the verification process has been completed. According to the spokesperson, the verification process of female students in connection with Prime Minister Laptop Scheme in Women University was completed yesterday in the presence of HEC representative of 548 female students. The data has been checked and the laptops have been declared eligible. These laptops will be distributed today in a ceremony which will be attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha as the chief guest. 109 of Islamic Studies, Statistics, Political Science, Math and Physics, Pharmacy,

Public Health, Environment, Management Sciences, Biochemistry, Botany 95, Molecular Biology, Sociology, Applied Psychology, English 101, Education, Economics, IT, 95 and Chemistry, Arts and Design and Mass Communication 58 students are included in the event. It will be held in the auditorium at 10 o'clock. The coordinator of this program is Dr Madiha Akram.

Isra University hospital in Hyderabad in crisis due to dispute over management

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: welfare shutdown in Isra University (hospital), the victim of conflict, Out of the 350 employees fired by the new management on verbal orders, only 100 employees were reinstated, the movement to save Isra University is ongoing by the affected employees, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the caretaker Chief Minister have been requested to take notice and give justice.

Isra Islamic Foundation founded in 1985 as a trust institution of Isra University Hyderabad, Isra Medical University joins the top-ranked Warren University of HEC and this university is well recognized internationally. Campuses are also running in Islamabad and Karachi, while Isra University Hyderabad Man Campus has been

a victim of financial and administrative crisis for the last three years due to the management ownership dispute between the two parties.

Isra University Hospital Hyderabad consists of 600 beds, out of which 300 beds are allocated for welfare, out of these 300 beds, 100 beds are allocated for free treatment of poorer patients, but complaints of not getting welfare facilities often come up. Since former VC Nazir Ashraf Laghari and the Qazi brothers, due to the dispute over management ownership, the entire business in the university and hospital has been severely affected and more than 2000 employees have not received their salaries for the past 4 months.

At this time, temporary VC Dr. Ahmed Waliullah Qazi dismissed 350 employees through a verbal order, including Chief Security Naseem

Akhtar Vistro, Security Officer Abdul Jabbar Lashari, including 250 security guards, including 180 working on daily wages Workers and 90 confirmed security guards are included, while 100 employees of various departments are also among the dismissed. The dismissed employees started a protest movement by setting up a camp in front of the university's Gate for rehabilitation on jobs.

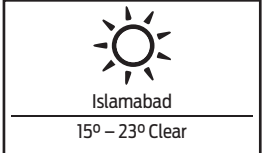
That 250 employees including 180 guards working on daily wages are still protesting due to not being reinstated. Mola Dad Awan, the focal person of the employees, told the media that the condition of the Qazi family taking charge of Isra University was to close the welfare of the hospital, due to which thousands of poor patients are deprived of treatment facilities, and secondly, the royal order to the employees with-

out notice and justification. By issuing the dismissal, which is an illegal act, we have gone to the court against the dismissal of the employees, which is scheduled for hearing on October 24. He said that daily wage employees have been working for the past 3 years.

Under the ISRA law, an employee who works for 6 months is confirm, but instead of conformation these employees, they have been fired. Maula Dada Awan said that everyone should understand that Isra University is a welfare institution and the welfare institution is not Personal property by anyone.

The focal person of the employees, Chief Justice of Sindh, Chief Justice of Pakistan and caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh demanded that Isra University should be handed over to a neutral authority to save this welfare institution from destruction.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:55 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:46 pm
Maghrib 5:25 pm
Isha 6:49 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Judiciary and Human Resource Management in Universities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) conducted a research study titled "Judiciary and Human Resource Management in Universities" to investigate the average number of court cases and their nature, registered by faculty members and other staff against university administrations, as well as the average cost of litigation to resolve these cases.

According to the press release issued by PIDE, the study revealed that, on average, 105 court cases were filed by faculty members against the administration. Of these cases, 50 were from relatively younger universities, while 160 cases belonged to the older universities. The universities were classified into two broad categories in the research: older universities (established before 2005) and younger universities (established after 2005).

In examining the cases filed by faculty, the study found that 58 percent were initiated by academic faculty members, while 42 percent were filed by non-academic staff. Additionally, the majority of these cases related to promotion (65%) and permanent positions (22%), respectively.

The cost of litigation involves both direct and indirect expenses. The direct cost is determined by lawyer fees, which vary based on the nature of the case and the scales and groups of applicants. For lower scales (BPS 1 to 16), the average cost of litigation ranges from PKR 50,000 to 200,000 per person, while for higher ranks (BPS 17 and above), it varies from PKR 150,000 to 500,000 per person. The indirect cost pertains to time, with each case taking, on average, six months in service tribunals. This duration can be extended if the losing party escalates the matter to higher courts, including high courts or supreme courts. This conflict detrimentally impacts the working environment, particularly among faculty members, ultimately affecting the institution's overall performance.

Pakistan-ASEAN partnership affirmed as Foreign Minister Inaugurates 'ASEAN CORNER' AT ISSI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani unveiled the plaque and inaugurated the 'ASEAN Corner' at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) today. The event was characterized by ASEAN Envoys as a "milestone" in the growing Pakistan-ASEAN collaboration. The inauguration was followed by a Round Table discussion, entitled: "Forging Partnership: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistan-ASEAN Relations."

The inauguration ceremony and Round Table attracted prominent diplomats, scholars, students, media, and businessman representatives, and served as an opportunity to underscore ASEAN's place and role in the world and to reinforce the efforts strengthening of Pakistan-ASEAN partnership.

In his remark at the outset, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood extended a warm welcome to all the participants and thanked the Foreign Minister and ASEAN Heads of Missions for their personal participation. He highlighted the significance of the 'ASEAN Corner', which as an idea was first conceived in the ISSI-ACI (ASEAN Committee in Islamabad) meeting in January 2023. Amb. Sohail Mahmood noted the strong historical and cultural ties between the people of Pakistan and ASEAN region and outlined the evolution of Pakistan-ASEAN relations over the past several decades.

In his remarks, H. E. Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia and ACI Chairman expressed gratitude to all those in attendance. He highlighted the deepening relations between Pakistan and ASEAN and underscored the success and achievements of ASEAN as a regional organization.

In his Keynote Address, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to its special relations with the ASEAN member states. He stressed



the need for common solutions to shared challenges, including climate change and terrorism. He drew parallels between the success of ASEAN and the potential for Pakistan, highlighting the importance of initiatives like the 'ASEAN Corner' in fostering cooperation.

Foreign Minister Jilani highlighted the importance of a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific and emphasized that Pakistan was ready to collaborate with ASEAN states in achieving the goals of confidence-building and conflict prevention. The Foreign Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's support for an international order based on principles such as peaceful coexistence, amicable dispute resolution, win-win cooperation, and shared prosperity.

The Foreign Minister underlined that for socio-economic development, peace and security were the fundamental pre-requisites. As such, Pakistan's foreign policy priorities for its neighbourhood and the wider region

were centred on conflict resolution and development. Foreign Minister Jilani emphasized the need to avoid bloc politics and geopolitical constructs that did not align with the unique geographical, historical, and cultural realities of the regions spanning the Indian and Pacific Oceans. As a proponent of multilateralism, he said, Pakistan reiterated its commitment to the fundamental principles of the United Nations charter. The Foreign Minister underscored Pakistan's continued dedication to ASEAN, reaffirming the objective of full dialogue partnership with ASEAN. Pakistan remains committed to being a strong partner in efforts to promote peace, stability, and development in the region, he concluded.

Ambassador Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia, said that a three-pronged approach for Pakistan and ASEAN was needed to mutually benefit, focusing on common interests and collaboration in areas

like economy, information technology, and sustainable development goals. He encouraged intellectual exchanges through visits by Pakistani think tanks experts to the ASEAN events and frequent exchanges between relevant counterparts.

Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam, emphasized the potential for increased research and collaboration between the ASEAN and Pakistan. He pointed to the vast population and market potential of the ASEAN, especially in a post-COVID-19 world.

Dr. Muhammad Shoab, Assistant Professor, National Defence University, Islamabad, stressed the need for academic and policy collaboration, including cultural linkages and ease of travel for mutual engagement. He called for learning from the ASEAN experience in addressing common challenges.

Ambassador Chakkrid Karachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand, highlighted the diversity within the ASEAN as a strength and proposed areas of cooperation with Pakistan, including cyber security, cultural tourism, and technology. He saw potential in Pakistan's technology sector and emphasized the importance of addressing challenges and realizing opportunities.

Mr. Juan Paolo Alix, Chargé d' Affaires of the Philippines, reflected on the longstanding relations between Pakistan and the Philippines, emphasizing shared values and a commitment to peace. He encouraged research excellence at the 'ASEAN Corner'.

Ambassador Ameer Khurram Rathore, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), emphasized the importance of combining practical diplomacy with research endeavours of the academia and think-tanks. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, presented the Vote of Thanks and expressed optimism about the collaboration between Pakistan and the ASEAN, highlighting the potential for cooperation in traditional and non-traditional areas.

Preparations of winter

ISLAMABAD: Vendors busy sewing and manually making woven quilts at his work place for upcoming winter as the demand for woolies and quilts has risen.



Photo: APP

UK delegation visit to Aghosh College, Murree

Asad Hashmi

ISLAMABAD: The UK delegation visited Aghosh College, Murree, the residential institution of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan. Mr. Abdul Aziz and Asadullah Ghalib of Alkhidmat Global were included in the delegation. Princi-

pal Aghosh College Murree Azam Khan welcomed the distinguished guests. Principal ACM conducted a detailed tour of various parts of the campus, academic block and hostel block and gave a detailed briefing about the objectives and master plan of Aghosh College, Murree. Later he

reviewed the facilities provided to the students.

The UK delegation appreciated the efforts of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan and the faculty and management of Aghosh College Murree for providing the best educational facilities and boarding environment to the deserving orphans.

It is a residential institution of international level education. Where orphans are provided accommodation, education and training, food and other facilities free of charge. Remember, Aghosh College Murree is located at a distance of 35 km from Islamabad on the Murree Expressway.

USAID Supports Strategic Planning at 16 Pakistani Universities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, organized a strategic planning dialogue for Vice Chancellors of 16 Pakistani universities. Leaders from the public sector universities gathered to share the strategic plans that each university is developing. During the dialogue, university leaders reflected on best practices in academia, research, and governance to kickstart their institution-specific strategic planning.

The opening session of this 2-day event was chaired by Ms. Maura O'Brien, Deputy Mission Director USAID/Pakistan, alongside Dr.



Michael Barber, University of Utah, and Dr. Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party HESSA.

During the event, Vice Chancellors began developing their university strategic plans. Over the next few weeks, Vice

Chancellors will activate planning teams on their campuses to complete strategic planning.

Speaking at the event, USAID's Deputy Mission Director Maura O'Brien said, "What makes the Higher

Education System Strengthening Activity uniquely powerful is that it brings together both Pakistani and American universities to learn from each other, exchange ideas, and think strategically to solve shared challenges."

Dr. Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party and Research Professor at University of Utah, appreciated USAID's partnership with the Pakistani government on higher education. Speaking at the event, Dr. Aslam said, "This activity will advance the organizational performance of Pakistani universities based on integrated strategic planning." Dr. Michael Barber, Professor at University of Utah, said, "We are pleased to implement the Higher Education System Strengthening Activity program on behalf of USAID and will continue to work with Higher Education Commission to advance the higher education sector and make its programs more demand-driven for better graduate employability."

Get Ready to Explore People, Planet & Possibilities at Islamabad Literature Festival 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced the dates for the 9th Edition of the Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), a three-day literary extravaganza scheduled to take place from November 3 to 5, 2023, at the Gandhara Citizen Club in F-9 Park. The sprawling grounds of the park will serve as the vibrant backdrop for this eagerly anticipated event.

With the overarching theme of People, Planet, Possibilities, ILF promises an array of captivating keynote, engaging conversations, book launches, exhibitions, and film screenings.

The inaugural event on Friday, November 3 will be open to the public, featuring thought-provoking addresses by Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director OUP; Jane Marriott, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom; and Khalid Mahmood, Managing Director, Getz Pharma Pvt. Ltd. The event will also include keynotes by the notable British author, biographer, and historian, Victoria Schofield, and the eminent Urdu poet, Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Presidential Pride of Performance, Iftekhar Arif. A beautiful performance on a literary piece will conclude the event.

Staying true to its tradition of celebrating Urdu poetry and its rendition, the event's program has a grand Mushaira presided over by Iftekhar Arif, and a Ghazal Night with the maestro Ustad Hamid Ali Khan on the second and third evenings, respectively.

All informative and literary discussions will be led by eminent experts, including Dr. Ishrat Husain, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Mohammad Aurangzeb, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Saquib Ahmad, Dr. Farzana Bari, Dr. Najeeba Arif, Nasir Abbas Nayyar, Kishwar Naheed, Nasira Zuberi, Omar Shahid Hamid, Munezza Shamsie, Harris Khaliq, Hamid Khan, Zahid Hussain, Nasim Zehra, Hamid Mir, Asma Shirazi, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Asghar Nadeem Syed, Khaled Anam, Sarmad Khoosat, and Beo Zafar. The diversity of their perspectives will enrich the sessions over the course of three days, exploring an array of captivating topics, from the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence, Evolution in Education, Contemporary Literature, Endangered Languages, Role of Women in Publishing, Changing Business Dynamics, and Foreign Policy, among others. An introduction to the UK's leading Examination Board 'OxfordAQA' is also part of the event. OxfordAQA is well known worldwide for its reputation for academic excellence and alignment with the UK education system and will soon be available in Pakistan as the preferred option for examinations.

Zong Customers can now experience unmatched voice quality through VoLTE

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, has officially launched its Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services. The operator has started its VoLTE roll-out by launching its services in major cities, namely Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi & Peshawar, enhancing customers' experience through high-quality voice calls over its advanced 4G network.

VoLTE is a cutting-edge innovation that allows voice calls to be transmitted over the 4G LTE network, ensuring crystal-clear sound quality, faster call setup times, and the simultaneous use of voice and data services, which means that customers can use data services while being on a call at the same time. It also offers improved call stability, even in areas with weak or fluctuating 2G/3G signal strength. With this latest advancement, Zong 4G is taking a significant step toward revolutionizing the communication experience for its customers.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G, expressed his enthusiasm for the VoLTE launch, stating, "At Zong 4G, we are dedicated to delivering the latest telecommunications innovations to our customers. The introduction of VoLTE in major cities represents a significant step forward in our mission to enhance the communication experience for Pakistanis. We are committed to expanding VoLTE services to more regions across the country, ensuring that our customers benefit from the best voice quality and a seamless data connection."

As Zong 4G continues to invest in improving technology and network infrastructure, the company remains dedicated to offering the best communication experience to its customers throughout Pakistan. Stay connected, stay clear, and enjoy the future of voice calling with Zong 4G's VoLTE services.



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Pakistani Nation and Pak Army Stands with Palestinians

The creation of Israel remains deeply controversial and a subject of ongoing debate. Critics argue that Israel's establishment involved the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs, resulting in their status as refugees. This tragic event, known as the Nakba, is a deeply emotional and charged aspect of Palestinian history. The legitimacy of Israel's creation remains a contentious issue in international politics. Many Arab states and some other nations do not recognize Israel's right to exist and advocate for the rights of Palestinian refugees and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The establishment of Israel in 1948 is a topic of contention marked by complex political, ideological, and social factors. The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict is firmly rooted in this history, with disputes over borders, refugees, and sovereignty remaining at the heart of the struggle. Achieving a lasting peace in the region continues to be a challenging and unresolved endeavor, as the legacy of Israel's creation casts a long shadow over the Middle East. Understanding the complexities of the modern conflict requires an acknowledgment of the historical context and the diverse perspectives surrounding the issue.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque, situated at the heart of Jerusalem's Old City, holds a position of deep reverence and importance for Muslims worldwide. Alongside the Dome of the Rock, this histor-

ic mosque carries profound spiritual, historical, and cultural significance within the Muslim community. It transcends being merely a place of worship; it is widely regarded as the third holiest site in Islam, following Mecca and Medina. In Islamic tradition, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is believed to be the location from which the Prophet Muhammad embarked on his miraculous Night Journey (Isra and Mi'raj) to the heavens, where he encountered other prophets and received divine revelations. This event is commemorated annually by Muslims during the holiday of Isra and Mi'raj.

For over a millennium, the Al-Aqsa Mosque has been a living testament to the rich heritage of Islam. It has served as a hub for worship and scholarly pursuits, attracting theologians, scholars, and students from all corners of the Muslim world. The mosque has played a pivotal role in shaping Islamic jurisprudence and theology, making it a cherished symbol of Islam's intellectual and spiritual legacy. Throughout its long history, the Al-Aqsa Mosque has faced a series of challenges and periods of strife, including foreign invasions, occupations, and attempts to alter its religious and architectural character. Its enduring presence in Jerusalem symbolizes the resilience of the Palestinian people and the unwavering strength

of their faith. For Muslims worldwide, Al-Aqsa serves as a symbol of determination and resistance in the face of adversity.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque finds itself in a region marked by a complex web of political and religious tensions. The status of Jerusalem, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque, has been a source of contention between Israelis and Palestinians for decades. This issue is not just a political matter but a profoundly emotional and spiritual one for Muslims who consider the mosque a vital part of their religious heritage. Given the historical, spiritual, and cultural significance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the preservation of this sacred site is of paramount importance to Muslims around the world. They deeply value its continued existence as a place of worship, reflection, and connection to their faith.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque stands as a symbol of faith, heritage, and aspiration for Muslims. Its significance transcends the physical structure, representing a deep connection to Islamic history and a testament to the enduring faith of those who hold it dear. The importance of preserving this sacred site, as well as achieving a just and lasting resolution for its status within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is crucial for

the global Muslim community. Muslims worldwide continue to hope and pray for a future where Al-Aqsa remains an accessible place of worship and reflection for generations to come.

Hamas, which stands for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Islamic Resistance Movement), is a Palestinian political organization that has played a substantial role in the intricate and enduring Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Established in 1987, Hamas has evolved over the years into a multifaceted movement encompassing political, military, social, and religious elements. Its emergence took place during the late 1980s in the midst of the First Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was born as a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine and aimed to offer an alternative to the secular nationalist movement led by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the time. The organization's founding charter, which remains in effect, underscores its Islamist principles and opposition to the existence of Israel. Hamas's early activities were marked by armed resistance against Israeli forces and civilian targets, employing tactics such as suicide bombings, shootings, and rocket attacks. These actions garnered international attention and resulted in significant loss of life and suffering on both sides of the conflict. In addition to its military endeavors, Hamas also engaged in social and welfare programs, providing essential services



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

GITEX Global 2023: uniting tech innovators from 170 nations in Dubai

In a spectacular showcase of global technological advancement, the 43rd edition of GITEX brought together over 6,000 exhibitors and attracted the participation of 180,000 tech executives from an astounding 170 nations, concluding in the vibrant city of Dubai. The event held over an impressive 2.7 million square feet, in two mega-venues, sponsored by giants like Huawei, Etisalat and Salesforce, GITEX exhibited some of the most spectacular technology available worldwide.

As the ideal platform for leading technology companies, decision-makers, and start-ups to reveal the latest developments and innovations in various pivotal and strategic economic sectors, the exhibition was an important platform for partnerships in technology, digital economy, and artificial intelligence. AI was a constant theme of GITEX GLOBAL 2023, embedded throughout the show in what truly was "The Year to Imagine AI in Everything". Huawei launched the Intelligent Cloud Network to accelerate intelligent upgrades, which fully unleashes computing power with super-connectivity for unsurpassed AI productivity in the AI era. The cutting-edge solutions are driven by the emergence of large AI models meticulously trained on massive datasets – a fundamental shift that will shape the future of industries. The SuperBridge Summit established connections and fostered unity among leaders from the world's most rapidly expanding economies via advanced collaborations and enduring strategic partnerships.

The Summit accelerated entrepreneurial innovation across government, business, society, and culture. Record numbers of MOUs were signed, as well as countless product launches from some of the biggest tech companies around, ranging from Huawei and etisalat by e& introducing Red-Cap – a revolutionary service that showcases the immense possibilities of 5G, to the Huawei-Masdar City agreement to promote the adoption of carbon-conscious ICT through Huawei's Net Zero Campus Framework.

GITEX Impact brought global sustainability leaders together to accelerate climate tech and ESG strategies in the build-up to COP28 in Dubai while GITEX Future Urbanism brought together the world's most influential urbanists, mega-city developers, and innovative sustainable technologies to the forefront. It featured a massive Pakistan pavilion and, according to Dr. Umar Saif, Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, showcased more than 80 start-ups from the country, one of the largest cohorts from any country. Pakistan has one of the world's highest youth populations, producing more than 30,000 STEM graduates a year.

GITEX 2023 was a glimpse into the future of connectivity including universal connectivity, cloud-native solutions, sustainable 5G implementation, and more, featuring innovative approaches set to change the game for the tech industry and pave the way for a more advanced and connected future.

Corruption in Iraq ...



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

Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan to challenge Imran Khan in 2018 elections

Following four years of self-exile in the United Kingdom, Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister of Pakistan with a controversial political career, who was elected three times, has returned home to compete against Imran Khan, his main adversary in the upcoming elections.

Following his Saturday arrival by chartered jet in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, the 73-year-old politician is scheduled to conduct a rally in his hometown of Lahore, where his followers have bedecked the city with green and yellow party banners, posters and flags.

Prior to his flight departing from Dubai, Sharif said reporters, "We are completely ready for elections."

He declared, "Our nation, which ought to be

experiencing unprecedented prosperity, has actually regressed." "What brought us to this location? Why did things end up this way?"

Khan is imprisoned on false accusations of corruption, which he denies, following his removal in a no-confidence vote in April 2022. Pakistan is grappling with concurrent security, economic, and political crises ahead of elections that have already been postponed until January 2024.

Sharif had not been in Pakistan since he departed for London in 2019 to take medical care while incarcerated for 14 years on charges of corruption. His convictions are still enforceable, but on Thursday,

a judge ordered that police not arrest him until Tuesday, when he is scheduled to appear in court.

His party claims he wants to become prime minister a fourth time, although he is barred from running for or holding public office due to his convictions. His legal team says he intends to appeal.

The largest task facing Sharif will be regaining Khan's support base; even though he is incarcerated, Khan continues to enjoy popularity after his dismissal. Khan has challenged his August corruption conviction, which disqualifies him from the race as well.

The two most important tasks facing Sharif are (1) making himself and his party seem like strong contenders to succeed the well-liked Imran Khan, and (2) Reviving the economy.

After a falling out with senior generals, who have a disproportionate influence in Pakistani politics, Sharif has claimed he was forced out of office at the command of the strong military. The military, he claims, then supported Khan in the 2018 general election. Khan and the armed forces refute this.

After a falling out in 2022, Khan and the military have been embroiled in a brutal showdown for the past few months, which has given Sharif some political breathing room. Any claim that the military meddles in politics is refuted.

Michael Kugelmann, the director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Centre, states that "There is a universal law in Pakistani politics that being well-liked by the army always increases your prospects of gaining power."

Sharif's relationship with the military brass has been rocky throughout his protracted political career. Right now, things are going rather amicably, and he stands to gain politically.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

Digital Economy 2.0: A Game Changer for Pakistan - III

By doing so, they not only offer better digital services but also become influential players in the global digital arena.

This collaborative commitment between China and Pakistan is not just about economic growth. It's about mutual benefit and shared prosperity. The narrative goes beyond their own borders; it's about enriching the lives of their citizens and contributing to the grand tapestry of global digital development. They are not building a digital future for themselves alone; they are crafting a world where digital advancements uplift societies, drive innovation, and unite nations. This is a story of global proportions, one in which the boundaries of possibility are defined by the extent of our collective imagination. In their partnership, we find the embodiment of a digital tomorrow that stretches beyond horizons, beyond borders, and beyond limits.

China and Pakistan recognize the significance of the digital economy as a potent driver of global economic growth. Through this cooperation, they are creating a platform for international economic synergy, fostering common development across the globe, and contributing to the realization of a community with a shared digital future for humanity.

The effort of building "Digital Infrastructure" is for Prosperity. Both the nations are keen to accelerate the development of digital infrastructure, paving the way for modernization and technological advancement. The digital highway they aim to construct will not only boost their own economies but also open up opportunities for international cooperation and development. One of the

key aspects of this cooperation is the focus on cutting-edge technologies. By engaging in joint research, technological exchange, and capacity building, China and Pakistan are positioning themselves at the forefront of technological innovation. They recognize that breakthroughs in areas like artificial intelligence, block-chain, and quantum computing are pivotal for their continued growth. As part of collaboration, both nations will work together to enhance the capacity and quality of IT services. This will not only provide their citizens with access to improved digital services but will also bolster their role in the international digital landscape. The joint commitment of China and Pakistan to digital cooperation is built on the principles of mutual benefit and shared prosperity. Their combined efforts seek to enrich the lives

of their citizens, contribute to global digital development, and lay the foundation for a digital future that transcends boundaries. The new phase in China-Pakistan relations represents not only their commitment to economic and technological growth but also their shared vision for a world in which digital advancements uplift societies, drive innovation, and unite nations. As both countries journey into this digital age, the world watches with anticipation to witness the fruits of their collaborative endeavor in creating a digital tomorrow that knows no bounds.

The writer is a former banker and Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. He is also a foreign affairs analyst and senior media consultant based in Peshawar, Pakistan. You can reach him at syed.gilani@gmail.com.



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



CPEC Cultural Carvan to promote cultural bonds between Pakistan, China: Jamal Shah

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah said on Monday that his ministry planned to organize a cultural caravan by the end of this year aimed at transcending economic ties and strengthening cultural bonds between Pakistan, China and the Central Asian States. The cultural excursion under the title 'CPEC Cultural Caravan 2023' will be composed of diverse groups of Pakistani, Chinese and Central Asian artists, musicians, photographers, anthropologists, writers and filmmakers, he said while addressing an award ceremony for the film *Ba'tie Girl* held in newly renovated auditorium of Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB).



The minister also gave away Pakistan-China Cultural Exchange Envoy award to Producer of the film, Xie Peng and Pakistan National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Culture to the co-producer of the film. Jamal Shah informed that the caravan would start from Xi'an, China and

travel through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, UAE, Oman, Gwadar, Karachi before culminating in Islamabad. CPEC would be documented to reflect upon the land, life and the people along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Silk Route covering Central Asian countries during the month of December this year, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque welcomed the minister and appreciated for playing a very strong role to expand cultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. The ambassador also highlighted the ministers' contributions in promoting art, painting, and especially film *Ba'tie*, a co-production between the Hunarkada productions and Xie Peng

production house. He said that Pakistan and China enjoyed a very special relationship and unique and time-tested friendship which was higher than mountains and deeper than oceans. The cultural cooperation and people to people exchanges were very important to further strengthen friendship between the two countries, he added. He said that Pakistan and China were celebrating year of tourism and expressed the confidence that more and more people come to our countries to discover each other and also promote tourism exchanges. Producer of the film, Xie Peng gave a brief introduction of the movie and said that it was about the empowerment of women and promote friendship between the two countries. The film *Ba'tie Girl* featuring Pakistan and Chinese artists was also screened on the occasion. Earlier, the minister along with the ambassador, principal of the college inaugurated the auditorium.

Senior diplomats, officials, teachers, media and members of the community were present.

Photo exhibition to highlight Kashmir's plight inaugurated at Pakistan embassy in Brussels



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A 'Kashmir Black Day' photo exhibition depicting India's crimes against humanity in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was inaugurated at the Embassy of Pakistan Belgium on Monday. Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the EU, Amna Baloch inaugurated the event. The photo exhibition that will continue for one week, will display the Indian atrocities and the plight of the people of Kashmir. The heart-rending depictions of gross human rights violations in IIOJK as documented and widely reported by the UN Offices, INGOs, volunteers and international media, highlight the unending miseries of the Kashmiris, a press release said.

Ambassador Amna Baloch, while speaking at the occasion, paid homage to the Kashmiri victims and lauded their unbreakable resolve for their right to self-determination and complete freedom from Indian subjugation. Stressing upon the importance of October 27, the Ambassador said that, on this day India through its forces, forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir and indicated a series of unlawful brutalities, killings and atrocities against the innocent people of IIOJK, which continues unabated till today. Speaking on the egregious human rights violations being committed by India, the Ambassador called upon the international community to intervene and stop bloodshed of the voiceless and defenceless people of Kashmir. Ambassador further said that such events underscored the need to hold India accountable for its crimes against humanity. She said that the exhibition would help visitors to understand the gravity of human rights abuses committed by Indian occupation forces, spanning over many decades. For its part, Pakistan would continue to raise its voice for the Kashmiris on all platforms, Ambassador added. "People of Pakistan stand by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters of IIOJK and continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to their just struggle till the realization of their right to self-determination and complete freedom from Indian subjugation"

ASEAN Corner

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani along with High Commissioner of Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Malan and others are visiting the ASEAN Corner after the session "Forging Partnerships: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistan-ASEAN Relation" at The Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Doctors warn of 'catastrophic consequences' amid heavy bombardment of Gaza

Doctors in the Gaza Strip have warned of the "catastrophic consequences" in case of electricity supply interruption as fuel in the hospitals possibly running out in the next 48 hours amid the relentless bombardment of the besieged territory by the Israeli forces.

Any infants relying on ventilators would not survive, leaving doctors helpless to save them. Dr Fu'ad al-Bulbul, head of the neonatal department unit at Al-Shifa Hospital, spoke about the dire situation in a video released by the Gaza Ministry of Health.

"Most of [the] babies depending [on] ventilators will die because we can save only one [or] two babies but, we cannot save all babies," he said.

He expressed concern over the low fuel supplies that are essential to keeping the hospital generators on and electricity running.

Second aid convoy enters Gaza where supplies are scarce amid worsening crisis

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: A second convoy of trucks, carrying humanitarian aid, has entered Gaza, a U. N. official confirmed, as resources in the embattled Palestinian enclave are near depleted. The 14 trucks entered from Egypt via the Rafah border crossing on Sunday, Martin Griffiths, the U. N.'s emergency relief coordinator, said in a statement to X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

"Another small glimmer of hope for the millions of people in dire need of humanitarian aid," Griffiths said. "But they need more, much more." No details were provided about what was on the trucks. On Saturday, an initial convoy entered Gaza, where more than two million people have been cut off from water, food, medicine, fuel and other essentials in the wake of the current hostilities. The 20 trucks brought in desperately needed items such as medical supplies, tins of tuna and tomato paste, wheat flour, and enough drinking water for 22,000 people for a day.

Gaza death toll tops 5,000 after hundreds of overnight Israeli air strikes

News desk

UNITED NATIONS: The death toll in the Gaza Strip has passed 5,000, Palestinian health authorities said Monday, after hundreds of strikes on the enclave overnight, while UN humanitarian officials repeated urgent calls for a ceasefire and more aid convoys. The deadly assault followed Israeli officials' warning that attacks on Gaza would increase.

In Washington, the White House said President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed Sunday that there would be a "continued flow" of critical aid, the same day a second convoy of trucks entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing from Egypt. But there was

no indication about President Biden having suggested a ceasefire in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In Geneva, UN health agency (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a new appeal on Monday for "sustained safe passage" for medical essentials and fuel to keep health facilities open.

"Lives depend on these decisions," he insisted on social platform X. Latest media reports citing the Gaza Ministry of Health indicate that the number of people killed in Gaza since October 7 has risen to 5,087. Women and children have made up more than 62 per cent of the fatalities, while more than 15,273 people have been injured. In its latest human-

itarian update on the Gaza-Israel crisis UN humanitarian aid coordination office, OCHA, said that more than 1,000 had been reported missing and "are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble".

According to Israeli official sources quoted by OCHA, some 1,400 people have been killed in Israel, the vast majority in the Hamas attacks on October 7. At least 212 Israeli and foreign nationals are being held captive in Gaza, the Israeli authorities have said. Two hostages were released last Friday. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally.

According to media reports,



a new aid convoy entered Gaza from Egypt on Monday through the Rafah border crossing. This was the third such delivery after the crossing opened on Saturday for the first time since the start

of the conflict, following intense diplomatic efforts. A total of 34 trucks with aid provided by the UN and the Egyptian Red Crescent entered the enclave over the weekend.

The UN has stressed that to respond to soaring humanitarian needs, at least 100 aid trucks per day are required. The development comes as UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) warned on Sunday that it was set to run out of fuel within three days, putting the humanitarian response in Gaza at risk. UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said that without fuel, "there will be no water, no functioning hospitals and bakeries" and that "no fuel will further strangle the children, women and people of Gaza".

Pak-Turkiye enjoy versatile defence cooperation reaching new heights of cooperation: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Republic of Turkiye, Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci on Monday said versatility of defence cooperation had touched new heights with the production of four warships by Turkiye. He was addressing the Distinguished Lecture Series, titled 'Diplomatic Reflections' at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here titled "Pakistan-Turkiye Relations: An Enduring Partnership."

Ambassador Pacaci said, "Two warships will be manufactured in Istanbul and two more at Karachi Shipyard. One has already been churned out into the high seas." He said that the bilateral relations were not only deep-rooted and time-tested, but rather had entered a new era of modern cooperation as both the countries were making new

strides in technological cooperation and revitalizing geo-economics. He, however, regretted that the volume of trade between the two countries was not up to the potential, as they were well behind \$1 billion mark. He hoped that the same should surpass well above \$5 billion, and urged upon the trade and commerce bodies to work together for greater integration and initiatives. He pointed out at the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between the two countries, and was relieved that it was operational at the moment and is making headway in renewed cooperation. Nonetheless, he saw hurdles in its way and the prime to obstruct are geopolitical fissures as the region is in turmoil. Ambassador Pacaci said that more than 50 Turkish companies were presently operating in Pakistan, and hoped that many more were in the

pipeline as there was immense potential of trade and investment in industrial and other ventures. The learned scholar who holds a PhD in 'Tafsir and Hadith' and had worked relentlessly for Islamic solidarity and campaigned against Islamophobia, called for greater unity among the Muslim world, and hinted at reigniting a new spirit in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). To a question, he said that the proposed neo-alignment between Turkiye, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar and Pakistan for advocating a new forum of Islamic states was very much on cards and must be looked into as a mark of congenial cooperation without any divide. At the same time, he stressed the utility of OIC and pointed out the efforts presently being undertaken by it to address the imbroglio and massacre in Gaza. He hoped

that the Foreign Ministers' moot in Cairo would be a success, and something positive would emerge out of it. He blamed the United States for Israeli transgression and said that it was acting as the biggest obstacle in resolving the Palestinian crisis. Ambassador Pacaci said that similar cooperation in educational and cultural spheres were a landmark of commonality and added that more than 13,000 students were benefitting from seven schools and 10 Turkish campuses in Pakistan. Pointing out at the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) railway network, he said that there were multiples odds to confront, such as the meter-gauge and broad-gauge issues. "With Pakistan still with the old gauge railway lines, the smooth movement comes to a halt," he observed.

Likewise, he said that sanctions on Iran from the US and



Europe act as an impediment in realising the trilateral railway feast. Talking about the refugee crisis, Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci observed that "terrorism is at the root-cause of all ills."

He said that there was much to learn and share between Pakistan and Turkiye, as both were home to refugees' exodus owing to geopolitical upheavals. About

the ongoing Israeli onslaught on Gaza, Pacaci observed that "a mechanism is being construed and Turkiye is proactively engaged in it to address the human catastrophe and ensure a permanent solution." He blamed the United Nations for failing to do its job, and advocated a two-state solution on the borders of 1967 in the Middle

East. In his vote of thanks, President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Dr Raza Muhammad said Gaza and the occupied territory of Palestine are under siege since long and this area is declared world's largest open-air prison whereas the same situation persisted in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He alleged that Indian fascist regime was emulating Israeli model in IIOJK to cleanse Kashmiris from their motherland, whereas the world must take notice of this situation. The President IPRI mentioned that the association of the people of Pakistan with Turkiye is not only historic but before its independence. He added that Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye were well connected through roads and rail routes which could be further augmented with the addition of Afghanistan if the situation improved in the country.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
51,070.82	50,731.86
Day's High	Day's Low
51,419.86	50,924.37
Index Value	Change
12,479,970,156	+338.96
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	23 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,374.83	-27.31
Percentage	Time
-0.37%	23 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,216.68	+89.40
Percentage	Time
+0.27%	23 Oct, 1:02 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,999.55	-259.81
Percentage	Time
-0.83%	23 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177
Bahrain Dinar	740.66	748.66
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.39	38.79
Danish Krone	39.03	39.43
Euro	294.1	297
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	1.52	1.6
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.76	906.76
Malaysian Ringgit	58.43	59.03
New Zealand \$	164.88	166.88
Norwegians Krone	25.28	25.58
Omani Riyal	723.34	731.34
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19
Saudi Riyal	74.65	75.35
Singapore Dollar	200	202
Swedish Korona	25.47	25.77
Swiss Franc	311.85	314.35
Thai Bhat	7.64	7.79
U.A.E Dirham	78	78.8
UK Pound Sterling	343	346.4
US Dollar	280.25	283

Philip Morris Pakistan announces financial results for 3rd Quarter, 2023

KARACHI: Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited (the Company) has released its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, showcasing the impact of economic challenges and industry dynamics on its financial performance. During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited reported a Total Net Turnover of PKR 13,641 million, representing an 8.9% decrease compared to the same period last year. The domestic Net Turnover of PKR 10,575 million marked a significant decline of 24.1% versus the prior year, reflecting a 44% drop in volumes versus the prior year following the exorbitant excise increase in February 2023. The Company recorded a profit after tax of PKR 659 million for the same period, signifying a significant decrease compared to prior year, largely driven by the volume decline. In the first nine months of 2023, the company contributed PKR 26,189 million to the National Exchequer, reflecting a 22.5% increase compared to the prior period.

The Track & Trace System for the tobacco industry, implemented on July 1, 2022, aimed to boost tax revenue, combat counterfeiting, and prevent illicit goods smuggling through robust, nationwide electronic monitoring. While Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited and two other companies have fully implemented the System, the remaining tobacco manufacturers have only signed the Tri-Partite Agreement but not fully implemented the System. An across-the-board implementation and effective monitoring of production volumes and goods tracking at retail outlets are essential for the System's effectiveness.

A cumulative excise increase of over 200% during the fiscal year 2022/2023, including an unprecedented 150% excise hike in February 2023, led to a substantial decline of approximately 55% in tax-paid volumes between March and June 2023 versus same period prior year. For the first nine months of the year (January to September 2023), tax-paid volumes decreased by 37.9%, mainly due to multiple excise-driven price hikes.

Nawaz Sharif will positively impact political and economic situation, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the business community is pinning high hopes on the return of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

His return will result in balanced politics, which will result in political stability that will help the people and the economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in spite of jail, exile, and other difficulties, the former prime minister did not try to incite the public in his speech, nor did he talk about any kind of revenge, which is a proof of his political insight. Talking to the business community, the veter-

an business leader said that the former prime minister did not make any tall claims or vowed to jail the opponents, which shows that he does not want the politics of chaos in the country.

The people and the business community have breathed a sigh of relief after his speech because the country cannot afford any more protests and politics of conflict, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the former prime minister did not mention the armed forces and the judiciary despite complaints, which shows that he wants to forget the past and move forward.

The business leader added that overall, Nawaz Sharif's address was serious, balanced, and thought-provoking, in which he made it clear that the politics of confrontation are pushing the country backwards.

He no longer believes in such negative strug-



gles against important institutions, which is harmful and must be avoided, he said, adding

that he will now fight against poverty, inflation, insecurity, and injustice instead of politicians, bureaucracy, and institutions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the political forces that are destroying Pakistan by claiming to make it a paradise should not poison the political atmosphere for their own interests and should not misguide the people because their past performance is not a secret.

Mian Nawaz Sharif is aware of his political and economic mistakes, and he is determined to get the country out of its current problems. If he moves in the right direction and announces a viable economic program, he will have the full support of the public, the business community, and all major institutions.

All the stakeholders have realized that saving the country and reviving the economy are top priorities without which we have no future.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Sam Associate's Main Branch High Vision Real Estate was inaugurated by GM sale Roaden Enclave Mohammad Rashid and Advocate Syed Rehan Abbas. A large number of dealers and investors participated on this occasion.



Yadea, Global Leader in Electric Bike Sales

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Yadea, the global leader in electric bikes, is proud to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Eiffel Industries Limited (Road Prince) to manufacture and market Yadea electric bikes in Pakistan under the brand "YADEA". This exciting collaboration aims to bring eco-friendly and innovative electric mobility solutions to the Pakistani consumer market, revolutionizing the two-wheel industry and significantly reducing traveling costs for consumers.

Yadea, a brand renowned for its commitment to cutting-edge technology and sustainable transportation, is set to make a significant impact on the lives of Pakistani consumers by providing a cost-effective alternative to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. Yadea electric bikes are designed to offer a highly efficient and economical mode of trans-

portation.

Electric bikes, powered by rechargeable batteries, have the distinct advantage of being incredibly economical to run. The cost of electricity required to charge these bikes is significantly lower than the price of gasoline. This means that Pakistani consumers can enjoy substantial savings on their daily commuting expenses.

Making remarks on this partnership, Mr. Muhammad Adeel Usman—Director Operations said, "As we embark on this transformative journey with Yadea, our commitment to providing the people of Pakistan with sustainable, cost-effective, and innovative electric mobility solutions is unwavering. Together with Yadea, we are not only opening the doors to a cleaner, greener future but also redefining the way Pakistan moves. This partnership is a testament to our dedication to progress, quality, and a brighter tomorrow."

ICCI eyes great potential for promoting trade and exports with Indonesia

Naveed Ahmad Khan

JAKARTA: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar visited the Pakistan Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia and exchanged views with Faisal Fiaz, Acting Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia to further improve bilateral trade ties between the two countries. Muhammad Shabbir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Hamayun Kabir, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Akhtar Hussain and others were in the ICCI delegation.

Addressing the delegation, Faisal Fiaz, Acting Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia said that the economy of Indonesia is on a sustainable growth trajectory, therefore Pakistan has promising scope to develop close cooperation with it and get easy access to Indonesian and ASEAN markets. He said that Pakistan-Indonesia bilateral trade in 2022 was around US\$ 4.2 billion, which can be further improved by promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries. He said that in 2013, Pakistan had signed a preferential trade agreement with Indonesia and stressed that the business community should take full advantage of it to promote trade and exports with Indonesia. He lauded the ICCI delegation for participating in the 38th Trade Expo Indonesia Hybrid Edition 2023 and said that regular exchange of trade delegations is the best way to improve bilateral trade ties



between the two countries. He assured that the Pakistan Embassy in Indonesia would fully cooperate with the business community of Pakistan in exploring new avenues of trade promotion with Indonesia.

Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Indonesia are two important countries of the Muslim world and a lot of opportunities are available for private sectors of both countries to enhance cooperation in multiple fields. He said that the purpose of ICCI delegation to visit Indonesia is to explore untapped opportunities of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Indonesia includ-

ing pharmaceuticals, surgical & medical equipment, footballs, leather products. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia can also cooperate in many fields including tourism, IT, pharmaceutical, textile, cooking oil, mines & minerals, leather, e-commerce and others. He said that the Pakistan Embassy in Indonesia should identify the demand of Pakistani products in Indonesia and share this information with chambers of commerce of Pakistan so that the business community could take advantage of them.

ICCI delegation members also spoke on the occasion and shared useful ideas for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

PTCL Group dispels false speculations on U Microfinance Bank

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, the largest ICT services provider in Pakistan refutes all claims and rumors regarding the financial health of U Microfinance Bank (Ubank) its wholly owned subsidiary. Ubank is Pakistan's fastest-growing microfinance bank and one of the key players in the banking industry, highlights a robust and unwavering financial structure and has a strong capital base.

PTCL Group ensures that the teams at Ubank, from the management to those on-ground, will continue to make progress, innovate, and endeavor to achieve the bank's core mission of financial inclusion for all segments of Pakistani society.

Ubank enjoys strong and positive backing from PTCL Group. The bank has a paid-up capital of PKR 4 Billion, PKR 1 Billion as additional Tier-1 capital and PKR 1.2 Billion as Tier-2 capital from PTCL. In addition



to this, the bank has also raised PKR 1 Billion additional Tier-1 capital from the market. The bank's funding base continues to grow on a regular basis with consistent cash flows, deposits, lending, and capital influx.

Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Chairman, Board of Directors, U Microfinance Bank, said: "Ubank has always enjoyed strong backing from PTCL Group. The bank has demonstrated impressive financial performance and positive growth trajectory; therefore, I would like to reiterate that PTCL Group firmly stands with the bank and reassures the investors, customers and shareholders of its continued support. Currently, we don't foresee the need of any equity injection in the bank but are fully committed to meet any future growth requirements."

International Industries Limited Construction Event

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: International Industries Limited (IIL), a leading player in the construction industry, hosted a highly successful event at a Local Hotel, bringing together key professionals and stakeholders from the construction and building sector.

The event aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange within the construction segment. IIL's Institutional sales team extended invitations to over 30 industry professionals, including consultants and prominent builders.

The event featured distinguished speakers who shared valuable insights into the industry. Addition-



ally, the QA Technical team, provided in-depth knowledge during their respective presentations.

One of the highlights of the event was an engaging Q&A session, where participants had the opportunity to

discuss product improvements, and upcoming projects, and engage in a general discourse about the construc-

tion industry. This interactive session provided a platform for fruitful insights and constructive discussions.

Spirited Afghanistan upset Pakistan to claim historic victory

A Sports

CHENNAI: Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah scored sensible half-centuries after Noor Ahmed's 3/49 led Afghanistan to upset Pakistan by eight wickets in the ICC World Cup 2023.

The eight-wicket victory marked Afghanistan's first over Pakistan in ODIs. The two sides had come face to face on seven occasions in the 50-over format.

Set to chase 283, Afghanistan openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran provided a solid start to the team as the pair put together a century-plus stand as both scored half-centuries.

The duo dominated Pakistan bowlers before Usama Mir got the much-needed breakthrough for his side by dismissing Gurbaz in the 22nd over.

Gurbaz scored 65 off 53 deliveries with the help of nine boundaries and a six.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim stood his ground firm and was involved in another anchoring partnership when he added 60 runs for the second wicket with Rahmat Shah before Hasan Ali got rid of him in the 34th over.

He top-scored for Afghanistan with 87 in 113 balls, hitting 10 boundaries.

Shah was then joined by his skipper



Hashmatullah Shahidi and the duo knitted a sensible 96-run partnership to steer Afghanistan to a historic victory with an over to spare.

Rahmat Shah scored an unbeaten 77 off 84 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries and two sixes while Shahidi scored 48 not out in 45 balls with the help of four boundaries.

For Pakistan, only Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali could pick up a wicket each while the rest of their bowlers went wicketless.

The sensational eight-wicket victory ascended Afghanistan to sixth in the ICC World Cup 2023 standings while Pakistan managed to hold on to their fifth position.

Pakistan opening batters Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq justified their captain's decision to bat first by putting up a 56-run partnership.

Azmatullah Omarzai gave the first breakthrough to Afghanistan by sending Imam-ul-Haq back ending his brief

innings of 17 off 22.

Babar Azam then joined Abdullah Shafique and piled up 54 runs for the second wicket, before Noor Ahmed dismissed the latter to claim his first World Cup wicket.

Shafique scored 56 off 75, knitted with five boundaries and two sixes.

Mohammad Rizwan also fell prey to Noor Ahmed in the next over at a total of 120.

Babar Azam scored an anchoring half-century, his 30th in the format, and raised two 43-run partnerships with Saud Shakeel and Shadab Khan, before becoming the third victim of Noor Ahmed.

Azam played a cautious 74-run knock from 92 deliveries, with the help of four boundaries and one six.

Iftikhar Ahmed joined Shadab Khan at a total of 206 in the 42nd over and attacked Afghanistan bowlers with a blistering innings of 42 off 27, featuring two boundaries and four sixes.

Meanwhile, Shadab Khan scored 40 off 38 with the help of one four and a six.

Together they added 73 runs off 45 balls to lift Pakistan's total to 282, before falling in the final over.

Noor Ahmed returned with figures of 3-49, while Naveen-ul-Haq picked two wickets.

'Pakistan were not prepared against Afghanistan'

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former wicketkeeper batter Kamran Akmal on Monday opened up on Pakistan's historic defeat to Afghanistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium.

Pakistan suffered its first ODI defeat against Afghanistan as they lost their ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture by eight wickets.

Green Shirts scored 282-7 in their half-century courtesy of captain Babar Azam and opener Abdullah Shafique's fifties. The former led from the front by top-scoring with 74 off 92 deliveries with four boundaries and a six.

Abdullah Shafique struck five boundaries and two maximums on his way to 75-ball 58. They put on a 54-run partnership on the second wicket.

Shadab Khan (40) and Iftikhar Ahmed (40) chipped in with a 74-run stand at the death stage.

Afghanistan registered a historic win as they successfully chased the 283-run target in the 49th over, courtesy of half-centuries by Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65), Ibrahim Zadran (87), and Rahmat Shah (77).

Pakistan's poor bowling and fielding also helped Afghanistan's cause.

Former Pakistan wicketkeeper



Kamran Akmal, speaking about the team's performance in the ARY News show 'Har Lamha Purjoshi', said Pakistan did not make the necessary changes in its playing 11. He added that the side have been playing with the same players, with some being out of form, for the past three years.

Kamran Akmal said that Pakistan batters, especially Iftikhar Ahmed and Imad Wasim, batted well but couldn't score ample runs in at the start. He said that captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan gifted their wickets by playing bad shots.

He lauded Afghanistan for its perfor-

mance, cruising at the run rate and keeping wickets in hand.

Speaking about the side's bowling performance, the former cricketer added that the star pacer Naseem Shah's injury has harmed the side. He said a bowler can never be a good performer unless they play in the longer formats.

Babar Azam reveals reasons for Pakistan's defeat to Afghanistan

Sports Desk

Laure: Pakistan's all-former captain Babar Azam opened up on his side's historic defeat to Afghanistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium on

Monday.

Pakistan lost to Afghanistan for the first time in the 50-over format as they were beaten in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture by eight wickets.

Babar Azam-led Green Shirts scored 282-7 thanks to captain Babar Azam (74) and opening batter Abdullah Shafique's (52) half-centuries. Vice Captain Shadab Khan and batting all-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed chipped in with handy knocks of 40 each.

Afghanistan completed the run chase in 49 overs thanks to fifties by Ibrahim Zadran (87), Rahmat Shah (77) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65).

Babar Azam, in the post-match presentation, blamed his side's bowling and fielding woes for the side's heavy defeat. He said a team would never win if they failed in either batting, bowling and fielding departments.

The right-handed batter added that his team put on an overall disappointing performance. He lamented about his bowlers not pitching at the right line and length and failing to pressurize batters.

Moreover, Babar Azam hit out at his side for conceding boundaries with their poor fielding.

The right-handed batter hailed Afghanistan for its impressive batting display.

Olympian Islahuddin and Dr Muhammad Ali Shah Inter Academy Hockey Tournament concluded

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah girls' and boys' inter-academy hockey tournament concluded. The tournament was played on the Astro turf of Olympian Islahuddin and Dr Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy.

In the girls' final, Olympian Qamar Ibrahim XI was defeated by Sameer Hussain XI by two goals. Both goals of the winning team were scored by right-out Amna Khan. Boys' title went to Olympian Akhtarul Islam XI. In the final, Olympian Ayaz Mehmood XI lost by goals to one. Muhammad Usman and Ali Abbas scored the winning team's goals while Bilawal scored the defeated team's goal. scored. The exhibition match played between the Green and Whites teams of Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club was tied 2-2. Arif Bhopali and Olympian Sameer Hussain scored goals for the Greens while Khalid Pracha and Sarfaraz Ahmed scored the goals for



the Veterans Whites.

The chief guest of the ceremony, caretaker Provincial Sports minister Sindh Dr. Junaid Ali Shah said in his address that as the president of the academy, he was standing in his house when this ground was being constructed, during which there were many obstacles, but my father Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah and Olympian Islahud-

din persevered and faced all the problems and prepared this state of the art ground for the players of Karachi, despite the passage of ten years, everything looks new here from the hostel to the dressing room. The term is over, it is necessary to change it, they want a new turf to be installed here during their tenure. If this is not possible, they will at least start the work of

laying new turf.

Junaid Ali Shah said that the boys and girls of this academy are very talented and their future is bright. To increase the pool of players in Sindh, a talent hunt program will be started very soon. A team of Olympians from Karachi will visit Sindh very soon and look for talent. Apart from this, the Sindh Games, which have been postponed for four years, will be held in December this year, while the Thar Jeep Rally will also be held. Later, the special guest distributed the prizes. Former Senator Haseeb Khan, Consul General of Mozambique Khalid Tawab, Olympian Islahuddin, Academy Head Coach Olympian Samir Hussain also addressed the ceremony.

Olympian Akhtar ul Islam, Farooq Khan, Former International Mubashir Mukhtar, Olympian Iftikhar Syed, Former International Abu zar Umrao, Olympian Ayaz Mehmood, Aslam Khan, Sagheer Hussain, and others were also present.

Miss Noor-ul Sabah win the Title in Badminton Championship: Dr Kalsoom

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women University Multan participated in Badminton League for talent hunt in Punjab region under Prime Minister's Youth Program— Talent Hunt Youth Provincial League Punjab. This talent hunt sports League was initiated in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The Talent Hunt Youth Badminton League was organized in Sargodha in which 5 regions of Punjab participated. Multan Bahawalpur Region, the team consisted of Samia Ejaz, Kashmain Nadeem, Maryam Fatima Islamia University and Noor-ul Sabah, and Anees Khan



performed the duties of the coach. According to the results, the Multan team faced a three-set defeat against Rawalpindi Sargodha Region in the first match. However, after that, the winning streak continued till the end, in the second match, Multan Bahawalpur defeated Faisalabad Region by three sets to zero, in the third match, they defeated Lahore by three sets against two, while in the last match, Sialkot Region defeated by three sets to one.

The player of Women University Multan Ms. Noor-ul Sabah of the winning team has performed brilliantly well and played a key role in the victory. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr Professor Kalsoom Paracha congratulated and the Director Sports Dr Mamoon Khan and winner player Ms Noor-ul Sabah. VC Dr. Kalsoom Pracha said that our students have kept alive the tradition of glorious past of its achievements. We felt proud that Women University students are excelling in sports arena too. VC, Prof. Dr Kalsoom said that these activities give our students a sense of boldness and confidence. VC Prof. Dr Kalsoom said that University will always foster activities that will involve girls in sports competition.

Women University Multan Director Sports/ Registrar, Prof. Dr Mamoon Khan said that the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was an example that would unearth talent. This tournament is an initiative to promote talent for less played games like badminton. This event have not only provided a chance to young players to display their talent for badminton but also bring players to national and international levels for the future. Prof. Dr. Mamoon Khan congratulated student Ms. Noor-ul Sabah for her shining performance and wish her prospering future.

All Punjab IKO-MATSUSHIMA Kyokushin karate championships



Sports Desk

LAHORE: A very successful All Punjab IKO-MATSUSHIMA Kyokushin karate championships, 2023 event, was held at Railway stadium Garhi Shahoo lahore main hall.

Parents and other guests' applause the training of young karate kaz. Chief guests was Shihan Atta Hussain Butt International karate master instructor/ Referee IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan distributed prizes to the winners and pay tribute to International master Hanshi John Taylor chairman South Pacific Australia & Senior Vice president IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan, whose funeral was on the same day, his hard working and tirelessly efforts to promote Kyokushin karate throughout world.

Sensie Saima Batool, Sensie Amjad Prince, Sensie Tahira Nadeem, Sensie Kouser Naheed, Sanpai Adeel Afzal, Sanpai Alizay, Sanpai Ali Sabir Butt, Sanpai Ali Raza, Sanpai Ali Adnan, Sanpai Imran Majeed, Sanpai Wilson, Sanpai M. Umer, Sanpai Asad Abbas, Sanpai Baqir, Sanpai Jawwad Ahmed, performed their skills excellently for the successful event. All official were awarded with souvenirs. It was announced by the President PKOKK Shihan Atta Hussain Butt International karate master, 25 National IKO-MATSUSHIMA Kyokushin karate championships/ training camp/ seminar will be held at Lahore in the month of December 2023

Brydon Carse replaces injured Reece Topley in England ICC World Cup 2023 squad

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Fast bowler Brydon Carse was on Monday called up to the England squad at the ICC World Cup 2023 to replace the injured Reece Topley, tournament officials said.

South Africa-born Carse has so far played 12 one-day internationals and three Twenty20 games for England since making his debut in 2021.

Topley fractured his index finger on his bowling hand in Saturday's 229-run mauling at the hands of South Africa in Mumbai and will sit out the rest of the competition.

"England and Surrey seamer Reece Topley has been ruled out of the rest of the ICC Men's World Cup after fracturing his left index finger during England's defeat to South Africa on Saturday," ECB stated.

Initial reports suggested that the left-arm pacer may have cracked his finger. He was then taken for scans in Mumbai which revealed the full extent of his injury.

"Scans in Mumbai on Saturday, after the match at the Wankhede Stadium, revealed the full extent of the injury. Topley will return to the UK in the next 24 hours," said ECB.

"He will work closely with the England and Surrey medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation," the statement added.

England had a disappointing World Cup campaign thus far as the defending champions managed to win only one game out of four and currently sit ninth in the standings, trailing by Afghanistan, who upset them by 69 runs last week.

England's squad for the World Cup 2023

Josh Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, David Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes.

Pakistani-origin umpires to officiate WBBL matches

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Cricket Australia (CA) has announced the Match Referee Panel and State and Territory Umpire Panels (STUP) for the 2023/24 season, which features three Pakistani-origin umpires.

Syed Humayun, Ahmad Khan and Muhammad Qureshi's names would also be considered as fourth umpires in BBL after fulfilling their duties in the ongoing Women's Big Bash League (WBBL).

Alongside Premier Cricket



commitments, members of the umpire panel will be appointed

to officiate in CA competitions, including the Weber Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), Women's National Cricket League (WNCL), Toyota Second XI, CA Underage National Championships and as Fourth Umpires in the KFC Big Bash League (BBL).

Apart from three Pakistani-origin umpires, four members from India and one from Sri Lankan family heritage were also named in the CA Umpires panel for season 2023/24.

Eight South Asian members

of STUP's

Dinusha Bandara (Sri Lanka), Syed Humayun (Pakistan), Sharad Patel (India), Daval Bhatt (India), Harsimran Singh (India), Muhammad Qureshi (Pakistan), Gaurav Bawa (India), Ahmad Khan (Pakistan).

Additionally, six women have also been included in the panel (Claire Polosak, Eloise Sheridan, Clare Haysom, Lisa McCabe, Ashlee Gibbons and Kate Holloman). Haysom and Holloman have been named on the panel for the first time.