فرمانرسول والله عليه

ر مصحیح بخاری: حدیث نبر 6006) Barkat Rice Mills

PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely and uninterrupted supply of fertilizer to the farmers for the Rabi crop. The prime minister instructed for the timely arrangement of the fertilizer's buffer stock. (Details on Page 8)

6

immigrants to leave Pakistan agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recen

Only 6 days left for illegal

been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had

Rabius Sani 9, Wednesday, October 25, 2023

📑 www.dailyspokesman.net 🔰 @daily spokesman 📑

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# Solidarity

RAWALPINDI: The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir met Ambassador of Palestine, Ahmad Jawad Rabei at



# PM vows to resist anti-vaxxers to achieve dream of polio-free Pakistan

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of a polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakeable commitment.

"I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio

The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year.

Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance.

The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually partnering with the destroyer of the humans.

"This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved.

He expressed his gratitude to the glob-

Pakistan in its endeavour of polio erad-

Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause.

He said the frontline health workers were the heroes of Pakistan, who were working in challenging environments, facing social barriers and even threats to their safety without ever losing their dedi-

The prime minister recognised the services of three police constables who were martyred while on polio duty and to two vaccinators who were injured.

He also presented appreciation shields to the former coordinator of the Sindh Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) Fayyaz Abbasi and the family of Huma Ashraf, who was severely injured in a train accident while on polio duty in September.

The prime minister also announced to

al partners who continued to supporting personally visit Huma as a gesture to recognise her services in the mission of a polio-

> "Today is the day to remember how far we have come and how crucial polio eradication efforts remain. Pakistan cannot be the reason to hold the world back. We must move forward to 2024 with the realisation that the weight of global eradication lies on our shoulders. We must leave no room for the virus to spread and reach every child with the vaccine before the virus has a chance to permanently change their lives," he remarked.

> Caretaker Health Minister Nadeem Jan, in his address, paid homage to the polio workers who were striving to accomplish the mission of a polio-free Pakistan while facing many odds and hardships.

> He emphasised that the community health workers should be acknowledged and honoured as motivation would enhance their performance.

He called for changing the narra-

tive from "Pak Fights Polio" to "Pakistan Winning Over Polio".

He expressed the hope that the World Polio Day next year would mark the complete eradication of polio from Paki-

Federal Health Secretary Iftikhar Shallani said the campaign was started in 1994 and continued across Pakistan with dedication to date with support from the aid

Besides the polio drive, other related subjects including maternal and neonatal healthcare were also worked on, he added.

WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala said the Day was observed to commemorate the global journey. He said the polio eradication was one of the major commitments made by WHO which provided technical support to Pakistan.

He said the day was not far when Pakistan would get rid of the crippling disease within next few years as the number of paralysis had sharply declined.

UNICEF Chief Polio Officer Melissa Corkum said the credit for the successes went to the health workers who despite challenges went door to door in every

campaign. She said the Day was not only to commemorate the successes but also to remember those who sacrificed their lives

during the struggle. Rotary's District Governor Mr Masrur J. Scheik highlighted his organisation's support for polio eradication through funds, volunteering during campaigns, social mobilisation of workers and, installing solar water filtration plants.

# 'Israeli war on Gaza is just another violation of international law: Gen: Asim

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) met the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, His Excellency Ahmad Jawad Rabei at General Headquarters today.

COAS expressed condolences on the loss of Palestinian lives in the ongoing war in Gaza. COAS expressed grave concern over unabated violence and willful, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by the Israeli Defence Forces in the war. Incessant attacks on civilian population, schools, universities, aid workers, hospitals and the forced exodus of Palestinians from Gaza are manifest crimes against humanity.

COAS reiterated the call for immediate cessation of hostilities, opening of humanitarian corridor to Gaza, protection of civilians and adherence to the International Humanitar-

stan's principled support for conduct".

an independent, viable and contiguous state of Palestine established on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capi-

"Pakistan believes that the fresh spate of violence in Gaza is the result of unabated repression, continued human rights violations and state-sponsored sacrilege of Al Aqsa mosque. Conflating this war with terrorism would be naïve; taking a narrow and self-serving view of the issue as an isolated attack, obscures brutal oppression spanning decades that has led to this outcome" COAS remarked.

COAS said "At this critical juncture, it is imperative that the international community mobilizes to put an early end to unfolding human tragedy due to disproportionate and unlawful use of force by Israeli Defence Forces and desist from encouraging them to continue perpetrating atrocities in manifest violation of all COAS also reiterated Paki- norms of civility and humane

## Effective border management in interest of both Pakistan, Afghanistan: Solangi

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said peace was linked with Pakistan and Afghanistan and effective border management and security was in the interest of the peoples of both countries.

In a meeting with Afghan media delegation, problems of Afghan journalists, visa issues and other important issues were discussed.

He said it was the responsibility of the media to identify the enemies of peace so that the state could defeat them. Murtaza Solangi held out



try of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be contacted on the visa issues of Afghan journalists. As a responsible state,

the assurance that the Minis

Pakistan will ensure that all foreigners enter the country through legal channels, he added.

The delegation of Afghan journalists thanked the Federal Minister of Information for the assurance to redress their

# Naqeebullah murder case: ATC to indict suspects on Nov 2

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a major development, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday fixed a date for indicting the accused named in the Naqeebdullah murder case.

A hearing of the Naqeeb-

Karachi's anti-terrorism court (ATC) in which the court fixed the date for the indictment of the former SHO Amanul-

lah Marwat, Sadaqat Hussain,

and others. The prosecutor submitted the challan to the court, while the copies of the challan were provided to the accused nomi-

nated in the case. It is worth mentioning here that the court approved the bail of an accused Shoaib aka Shooter. The accused cops had gone into hiding after facing allegations of murdering Naqeebullah Mehsud.

The court directed to produce the arrested suspects in the next hearing, and adjourned the hearing till

It is pertinent to mention that an anti-terrorism court (ATC) acquitted former SSP-Malir Rao Anwar and dullah murder case was held other accused in the high-pro-



file Naqeeb Ullah Mehsud murder case on January 23.

The court announced that the prosecution has failed to prove the allegations against the prime accused Rao Anwar and others.

Mehsud was killed on

January 13, 2018, in Karachi during a fake encounter allegedly staged by Rao Anwar, the senior superintendent of police of Karachi's Malir district.

# People's Party never given 'level playing field' says Gillani

**Asim Tanveer** 

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani appeared in accountability court in Toshakhana reference hearing on Tuesday.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari, another accused in Toshakhana reference could not appear in the hearing and his lawyer Farooq H. Naek sought exemption from the court.

The court granted Zardari's exemption

plea in the case hearing. Yousaf Raza Gillani talking to media outside the court premises said the People's Party should not object for the 'level playing field' as the party was never given level playing field at any time. "It will not be a new issue for the PPP", party stalwart said. Commenting on the next government Gillani said that let the

people decide it in elections. On a question, former PM said that "the PTI's cases have been in courts let the courts' decide these cases".

# Nawaz Sharif's sentence in Al-Azizia reference 'suspended'

**Bureau Report** 

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab government on Tuesday 'suspended' sentence awarded to former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia refer-

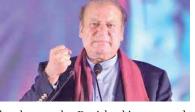
Nawaz Sharif was convicted by accountability courts in Avenfield and Al-Azizia

The accountability court had awarded 10-year jail term with eight million Pounds fine to Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield case and a 07-year sentence in Al-Azizia refer-

The court also disqualified Sharif from holding public office for 10 years. However, in 2019, his sentence in the

Al-Azizia reference was suspended by the Lahore High Court (LHC) on medical grounds. He was then permitted to fly to London on medical grounds.

Sources privy to the development said



that the caretaker Punjab cabinet suspended the sentence of Nawaz Sharif under Criminal Procedural Code Section 401.

According to Section 401 of the Criminal Procedural Code, the government reserves the right to suspend the sentence of the convict.

The former three-time premier landed in Pakistan on Saturday (October 21) after ending his self-exile of four years. He was accorded a warm welcome by the PML-N and addressed a huge public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan to reveal his plan of steering Pakistan out of crises.

#### PIA cancels another two dozen flights amid fuel shortage

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The restrictions on fuel supply owing to non-payment of dues continued to affect the flight operations of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Tuesday.

The national flag carrier cancelled at least 20 domestic and international flights and delay several others.

A PIA spokesman said that due to a limited fuel supply for PIA aircrafts on a daily basis and for operational reasons, the flights were cancelled while the departure of some flights had been rescheduled. Five flights from Karachi to Lahore, Gwadar, Sukkar and Islamabad, while two flights from Lahore airport have also been suspended.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar directed authorities concerned to expedite the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and other loss-making state-owned enterprises.

# The Spokesman

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding Urea availability for Rabi crop on

# PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

**B** Spokesman Report

er Prime Minister Anwaarconcerned to ensure timely er's buffer stock. and uninterrupted supply of

directed the authorities arrangement of the fertiliz-

fertilizer to the farmers for district administrations to dination Committee for the about the prices of the ferti-

the Rabi crop. The prime keep strict vigilance on the uninterrupted provision minister, chairing a review fertilizer prices. The meet- of the fertilizer. The prime ISLAMABAD: Caretak- meeting on the provision ing was also apprised of the minister instructed the releof Urea for the Rabi crop, current production of the vant ministries to formulate ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday instructed for the timely fertilizer and the expected demand. The participants for the smooth supply of the were briefed about the deci- fertilizer for Rabi crop. The

He asked the respective sions of the Economic Coormeeting was also briefed

the demand and supply for the fertilizer factories. Caretaker ministers Gohar Ejaz, Kausar Abdullah Malik and Muhammad Ali, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema and relevant senior officers attended

# China, Pakistan explore investment prospects in textile sector

**B** Spokesman Report

**BEIJING: Federal Minister** of Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz held productive discussions with influential Chinese business leaders and investment groups during the recently concluded 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. A meeting with Zhang Xi'an, vice president of the China Textile Import and Export Chamber, on October 17 highlighted investment opportunities in the textile industry.

The meeting served as a platform for both sides to explore investment avenues and assess the collaboration potential in the textile sector,



which was also attended by Ghulam Qadir, the Trade and Investment Counselor of the Pakistani

Embassy in China, and key players of China's textile industry, CEN reported on Tuesday. With China being a global leader in textile manufacturing and Pakistan renowned for its rich textile resources and expertise, the prospect of closer ties in this industry holds immense promise. A consensus was reached on several key areas of collaboration, including investment facilitation, trade promotion, and exchange of expertise and technologies. Both sides expressed their commitment to fostering a conducive environment and encouraging more Chinese and Pakistani textile enterprises to explore investment and trade opportunities.

#### Sugar price jacked | DG National up at utility stores

**E** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government-run utility store corporation (USC) on Tuesday jacked up the price of sugar

Earlier this mont, the USC was facing a shortage of sugar and the sources claimed that efforts were underway to purchase 40 thousand tons of sugar. According to sources knowing the matter, the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has increased the price of subsidized sugar by Rs8 per kg, with immediate effect.

With the increase the price of sugar for the general public has reached Rs155 per kg while the commoditv would be sold at Rs109 per kg to the individuals registered in Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), the sources said.

Earlier, the sugar was being sold at Rs101 at the utility stores corporation. Separately, a major crackdown

against hoarders across the country is going on so far 6,994 metric tons of sugar has been recovered.

According to the data, A total of 5,112 metric tons of fertilizer, 2,366 metric tons of flour, and 6,994 metric tons of sugar have been recovered across the country, while 31.75 metric tons of fertilizer and 4.535 metric tons of sugar were retrieved from the largest province of Pakistan, Punjab.

# Police Bureau Briefs Interior Sec on NBP Role

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Police Bureau (NPB) Dr. Ehsan Sadiq on Tuesday briefed the Federal Secretary for Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani on the mandate, role, functions, existing and proposed future initiatives, and challenges of NPB. Secretary Interior emphasized on the important and critical role of NPB and commended its performance despite resource constraints, said the press release.

He also assured the complete support of Ministry of Interior in enabling NPB to carry out its mandated functions effectively and impactfully. Earlier, the Director General NPB, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq informed the visiting Secretary that the Bureau is secretariat of important institutions of National Police Management Board (NPMB), National Police Reforms Committee (NPRC) and National Public Safety Commission (NPSC). In this capacity, NPB is spearheading the police reforms, inter provincial police coordination and international coopera-

tion. The Secretary Interior was also

briefed on the proposed initiatives.

#### SC seeks bar councils' comments about drafting ofpetition 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought comments from Pakistan and Punjab bar councils regarding teaching of petitions' drafting in law colleges. The court sought the comments from the bar councils after it noted flaws in the drafting of a petition during hearing of a case pertaining to a conflict of land distribution. It, however, noted that the bar councils had no connection with

Expressing his displeasure over mistakes in the petition, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Esa observed that when the lawyers of Punjab would learn to write a writ petition. Should all the law colleges of Punjab be closed, he asked. He remarked that the purpose of hiring a lawyer was that he would draft a writ petition, and submit it after its vetting. He said most of the conflicts and strikes pertained to the lawyers of Punjab. How the lawyers had the right to observe strikes, he asked. Lawyer Chaudhry Afrasiab adopted the stance that he had not prepared the petition himself. The court ordered to fix the case again after six

### Shahid Khaqan Abbasi opens up on skipping Nawaz Sharif's homecoming rally

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and disgruntled PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday revealed reasons behind skipping Nawaz Sharif's welcome rally at Minar-e-Pakistan Lahore.

Talking to media outside the accountability court, the former prime minister revealed that he was no longer a senior leader of the party and he did not find it necessary to attend every event.

"I am not a senior leader of the party and it is not necessary to attend every event" Shahid Khaqan said on a question about not attending Nawaz Sharif's homecoming

On NAB, the former premier reiterated his allegations that NAB has paralyzed the country and it has been five years since he has been appearing before the courts.

"It's been five years since my case is under trial and I am attending the proceedings but nothing is being done, only dates are being given, said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

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# **Army Exercise Series held between Pakistan and Malaysian Armed Forces**



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Bilateral Army Exercise Series was held between Pakistan and Malaysian Armed Forces. The exercise commenced on 9 October and culminated on 22 October 2023 in Malaysia.

The exercise was based on 2 stag-

es, namely Cross Training Exercise and Field Training Exercise. The exercise has greatly benefited both the Malaysian and Pakistan Army to strengthen bilateral relations and establish friendly relations amongst officers and members of both countries by exchanging ideas, knowledge

# **Information Group** Officer Daniyal Gilani has been transferred

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Information Group Officer Daniyal Gilani has been transferred to Punjab. In this regard, the Establishment Division has issued an official notification. Daniyal Gilani prior to this remained posted as Chairman of Central Film Censor Board, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has served in the Embassies of Pakistan in Beijing, China and Paris General Manager served in the Audit Bureau of Circula- mation and Broadcasting.



Public Affairs in PIA. He has also tion of the Federal Ministry of Infor-

# **Anti-corruption Establishment arrested** labor officer

LAHORE: Anti-corruption Establishment arrested labor officer Anti-Corruption. Multan Saleem Ansari red-handed details, Director General Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab Sohail Zafar Chatta has issued instructions to all the Regional Directors to arrest the corrupt elements at any cost and bring them to book so that they can be made an example. On the special instructions of the Director General, ACE Multan

along with the Magistrate arranged a trap raid and

arrested Labor Officer Multan Salim Ansari red-handed for taking bribe. Labor officer Salim Ansari had

demanded bribe of one lac rupees from the citizen for firm registration, on which the citizen contacted

Regional Director Anti-Corrupfor taking bribe. According to the tion Multan Rashid Nimat directed an immediate trap-read, upon which Anti-Corruption Multan reached the spot and arrested Labor Officer Multan Saleem Ansari.

He was arrested red-handed for accepting a bribe of one lac rupees from the citizen

Marked rupees were recovered from the accused and case was registered. Anti-corruption spokesman said in this regard that we are struggling for a corruption-free Punjab. People should point out the corrupt elements fearlessly.

#### CCP and ACCA collaborate to create awareness of competition law

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) will jointly create awareness of the Competition Law among ACCA members.

ACCA, a global professional body of finance professionals, has a vast member base in Pakistan, serving in various sectors. As per the discussion held between CCP and ACCA, Continued Professional Development (CPD) activities will be carried out across Pakistan for ACCA members. The CPD will focus on Competition Law, which will benefit the ACCA members. businesses, and consumers.

CCP will also offer internship opportunities to fresh ACCA members and affiliates in various departments of the Commission. This will provide them with valuable hands-on experience in the field of Competition Law and regulatory processes.

The meeting was attended from CCP by Mr. Salman Amin, Member (OFT, Exemption & Advocacy), Mr. Shahzad Hussain, DG Legal & Advocacy, and Mr. Salman Zafar, HOD C&TA & Finance CCP whereas the ACCA side was represented by Mr. Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, and Mr. Asad Malik, Head of Business Development - North.

## CTD arrests 'mastermind' in Amjad Sabri murder case

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police on Tuesday claimed to have rounded up the 'mastermind' who planned the killing of renowned Qawwal, Amjad Sabri

Amjad Sabri, aged 45, was traveling by car from his home in the Liaquatabad area to a television studio when a motorcycle pulled up alongside the vehicle and the attackers opened fire on June 22,

The killing of one of Pakistan's most loved gawwals and naat khawan saw the nation descending into shared sorrow, with an outpouring of grief the likes of which weren't seen before on Pakistani social media.

According to a CTD spokesperson, an operative of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Qasim Rasheed was rounded up when he was activating his compliance after getting released from jail.

CTD said Asim Capri and Ishaq Boby killed Amjad Sabri on the directives of Qasim Rasheed from

Rasheed has confessed to killing security officers and Amjad Sabri in his initial statement. Handgrenades and arms have also been recovered from the possession of Qasim Rasheed.

# Azad Kashmir president says India fast emerging as terrorist state

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that, owing to Modi's extremist policies, India was fast emerging as a terrorist state on the global scene. Addressing the grand ceremony organized on the occasion of the 76th foundation day of Azad Kashmir here today, the president, while referring to the BJP's divisive policies, said that Modi would prove to be Gorbachev for India. "The day is not far when India will disintegrate",

struggle against India's belligerent occupation, Barrister Chaudhry said that Kashmiris have never accepted Indian rule and its dominance over the territory. Paying rich tributes to the Kashmiri martyrs, who laid down their precious lives to liberate the territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir from Dogra rule, the president said, "Our elders struggled hard to liberate the territory from the clutches of Dogra under the leadership of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan". The establishment of the state of Azad Kashmir was not a mere coincidence adding that the sacrifices of Sabz Ali



Lauding Kashmiris' decades' long but our forefathers waged a long struggle against the Maharaja and, ultimately, a revolutionary government under the leadership of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was established on 24 October 1947. "There has been a long political and military struggle which was written in blood", he said, adding that it involved the blood of martyrs, sacrifices of innocent women and a journey of migration.

"History bears witness to the fact that people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir have always struggled against oppression and tyranny", he said,

movement with their blood. "They were skinned alive and their heads were beheaded but they refused to bow before the oppressor", he said. Kashmiri people, he said, fought a historic struggle. "Today, we pay our respects to our martyrs, those Mujahids and Ghazis who lit the candle of freedom by sacrificing their lives", he added. Highlighting the main objectives of the establishment of the revolutionary government in AJK, he said that liberating Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir was the main purpose of the

"We assure our brethren in Occupied Kashmir that the government and people of Azad Kashmir are by their side in their struggle", the president said, adding that the government would utilize all its resources to highlight the issue of Kashmir at the global level. Denouncing India's state repression against the Kashmiris, he said, "More than 96,000 Kashmiris have been martyred, 8,000 mass graves have been discovered, 10,000 people have forcibly disappeared whereas, 22,000 women have been widowed, tens of thousands of children have been orphaned during the past three decades". The president strongly condemned Israel's bombing of innocent Palestinians in Gaza. "The international community should stop Israel from bombing the Palestinians", he said.

The function was attended by Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq, Speaker Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, and others. Earlier, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, was presented guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of police.

# PM Youth Laptop Distribution Ceremony held at Women University Multan

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women University Multan was privileged to host the prestigious Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023 Laptop Distribution Ceremony at Katchery Campus. Its a flagship initiative of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The event witnessed the distribution of 548 laptops to deserving students initially, furthering thegovernment's commitment to promoting digital empowerment and academic excellence among the youth.

The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ms Irum Shehzadi, she emphasized the significance of technology in education and its role. in shaping a progressive and knowl- also attended the ceremony, he high- according to the merit eligible students edge-based society. While address- lighted the strong partnership between are selected for laptop scheme. ing the ceremony Ms. Iram Shehzadi the government and educational instiing our youth with the latest technol- education. He said in first phrase we



(ADC) said we believe that empower- tutions in uplifting the nation through Multan Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha also as powerful tools, enabling them to graced the event. The Vice-Chancellor ogy is an investment in the future of are distributing one lakh laptops. He Dr Kalsoom Pracha expressed grati- and explore new dimensions educa-Pakistan. The distinguished represent- said that at every step verification tude for the prime minister's initiative. tion.

She said that the distribution of laptops not only bridges the digital divide but also empowers our talented students to explore new digital horizons. She congratulated and encouraged students to utilize laptops to explore new ideas, and engage in research that addresses the challenges faced by the nation and the world at large.

While addressing the ceremony Dr. Madiha Akram ( Focal Person, PM Laptop Scheme) also extended gratitude to Prime Minister for envisioning and implementing this initiative, which aims to equip the talented young minds of Pakistan with the necessary tools to excel in their academic pursuits and thanked the guests of ceremony.

During the event the heads and faculty members was proud to witness the joy and enthusiasm of the students as they received their laptops, marking a significant milestone in their educa-Vice Chancellor Women University tional journey. These laptops will serve access a vast reservoir of knowledge

# We will celebrate real freedom on the day when Jammu and Kashmir is free from India: PM AJK

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that we will celebrate real freedom on the day when the Indian-held territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be free from India's forcible and illegal occupation. While addressing a special ceremony held to mark the 76th foundation day of Azad Kashmir, the PM said that the day reminds us of the supreme sacrifices our ancestors had rendered during and see whether we fulfil our gizing tributes to the Kashmithe freedom struggle. "The territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was liberated by our ancestors after great struggle and sacrifices and now it is our



duty to protect it follow their ideology in letter and spirit", the PM said." We all have to take account of ourselves responsibilities to achieve this great goal, which was envisioned by our forefathers in 1947", he said.

While congratulating the nation. Lauding the Kashmi-

not far away when the people of Kashmir, after achieving freedom from the Indian occupation, would fulfill their ancestors' pledge to join Pakistan. Terming implementation of the UN resolutions as the only viable solution to the Kashmir issue, he said that it was high time that the world should come forward in a big way to help resolve the lingering dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Paying eulori people, the PM said that no power on Earth can stop the Kashmiri people from achieving their right to self-determi-

nation, he said that the day was ri Hurriyat leaders for their Pakistan for their consistent unwavering commitment and indomitable role in the mate struggle for the right to freedom struggle, he said, "I salute the determination and courage of all Hurriyat leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, Musrat Alam Butt, Asia Andarabi, Nahida Nasreen, Fahmida Sufi and other leaders who devoted their lives to the noble cause". He said that Kashmiris have rejected out rightly the India's unconstitutional move it had taken on 5th August 2019. He said that abolishing Article 370 and 35A was a conspiracy aimed at changing the region's demog-

The PM also thanked the government and people of

support of Kashmiris' legitiself determination. He also paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their precious lives to liberate Azad Kashmir."I also pay great tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan who are sacrificing their lives to protect us on the Line of Control", he said. Expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine, the PM said, "The people of Kashmir stand in support and solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and share their suffering equally". Solving the long-standing Palestine problem, he said, was the responsibility of the United Nations.

#### Shah seeks world attention towards worsening HR situation in IoK

Abdul Majeed Tahir
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ISLAMABAD: Senior Hurriyat leader and chairman Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Shabir Ahmed Shah has sought world community' pro-active role to address the dire political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied Kash-



In a his message from Tihar jail, the incarcerated leader, while referring to the worsening HR situation in the IoK, said that the blood of innocent Kashmiris was being spilled over with impunity by the trigger-happy Indian forces.

Innocent civilians in particular the educated youth are being killed ruthlessly by the Indian forces during fake encounters, cordons and search operations", he said adding that the targeted killing of Kashmiri youth amounts to systematic genocide.

Terming these laws as a serious violation of the UN resolutions Shah urged the influential world governments to take effective notice of India's settler colonialism drive intended to replace the indigenous population with a new society of settlers in the occupied Kashmir.

He urged the world leaders to influence the government of India to resolve the lingering dispute of Kashmir that happens to be the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and violence in the region".

Meanwhile, Shah appealed to the Kashmiri masses to observe complete strike on 27 October as a mark of protest against the India's illegal and forcible occupation of their motherland. 27 October, he said, was one of the darkest chapter of the Kashmir

history. "It is the day when India committed the crime of aggression and occupied the territory of Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes and will of its people", Shah said.

Reiterating his commitment to continue the struggle till the end of foreign occupation, Shah expressed the optimism that the day was not far when Kashmiris' would achieve the cherished goal for which they offered huge sacrifices.

# Upgradation of Nishtar Hospital Multan Will Be Completed By 31 January 2024: Amir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi entrusted the task of completion of health projects to Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. In this regard, Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak visited Nishtar Hospital and reviewed the development works. Commissioner Aamir Khattak formed a three-member committee consisting of MS Nishtar, Exen Building under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner City Miss Simal Mushtaq for the auction of non-usable items. She will be responsible for determining the unusable items in the hospital and conducting the auction process. Commissioner Aamir Khattak also discussed the facilities available to the patients. On this occasion, Exen Building Haider Ali while giving a briefing said that the upgradation of Nishtar will cost 936.56 million rupees.

Upgradation of Ward No. 4,13,17,20,26,12, M&R Department, Physiotherapy Department is in progress. Upgradation of Nishtar Hospital will be completed by 31 January 2024. Earlier, Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak paid a surprise visit to the Children's Hospital and reviewed the ongoing upgradation scheme of the Old Block at a cost of Rs 179.9 million. He also directed to complete the pathology, OPD in 6 months. I reviewed the available medical facilities, medicine stock and said that Children's Hospital is the only pediatric hospital in South Punjab. Punjab Government is trying to provide easy access to basic health facilities to the people

Commissioner Aamir Khattak discussed the available facilities with the relatives of the sick children and urged them to stay in the shelter and to provide the best facilities. On this occasion, MS Children's Hospital Dr. Kamran Asif said that daily in the OPD. Treatment facilities are being provided to 1600 patients.

#### M. Phil student's post-mortem report reveals cause of death

**Bureau Report** 

KARACHI: In a recent development, the post-mortem revealed the cause of death of the M. Phil student who was found dead at the University of Karachi's (UoK) hostel at HEJ Colony on Monday.

The preliminary post-mortem report revealed that the M. Phil student - Mukhtiar Ali - fell in the bathroom while taking a bath and suffered a head injury which led to his death, meanwhile, there was no sign of violence was found on the deceased body.

The report further said that if the victim got the treatment on time his life could have been saved.

The medical staff after completing the legal formalities handed over the body to the family, after which the family took the deceased with them to Swat for the final Islamic rituals.

# Agri Ext. Dept installs an olive oil extraction machine in Agri Park Wana

**Adam Khan Wazir** 

WANA: South Waziristan Department of Agriculture (Extension) has installed and run an olive oil extraction machine in Agri Park Wana.

Farmers of South Waziristan will no longer need to go to Peshawar to extract oil.

Agriculture Director Waziristan Dr Muhammad Anwar tion of olive in merged scheme, olive groves will be planted on an area of 28 hundred acres in South Waziristan, including Sub-divisions Jandola and Darazinda, so far, 322 acres of high

planted.

Bettani said, besides, millions of wild olives are found in the mountains of South Waziristan,

on which their effectiveness can be increased many times by using

high-quality grafting. Under the mentioned type, the Department of Agriculture will graft South 260,000 wild olive plants.

District Director Mohammad Bettani said while talking to local Anwar bettani said, at present 19950 media persons, that under the promo- plants have been grafted with high quality grafts and will start again next in the coming spring.

Apart from this, a high-quality grafting project of 67,000 wild plants has been started in Upper South Waziristan quality olive groves/gardens have been by IGFC South Major General Haroon

Hameed Chaudhry.

In the first phase of which 15857 plants have been grafted so far and the remaining grafting will start next

Director Dr Muhammad Anwar Bettani said that wild olives yield a rough 6% oil, while 20 to 25% oil comes out from high quality.

Dr. Anwar Bettani said that with the efforts of IG FC South KP Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhry, Minister of Agriculture KP, Department of Agriculture merged Districts, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali had announced an olive machine for Wana, and the Agriculture Department SWTD immediately moved the said machine from Kohat

to Wana, SW Lower.

The doctor said, now the machine is installed and the oil has started flow-

The director further said that the said machine is made in Turkey and it has the capacity to crush 200 kg of olive fruit in an hour.

He said, this machine will not only benefit the local framers but will also play an important role in the country's economy.

Tribal elders and local farmers on this initiative, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, IGFC South KP Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhry, Secretary Agriculture Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Javed Marwat, Director Agriculture merged Districts Murad Ali



Khan and District Director Agriculture South Waziristan Dr. Muhammad

Anwar Bettani thanked them. Local said the department of Agriculture has appreciated this initiative. ue.

However, local dignitaries expressed hope, that they will plant olive gardens for upcoming future, and the series of grafting of wild olives will also contin-



SERVICES		
<b>Namaz Timings</b>		
Fajr	4:56 am	
Zohr	11:52 am	
Asr	3:45 pm	
Maghrib	5:24 pm	
Isha	6:48 pm	

#### **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) 1
Bomb Disposal 1
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 1
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police926604
Motorway Police9270601-20

#### **Women Police**

Stations		
9222596		
270601-20		

ENQUIR	Y
dhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Dailway Inquing	111

HOSPI7	<b>TALS</b>
CAA	9281092
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
Railway Inquiry	117
PIA Cargo	9280979
1 1/1 1/2111111111111111111111111111111	117

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	4603666

#### DEDADTMENT

DEPAKII	MENIO
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

Tahafuz Sarkari Mulazmeen to protest against the loss of the rights of government employees



#### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tahafuz Sarkari Mulazmeen rejected the summary sent to the Prime Minister of the reduction in gratuity and pension and planned a joint strategy and plan to protest against the loss of the rights of government employees. In this context, the representative organizations of government employees jointly The consultation meeting will be held on Friday, October 27 at 6:00 pm at Satara Market. In which the leadership of Agiga, CDA, Pak PWD, Radio Pakistan, Education, PTCL, GPO have been invited to participate. To protect the rights of government employees, forget mutual differences and join together. The need for struggle is the voice of the hour. This decision was taken in the meeting of the central committee members led by Tehreek Javed Intizar.

# Chairman PRCS meets with Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, visited the Palestinian Embassy and met with Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei. Discussions centered on the current situation in Gaza, expressing sorrow over losses in lives and property.

During the meeting, Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei highlighted the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for water, food, and medical assistance. Chairman Shahid Ahmed Laghari assured that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society is fully aware of the situation in Gaza and pledged support.

Chairman Laghari announced that the Pakistan Red Crescent through the National Disaster Management Authority, will dispatch 4,500 first aid kits, 3,500 hygiene kits, and 3,500 dignity kits. Additionally, a shipment of medicines will be sent through the NDMA.

He urged individuals willing to contribute cash donations PRCS to directly send them to Askari Bank G-8 Markaz Islamabad, account number 01771650501737,



or to the Palestine Embassy's bank, Alfalah people. Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei Bank, account number 0494-1003784913. For inquiries related to medical donations, Dr. Hashir Parvaiz, Red Crescent's Health Representative, can be contacted at 0333-

In a gesture of solidarity, the Pakistan Red Crescent will also contribute \$100,000 to the International Feder-Societies for the aid of the Palestinian

expressed gratitude for the support and acknowledged the significant role of the Red Crescent Pakistan at national and international levels.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan. On this occasion Chairman Laghari, shared his impressions ation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in a commemorative book placed at the

# Performing

ISLAMABAD: Artists are performing on stage during ceremony by German Embassy tilted "A Magnificent Evening of Classical Music" in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# NDRMF Committed to make Pakistan resilient against climate change impacts

#### 👺 City Desk

KARACHI: In order to engage effectively with the Private Sector and other relevant stakeholders to further enhance its efforts of resilience building against natural disasters and long-term climate change adverse impacts, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) organized a seminar in Karachi.

The seminar, titled "Leveraging Carbon Markets to enable Private Investment," addressed critical topics such as the current state of climate change in Pakistan, the understanding of carbon markets, major challenges, Road map for future and the opportunities they present for the Private Sector. By identifying potential sectors for carbon trading and exploring the role of the Private Sector, the event aims to bridge the gap in understanding the



challenges, barriers, and inter- are globally recognized mechnational collaborations in the anism for carbon financing and realm of carbon markets.

Bilal Anwar, CEO NDRMF, said "The overarching objective of the seminar is to build understanding within the Private Sector regarding Carbon Markets, exploring their potential role, and devising a roadmap for timely engagement ultimately leading towards protection against adverse impacts of climate change". Highlighting the outcomes of such events, Mr. Anwar said "Carbon Markets

meeting mitigation action in a cost efficient manner.

Ali Taugeer Sheikh, Climate Change Specialist & NDRMF Board Director applauded the role of NDRMF in conducting such events and said that for carbon markets to be successful, these issues must be addressed. Emission reductions and removals must be real and aligned with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions.

Varous organizations shared

their initiatives and thoughts towards reduction in carbon emissions and leveraging carbon markets. Representatives from Engro Founndation, Shell, Serena Hotels, Pakistan Business Council, K-electric, iTecknologi, Daraz, National Insurance Company Ltd, Loreal Pakistan, Artistic Milliners, Baig group, Amreli Steels Ltd., Strategic Initiative, Control Union Pakistan, Pakistan Business Council and Utopia shared their initiatives and how are they leveraging Carbon Markets.

Fawad Soomro, CEO Engro Foundation appreciated the role of NDRMF in providing such platform and stressed on the need of capacity building and research to effectively address the challenges in the carbon projects. He said we believe in Public Private Partnerships and have very keen interest in the environment.

#### Convocation 2023 of CUI Wah Campus



ISLAMABAD: The Convocation of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Wah Campus was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad in which degrees were conferred to 938 graduating students of Wah Campus at undergraduate and graduate levels in the discipline of Management Sciences, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics. 36 graduates were awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Institute and Campus level on account of their excellent academic performance. 20 graduates were awarded with the  $PhD\ degrees\ in\ the\ disciplines\ of\ Electrical\ and\ Computer\ Engineering,$ Computer Science, and Management Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) graced the event as a Chief Guest.

On the occasion, the Director, COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah Campus, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T. I., presented a Campus report in which he highlighted the achievements and future plans including the ongoing construction of Academic Block-I. He congratulated the graduates and their parents for the successful completion of their educational journey and advised them to continue hard work and dedication in the coming years of life. Director Campus also highlighted the University Ranking, Campus facilities, scholarship opportunities, laboratories, and highly qualified faculty available at the Campus.

The Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar advised graduating students to be ready and learn rapid technological advancement in the world for future challenging opportunities and to contribute to the economic development of the country. He acknowledged the contributions of the faculty and staff for the success of this Convocation and COMSATS University Islamabad.

#### AIOU bags second position in Plastic Waste Management competition



ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has secured the second position in "Plastic Waste Management" competition, organized by Unilever Pakistan and SEED under the 'Pakistan Research Program'. Mahnoor Shirin and Fatiya Tariq, both students of BS Chemistry at AIOU, were awarded second position among 26 teams representing 11 universities from across the country. A function was organized by the Department of Chemistry at AIOU to appreciate these talented students. Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad presided over the event while Chairperson, Chemistry Department, Dr. Uzma Younis hosted the event. Chairperson, Biology Department, Dr. Hina Fatima, Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Design, Dr. Hajra Ahmed, Kamal Nasir, and other faculty members also graced the event with their presence.

During the event, Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad emphasized that Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) places a great emphasis on research and innovation. He added that the students at AIOU are very talented, and that the science faculty is well-equipped with modern laboratories that are even used by students from other universities in Islamabad. Dr. Irshad highlighted that AIOU is the only university in Pakistan that offers merit scholarships to its students as well as fee refunds for those who achieve 80% marks, which is a great honor.

Dr. Uzma Younis mentioned that the Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad, supports all our initiatives. She also stated that the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, provides grants for our student projects, which allows them to participate in competitions. Dr. Uzma Younis congratulated the prize-winning students, highlighting that their talent is a source of pride for the university.



Riphah International University Hosts 4th International Lifestyle Medicine Conference.

# Out of 28,920 female engineering graduates, 8,146 (28%) were employed: Gallup

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Analysis of the labor force survey 2020-21 reveals that approximately 70% female engineering graduates residing in the country are either unemployed or out of labor force.

Out of total 28,920 female engineering graduates, 6,054 (20.9%) are unemployed and 14,720 (50.9%) were out of sis of the data shows that within the rural labor force while only 8,146 (28%) were employed.

This was revealed in joint research conducted by Gallup Pakistan and Survey 2020-21 on female engineering graduates (including individuals who have passed Bachelors, MS/M. Sc., M. Phil. or Ph. D. degree in any field of engineering) and their status in the labor market.

The analysis of the data for the three groups (employed, unemployed and out of labour force) by region (rural and urban), shows that around 21.1% of all engineering graduates resided in the rural regions in the country while 78.9% of them were in the urban areas. The analyregion, 43.9% of engineering graduates were employed, while around 36.3% were unemployed.

The proportion of engineering grad-PRIDE, using data from Labour Force uates who opt to remain out of labour force in the rural region was substantially lower (19.8%) than the national average (50.9%). The analysis with respect to urban areas shows that around 24.0%

employed, while 16.8% were unemployed. The major share of female engineering graduates remains out of labour force in the urban region at more than

The comparison of the figures of employed engineering graduates, by region, show that the employment opportunities for the female engineering graduates are significantly higher in the urban areas (67.2%) compared to the rural areas (32.8%). The proportion of unemployed engineering graduates was lower in the rural areas (36.5%) compared to those in the urban areas (63.5%). On the other hand, out of the total number of engineering graduates who are out of labour force (14,720)-the predominant share rural areas (8.2%)

It is pertinent to mention here that around 64.2% of those engineering graduates who opted to remain out of labour force were married and 28.42% were never married. The analysis by age group shows that the highest share of all female engineering graduates is in the age bracket of 25-34 years (50.9%), followed by those in the age group of 35-44 years

Bilal Gilani, Executive Director at Gallup Pakistan said "Trained and educated females either being unemployed or not interested in work is a major issue requiring dialogue and discussion in Pakistan. This research shows that only 3 in 10 female engineers are work-

of female engineering graduates were is in urban areas (91.8%) compared to ing and 7 in 10 are not working. A typical marriage prospects. The government engineer produced from a government university receives as high as 5 million Rs in subsidy. If these female graduates are not working this 5 million investment by government is a sunk cost. For a resource constrained country like Pakistan, this should be a source of concern for not just policy makers but also tax payers whose money is going to waste"

Dr. Umer Khalid, Director PRIDE highlights that "half of all female engineering graduates opt to remain out of labour force, and the substantial majority of these 'out of labour force' graduates are residing in urban areas and are married. This is indicative of the presence of a social trend of getting profes-

needs to review the policy of allocation of seats at least in the public sector engineering colleges/ universities to ensure value for money".

Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE have joined hands to analyze and disseminate useful and policy relevant economic and social research data for wider policy circles in Pakistan. The current series of Reports would be looking at Labour Force Survey 2020-21 which is a national survey conducted by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) to compile labour market statistics. The survey collected data from close to 99,900 households across Pakistan, giving district level representative results for the first time. Our current analsional education in order to secure better vsis is for Pakistan, with regional breakup.

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# **Kashmiris** to observe October 27 as **Black Day**

ashmiris and their supporters the world over and on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) will observe October 27 as black day – the day when Indian forces illegally landed in Srinagar in 1947, marking a chapter of occupation, subjugation and oppression for the innocent people. Black Day is observed every year to protest against the Indian illegal occupation and remind the world community of its commitments regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that advocate Kashmiris' right to

In Srinagar, posters have appeared in different localities wherein people have been asked to observe October 27 (Friday), as Black Day, Kashmir Media Service (KMS) reported. The posters displayed by All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Resistance Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Warseen-e-Shohda, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement, Jammu Kashmir Students Forum and others have described the 27th October 1947 as the darkest chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The posters pasted on walls, buildings and electric polls said that the Kashmiris would continue their struggle till they achieve their right to self-determination as promised by the international community. People have been appealed to become a wall against the Indian BJP-RSS government's Hindutva agenda in Kashmir by marking October 27 as Black Day, adding India was changing education curriculum and dismissing Muslim employees to advance its Hindutva agenda in IIOJK. Social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp, are also being utilized to record voices against the illegal occupation and for Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Meanwhile, Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader, Mushtaq Hussain Gilani while talking to APP said it was very unfortunate that Kashmir dispute was still unresolved despite agreed resolutions of UNSC. He was of the view that India has let loose reign of terror in occupied Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and punish them for demanding right to self-determination, while on August 05, 2019 it revoked special status of Kashmir to pave for settler colonization. "The criminal silence of world over the human rights violation, unilateral decision of August 05, 2019 and non-implementation of UN resolutions has been encouraging Indian to continue with its brutal policies," Gilani remarked In Muzaffarabad, under the auspices of the Shuhada Foundation Jammu and Kashmir, a massive protest rally will be taken out at Burhan Chowk to protest the illegal occupation. Prominent leaders of the movement are scheduled to address the participants, the foundation said in a statement. Protest rallies, seminars, conferences are scheduled to be held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and all over the world to condemn invasion in 1947 and revocation of territory's special status on August 5, 2019. It is pertinent to mention here that in a totally unprovoked move India landed its army in Srinagar on October 27, 1947, based on the so-called accession deal with Maharaja Hari Singh and occupied it against the will of its people. Ever-since India has been committing gross human rights violations in the territory and since 1989 as many as 96,246 people were martyred in the territory. The nightmare that started on 27 October 1947 has not ended yet for people of Kashmir who are suffering every single day under the occupational forces. Currently, India maintains around one million troops in Kashmir, making it the most militarized zone in the world.

# 'Education is necessary not an option'

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

tion is necessary not an option" he stressed that it is now their duty to identify and analyse the challenges confronting the nation and employ their intellectual ingenuity to seek out solutions.

Last day Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, while attending as the chief guest the inaugural "Master Convocation Ceremony" at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) on Monday, highlighted the imperative nature of education, emphasising that it is not a choice but a fundamental necessity, according to the military's official statement.

Gen Munir, who also holds the position of Chairman of the NUST Board of Governors, conferred medals upon those students who had achieved distinction, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

In his address to the graduating students, General Munir underlined that this moment signifies the commencement of a new chapter in their lives, signifying a substantial change that calls for greater responsibility. He emphasised that this newly acquired responsibility should be reflected in their character and choices as they embark on their future journeys.

The COAS stressed that it is now their duty to identify and analyse the challenges confronting the nation and employ their intellectual ingenuity to seek out solutions.

In his interactions with the students, General Munir extended his warmest congratulations to the graduates, their parents, and the faculty. He commended NUST for creating an environment conducive to teaching and learning, one that nurtures bright minds ready to contribute to the nation.

Students can play a vital role in helping

nation and apply their intellectual ingenuity to find solutions in various ways:

Research and Analysis: Students can engage in rigorous research and analysis of the issues. This can involve studying data, conducting surveys, and evaluating policies to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges.

Innovation: Encourage students to think creatively and come up with inno-

vative solutions. They can develop new technologies, processes, or ideas that address the challenges in novel and effective ways.

Community Engagement: Volunteering and community involvement allows students to work directly with those affected by the challenges, gaining practical insights and making a tangible impact.

Advocacy and Awareness: Students can raise awareness about important issues through campaigns, social media, and advocacy. They can educate the public and policymakers about the challenges and potential solutions.

Collaboration: Collaboration with peers, professors, and experts from various fields can lead to interdisciplinary solutions. Diverse perspectives often lead to more comprehensive problem-solving.

Policy Engagement: Encourage students to participate in discussions about public policy. They can contribute by proposing and advocating for policies that address the challenges effectively.

Entrepreneurship: Students can start social enterprises or businesses that provide solutions to societal problems. Entrepreneurship can drive economic growth while addressing issues.

Global Perspective: Understanding the global context is essential, as many

he COAS said educa- address the challenges confronting their challenges are interconnected. Students nition is the hope it carries. By extendcan contribute by thinking globally and collaborating on international solutions.

Continuous Learning: Encourage students to continue learning and adapting. The world is ever-changing, and solutions need to evolve accordingly.

Civic Engagement: Students can participate in local and national governance, vote in elections, and engage with politicians to influence policies and decisions.

> Education and Awareness: Spreading knowledge and education within their communities can be a powerful way to address challenges. This might involve teaching, organizing workshops, or creating educational materials.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Promote critical thinking skills that empower students to analyze issues systematically and develop logical solutions.

Networking: Building a network of like-minded personalities, organizations, and mentors can provide valuable resources and support for tackling challenges.

Students have the advantage of fresh perspectives, idealism, and a passion for change. By harnessing their intellectual ingenuity and providing opportunities for them to engage with real-world challenges, students can make a significant impact in addressing the issues confront-

ing their nation. The Chief of Army Staff's acknowledgment of the significance of involving students in proposing suggestions and plans for national issue resolutions is indeed commendable. This recognition holds the potential to catalyze a positive shift in how society approaches and addresses its challenges.

One of the key aspects of this recog-

ing an invitation to students to actively participate in resolving the nation's issues, it sends a powerful message that the youth are not just the future of the nation but an integral part of its present. This hope instills a sense of responsibility and purpose among students, motivating them to engage with the critical problems that the nation faces.

In this collaborative approach, students are not merely passive observers but active contributors. They are encouraged to think critically, propose innovative solutions, and take ownership of the issues at hand. This approach empowers them with a sense of agency and the belief that their ideas and efforts can make a genuine difference

It also encourages students to become informed and aware citizens. When they actively participate in addressing national challenges, they are more likely to educate themselves about the complexities of these issues, their causes, and potential solu-

This educational aspect is invaluable for fostering a well-informed and engaged citizenry. Furthermore, involv $ing\,students\,in\,proposing\,solutions\,brings$ fresh perspectives and creative thinking to the table. Their intellectual ingenuity, coupled with their passion for change. can lead to innovative and out-of-the-box ideas that might not have been considered otherwise.

In conclusion, the Chief of Army Staff's commendable recognition and the hope associated with it not only reflect a forward-thinking approach but also the potential for positive change. It encourages students to become active, informed, and responsible citizens who actively participate in resolving the nation's issues. This collaborative and inclusive approach is a promising step towards a brighter future.



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

# SC upholds fundamental rights -

n a concise and direct ruling, the Supreme Court of Pakistan declared that Clause (d) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (including its subclauses (i) and (ii), as well as subsection (4) of Section 59 of the same Act, are unconstitutional and without legal validity. As a result, the Supreme Court has ordered that

civilian and accused individuals, approximately 103 in number, as identified in the list provided by the Attorney General for Pakistan through CMA No. 5327 of 2023 in Constitution Petition No. 24 of 2023, and any others similarly situated with regard to the events of May 9th and 10th, 2023, will be subject to trial by competent Criminal Courts as established under the ordinary and special laws of the land for any

offenses they may be accused of. Furthermore, the Court has clarified that any actions or proceedings under the Army Act pertaining to the aforementioned individuals or anyone else in a similar position, including but not limited to Court Martial trials, are deemed legally ineffective.

This Supreme Court decision had been widely anticipated, with expectations that it would find favor among civil society groups and the legal community. Conversely, there was a strong sense that the military, known for its historical interfer-

ence in Pakistani politics, might resist the ruling. Intriguingly, during prime-time TV discussions, it was not the army or its official communication channels but rather members of civil society, including politicians, analysts, and media figures, who vehemently voiced their concerns. They spared no effort in portraying the decision as contravening the constitution, violating the law, and undermining the safety and unity of

Opponents of the Supreme Court's decision

the ruling might inadvertently bestow unchecked authority upon civilians in matters that pertain to the military and could be seen as an affront to the honor and dignity of the armed forces, a sentiment deeply rooted in the veneration of the military within the national psyche.

They argue that the decision seems to run counter to the constitutional framework and established legal norms, leading to a profound sense of dissonance and perplexity regarding the Supreme Court's decision-making process. In their view, the ruling appears to challenge the very essence of the constitution and the rule of law that underpins the nation's democratic foundation. provoking a fervent debate on the boundaries of judicial authority and interpretation.

The pivotal question at the heart of this debate centers on whether cases relat-

ed to the attacks on military installations should be subjected to military courts. The consequences of both implementing or abstaining from this decision loom large, casting a shadow over the legal landscape. Simultaneously, there is a growing concern about the

Supreme Court's consistency, with historical instances of decisions being disregarded, potentially eroding the public's faith in the judiciary's capacity to ensure justice.

Qamar Bashir

However, in contrast, an anchorperson, seemingly expressing the stance of the establishment, passionately reacted to the Supreme Court's decision. The establishment strongly characterized this ruling as an affront to the armed forces, stating that it was not just an insult to individual soldiers but a blow to the institution of the army. According to their perspective, the military had already initiated trials for the 102 civilians involved in the events of 9 May, and this decision has disrupted an ongoing and expedited legal process. Their contention suggests that the Supreme Court might have considered alternative

argued that there is a palpable apprehension that avenues, such as referring the cases of these 102 individuals to special courts, rather than striking down the entire amendment, a move deemed by some as extreme and contentious.

Amidst the varied opinions surrounding the Supreme Court's decision, several voices emerged in strong support of this pivotal ruling. A prominent legal expert articulated a compelling argument, asserting the unequivocal abolition of all military courts established for civilian cases. He emphasized the urgency for the military to promptly transfer all civilian cases back to civilian law enforcement agencies, ensuring their immediate relocation to civilian prisons, with trials conducted within the purview of civilian courts. This demand for the seamless transition from military to civilian jurisdiction carried a sense of urgency and fairness.

In a parallel narrative, others viewed the situation through an ethnic lens, highlighting concerns of ethnic bias in the application of the Army Act. Notably, a significant proportion of those tried under this legislation were perceived to be from Pashtun and Baloch backgrounds. Such observations accentuated the need for equitable and non-discriminatory justice for all citizens, transcending ethnic boundaries.

Another critical perspective underscored the incongruity of having civilians tried under the Army Act by military personnel, particularly when these officers lacked expertise in civilian laws. It was posited that this practice ran counter to the foundational principles of the constitution, challenging the essence of justice and the rule of law in Pakistan.

An insightful analyst characterized the decision as the annulment of a 76-year-old law, marking it as a historic milestone that would serve as a catalyst for awakening within the establishment. This characterization lent a sense of historical significance to the ruling, suggesting that it would lead to a transformative shift in the nation's legal

To be Continued

# Territorial integrity principle from position of Kashmir conflict - I

Kamran A. Behbudov

he history of the Kashmir struggle untouched by Indian biasedness unfolds the sufferings of Kashmiris and their utmost toil to liberate the beautiful land of Kashmir as well as innocent Muslims from the brutality and barbarism of Indian troops. This biography of the Kashmir struggle which is written with the blood of harmless and upstanding Muslims fighting for the right cause marked the 27th of October as black day, a day of grief that is observed worldwide as on this day the Indian troops entered into the territory of Jammu and Kashmir without any legal order. In this way, the Machiavellian ideology of India took control over Kashmir and so the days of India's limitless tyranny started back on this day in 1947.

The cruelty towards Kashmiris at the hands of the Indian government didn't cease there as the New Delhi act revoked the special legal status of Indian Occupied Kashmir in the year 2019 dated August 5th under Articles 370 and 35A, which were part of the Indian Constitution. This revocation of articles was solely disobedience to not only International law charted under the United Nations but also to the Simla peace treaty that stated that no state has the power to make amendments to the legal status of Kashmir.

In this way, the far-rightest Hindutva-dominated ideology of Hindus not only politicized the Kashmir dispute, but also sowed the seed to bring about demographic changes to Kashmir. Under article 35A, only Kashmiris are granted citizenship and this legal article ruled in the post-revocation of this article, now the non-Kashmiris are permitted to buy and sell land in Kashmir. Thus large numbers of domiciles issued to non-Kashmiris depict the same

demographic changes which changed Palestine from Muslim dominated state to Jews dominated territory

The story of how Kashmir became a region of confrontation dates back to the Independence of the Subcontinent from the British Raj and the division of the Subcontinent into Muslim and Hindu-dominated countries. Religion played a pertinent role in this reshaping of the map as this demarcation was done under one rule applied for all that where the Muslims are in majority they are free to form a government with the land of Muslims, Pakistan and Hindu-dominated areas can become part of greater Hindustan India. However, the Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir with a predominantly Muslim population turned a deaf ear to this rule of division. Hence, on this darkest day of the history of justice, Kashmir became part of India against the will of Kashmiris through an illegal agreement, and side by side India landed its first brutal troop of forces in the valley of Kashmir as a symbol of its dominance and power display. It was the very day when the

brutal killing of Kashmiri started. To this day, Indian forces illegally control the grounds of Indian Occupied Kashmir, and all the World and International organizations have turned blind eye to all the barbarism and cruelty done by Indian forces on Kashmiris. These Indian forces have orphaned millions of children, ripped apart the dignity of many helpless Kashmiri women, and brainwashed a large number of youth against their people through torture and persecution. These innocent souls have not watched a single beautiful sunset full of freedom since the Indians set foot in the land of Kashmir. Therefore, Kashmiris and all Muslims as well out citizenship to non-Kashmiri. However, as those people who stand united against the Indian aggression on the Kashmiris celebrate 27th October as Black Day globally.

To be Continued

# Belt and Road brings Chinese, Pakistani enterprises closer: Pakistani entrepreneur

**№** Xinhua

Pakistani jeweler, communicated closely with entrepreneur friends from China and Pakistan, hoping to find opportunities for future cooperation during the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), held this week, which marked another milestone in the process of jointly building the Belt and Road.

This is his first time to attend the BRF. "I'm so happy to meet many old friends," he said, "through this forum, I found Pakistani and Chinese enterprises are very active and confident in the future cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative has brought us closer."

Chaudhr is operating a traditional family jewelry enterprise in Pakistan. Since entering China in 2019, the company has participated in various trade fairs of China, with a steady increase on the sales of jewelry products by 30% every year.

At present, Chaudhr has opened two jewelry stores in Shanghai and Shen- sary of the Belt and Road Initiative yang city, of which the unique jewelry and the launch of the China-Pakistan

local consumers. The annual sales of BEIJING: Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhr, Shanghai store reach five to six million yuan every year. He also plans to open the third store in Beijing's CBD.

"I discussed with some Chines famous platform enterprises such as Tiktok and JD during the forum and we have already reached some cooperation intentions, hoping to promote our jewelry products on the online platforms in the future," said Chaudhr.

On the sidelines of the event, he also visited some business districts in Beijing to learn more about Beijing's policies on the attracting of foreign enterprises. He also enthusiastically helped to introduce a Chinese entrepreneur friend to Pakistani political and business guests, hoping to help him open a feed processing factory in Pakistan.

"I also learned more about Pakistan's plans to develop green energy and public construction projects during the activities of the forum, hoping to expand new business and make new friends," Chaudhr added.

This year marks the 10th anniver-

products have been quite welcomed by Economic Corridor(CPEC). As the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results over the past decade, laying a good foundation for Pakistan's infrastructure connectivity and industrialization, and demonstrating to the world the strong vitality of the Belt and Road Initiative. At present, some key projects under the CPEC are making steady

The construction of the CPEC has been very successful and the cooperation has yielded remarkable results," Chaudhr noted. In his eyes, the preferential policies of the industrial parks under the CPEC have attracted many enterprises to settle in, and have also brought many job opportunities for young people.

"Large Chinese enterprises entered Pakistan to systematically carry out construction, bringing a very healthy industry ecology for local Pakistani enterprises, including Chinese advanced experience, technology, supply chain, etc., providing Pakistani enterprises with more opportunities for cooperation and growth and progress."

"The 'Belt and Road' has promoted the economic and social development of Pakistan, and as a company, we also hope to better cooperate with Chinese partners, integrate into the Chinese market and achieve their own development."he noted.

After the epidemic, people's consumption habits and consumer group are changing according to Chaudhr's investigation, such as the iewelry consumer group become younger, and Chinese customers care more about the colored gems.

To face the new consumer trends, Chaudhr's company has also made measure to adjust, such as designing some new jewelry products and paying more attention to the quality of products and high-quality services in order to win more Chinese consumers.

"The cooperation prospect between Pakistan and China is quite bright, and we are very optimistic about the potential of the Chinese market."Chaudhr said, "I hope more and more young people can get involved in the bilateral cooperation, which will benefit the enterprises of both countries in the



# Japan to Assist NTDC in Modernizing Training Facilities for Power Sector Employees

**Spokesman Reporgt** 

LAHORE: Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan has urged the management of TSG Training Centre to apply hybrid / container-based model for field trainings of NTDC and other power sector employees.

team of AEC Japan called on Managing Director NTDC at WAPDA House Lahore, today. Progress of the on-going JICA Japan/TSG NTDC Project for Enhancing Grid System Operations and Maintenance Training Capacity through NTDC said that with the to NTDC employees. TSG Training Centre was passage of time, new techidentification of new projects for operations and mainte- the NTDC team to work and meeting.



with cooperation of JICA for nance also require new practhe improvement in NTDC system were also discussed in the meeting.

During the meeting, MD

tices. He also thanked and appreciated the Government of Japan and JICA for providing training facilities

reviewed in the meeting. nologies are emerging in conduct safety trainings to Muhammad Shahid Nazir Matters related to train-the power sector Resultant-avoid fatal incidents in the and other NTDC officer. ings, refresher courses and ly, trainings and equipment power sector. He directed were also present in the

devise a plan for obtaining container-based model for remote trainings, especially for hard areas of the south region. Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan said that NTDC will set a new concept of training in power sector and urged JICA to support NTDC in this regard.

The AEC representative assured that all technical support will be extended to NTDC to apply hybrid / container-based model for remote trainings and for other NTDC projects.

Deputy Managing Director (P&E), Engr. Qaiser Khan, General Manager (TSG), Safdar Ali, Chief MD NTDC also urged to Engineer (TSG) North

# Zindigi and LDA join hands to revolutionize digital transformation in Lähore



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Zindigi, the digital banking initiative powered by JS Bank, has signed another transformative collaboration with Lahore Development Authority. LDA Director General, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, is spearheading a major advancement in public sector digitization by transforming LDA payments & its Schools with substantial support from Zindigi.

ty and Zindigi is set to launch extensive School Management Solution and a unified one-window application. Zindigi will work diligently on financial inclusion, with a core focus on empowering school children and enabling digital payments.

"LDA, leveraging the expertise from the corporate sector's digitization journey, has introduced significant reforms, and this process of positive change will persist," Muhammad Ali Randhawa, LDA Director General, expressed with optimism. "We look forward to unveiling further

revolutionary projects." Noman Azhar, Chief Officer of Zindigi, shared his vision, stating, "Our unwavering commitment remains steadfast in creating opportunities that elevate the public sector through digitization, thereby fostering a stronger and more prosperous

Zindigi's dedication to public-private partnerships and youth empowerment positions it as a leader in Pakistan's comprehensive digitization initiative. The ceremony was also graced by the presence of Additional DG Housing, Mushtaq Awais, Additional DG Mujtaba Arfat, Director Finance Kashif Imran, Legal Advisor Wasim Badar, and Deputy Director Finance Haris Saeed.

# ATM 2024 to explore the full spectrum of travel and tourism



DUBAI: Attendees from around the world will explore opportunities spanning the full spectrum of travel and tourism - including leisure, business, luxury and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) - at the 31st edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) in the UAE from Monday 6 to Thursday 9 May 2024. Revenue in the global travel and tourism market is projected to reach \$854.7 billion this year, according to research conducted by Statista. The sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.42 per cent during the period 2023-27, passing the trillion-dollar mark within the next four years

Allied Market Research valued the global business travel market at \$689.7 billion in 2021, predicting that the segment would grow to \$2.1 trillion by 2031. The global luxury travel market, meanwhile, is on course to pass \$440 billion by the end of this decade, according to research from Coherent Market Insights. The MICE segment also continues to make valuable contributions in GCC countries such as the UAE, where DWTC's most recent Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) Annual Report estimated that the venue's total economic output - across 63 large exceeded \$3.5 billion in 2022. In line with ATM 2024's theme of 'Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship', attendees will consider how the segments of leisure, business, luxury and MICE are driving economic growth and sustainable development across destinations, hospitality and aviation, creating fresh opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors from across the Middle East and beyond.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director, Arabian Travel Market, said: "Holidaymakers represent a crucial focus for the Middle East's travel community, but leisure is only one component of a much bigger picture. Business, luxury and MICE travel are also making significant contributions to economic growth and sustainable development, with Statista predicting a global market volume of more than \$1 trillion by 2027.

'It is therefore no surprise that the travel and tourism sector is creating unprecedented opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors, thousands of whom will showcase their innovations, exchange ideas and forge new partnerships at ATM 2024," she added. The travel and tourism sector is on course to contribute \$49.18 billion to the UAE economy alone in 2023, according to figures released by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). This figure is predicted to reach \$64.12 billion by 2033, accounting for an impressive 10.2 per cent of the nation's GDP.

As the Middle East's travel and tourism industry continues to mature, it is expected to create new jobs and income for millions of people from across the globe. The UAE Government, for instance, estimates that the country's travel and tourism market will support 770,000 jobs by 2027. At the same time, the sector is expected to generate ever-increasing reve $nues for \, regional \, economies - Gulf \, travellers \, spending \, approximately \, 6.5$ times more than tourists from other parts of the world, according to the UN World Tourism Organization (WTO).

Sustainable development will represent another key focus at ATM 2024 as the show builds on the net-zero commitments outlined during its milestone 30th edition. Dubai's Department for Economy and Tourism (DET), ATM's Destination Partner, will showcase its ongoing efforts to protect the environment and secure a greener and more sustainable future for the emirate.

# Role of local colleges and councils in promoting adult learning

Marif Chaudhry

OLDHAM: University Campus Oldham held a prestigious ceremony at Queen Elizabeth Hall Oldham to award certificates to graduating adult students from various universities in Greater Manchester. Mayor Councilor Dr. Zahid Chauhan, Chief Executive Principal of Oldham College Simon June, Senior Manager of of the King of Great Brit- in various fields of life for Quality Partnership University Humira Akhtar, Central tive Kathy Jackson and their degrees said, "I hope



Mayor Dr. Zahid Chau-

ain, attended the event. Oldham and Great Britain." Oldham College Chief Lancashire and Sheffield han while congratulating Executive Principal Simon University representat the students who received June said, "We are proud that 150 mature students Rebecca and Deputy Lieu- that in the future those have received their degrees. tenant-in-Chief Mazahed who get higher education Humira Akhtar, senior Hussain, representative will play an important role manager of Quality Part-

nership University and Lt. Mazahed Hussain, representative of the King of Great Britain, said that they got the degree as a result of hard work and we are proud of them. The representatives of

Central Lancashire and Sheffield University congratulated the graduates and wished them all the best for their future. Other members of the community who participated in the certificate distribution ceremony also congratulated the students who received their degrees and expressed their best wishes for a wonderful future. The mercy of Allah and the hard work of my parents are

# Dawlance partners with 'Pink Ribbon' and 'Santex' for Breast **Cancer Awareness**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The technology leader in Pakistan's home-appliances market - Dawlance has partnered with Pink-Ribbon Pakistan of personal hygiene products), to spread public awareness about 'Breast-Cancer' and menstrual hygiene in the country. Dawlance is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Arcelik - the 2nd largest manufacturer of electronics in Europe. Besides creating innovative techously supports socio-economability, public health, Education, Women-empowerment, etc. for and the masses

An insightful session about Breast-Cancer diagnosis and menstrual hygiene, treatment and causes was conducted by pink ribbon and Santex, where and Santex (a leading producer specialist Doctors (Oncologists) and other experts provided valuable information about Breast-Cancer and menstrual hygiene to the employees of Dawlance, besides suggesting preventive measures and highlighting the importance of early diagnosis of this disease. nologies, the company gener- To support the 'Pink-tober' campaign for global Breast-Canic development initiatives to cer Awareness, the Dawlance ensure; environmental sustain- Head Office will be kept illuminated with 'Pink' colored flood lights, throughout the month of the well-being of its consumers October, moreover, Dawlance

treatment of cancer patients

The Chief Executive Officer of Pink Ribbon Pakistan-Dr. Omer Aftab also addressed this forum, to highlight the survival stories relating to Breast Cancer. He told the audience that; Every 9th Pakistani woman is at high risk of Breast Cancer. However, they are reluctant to report the disease and cannot seek reliable treatment due to social taboos or lack of healthcare facilities. Dr. Omer also thanked the Dawlance leadership for their continued support of this campaign.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance - Umar Ahsan Khan attended this digitally accessible seminar, along with the company's entire female workforce.

employee will contribute to the Every participant expressed the commitment to extend full support to the awareness campaign against Breast-Cancer, all over Pakistan.

Umar Ahsan thanked Pink Ribbon Pakistan and Santex for this informative session and said: "Dawlance is committed to fulfilling its social responsibilities as an industry-leading enterprise"

Pink Ribbon is a globally active organization, playing an inspirational role in Pakistan too. It has built Pakistan's first stateof-the-art diagnosis, treatment and counseling facility for Breast Cancer patients and potential victims. It has the capacity to serve more than 40,000 women in Pakistan, annually, while 'Free treatment' is provid-



ed to all deserving patients. Santex Products (Pvt.) Limitmanufacturing a wide range of high quality Sanitary-Products.

Its brand - 'Butterfly' is the ulti- all segments of the society, as of its Social-Responsibility policy.

mate name in feminine hygiene its products are affordable and products that have earned the accessible to customers in every ed has decades of experience in trust of millions of consum- walk of life. Santex Products has ers across Pakistan. It is cateralso adopted the UN Sustainaing to the health and welfare of bility Goals, as the cornerstone

## **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
51,027.94	51,070.82	
Day's High	Day's Low	
51,121.92	50,624.38	
Index Value	Change	
8,478,427,072	-42.88	
Percentage	Time	
-0.08%	24 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,389.70	+14.87	
Percentage	Time	
+0.20%	24 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
1 0.2070	GMT+1	
	GMT+1 Industrial Average	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
USA: Dow Jones Index Value	Industrial Average Change	
USA: Dow Jones Index Value 33,041.21	Industrial Average Change +104.80	
USA: Dow Jones Index Value 33,041.21 Percentage +0.32%	Change +104.80 Time 24 Oct, 1:09 pm	

-0.2070	GMT+9
Open Market	Forex Rates

+62.80

**Time** 

24 Oct, 3:15 pm

31,062.35

Percentage

-0.20%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177
Bahrain Dinar	740.83	748.83
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.39	38.79
Danish Krone	39.73	40.13
Euro	297.1	300
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.66
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.21	910.21
Malaysian Ringgit	58.43	59.03
NewZealand \$	164.88	166.88
Norwegians Krone	25.28	25.58
Omani Riyal	723.59	731.59
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19
Saudi Riyal	74.8	75.5
Singapore Dollar	202	204
Swedish Korona	25.47	25.77
Swiss Franc	312.29	314.79
Thai Bhat	7.64	7.79
U.A.E Dirham	78.2	79
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.4
US Dollar	280.5	283.1

#### Salman Khan Named COO of Rewterz, Propelling Cybersecurity Excellence

#### **Commerce Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Rewterz, a prominent cybersecurity company, proudly announces the appointment of Salman Khan as its new COO. With over 25 years of global technology leadership experience and a

proven track record in managing international teams, Khan's appointment ushers in a new era of growth and innovation for Rewterz, fueled by the strategic partnership with AshreiTech.

In an ever-evolving cybersecurity landscape, Rewterz remains dedicated to delivering top-tier information security services.

Khan's extensive background in IT solutions, product sales, and service management, along with his proficiency in executing business development strategies and managing strategic partnerships, positions him as the ideal leader to steer Rewterz

Khan's arrival coincides with Rewterz's strategic alliance with AshreiTech, a global technology enabler. This partnership, led by renowned industry entrepreneurs, aims to provide comprehensive information technology services to a global audience.

"We are excited about the endless possibilities this collaboration offers," shared Faiz Ahmad Shuja, Founder Rewterz.

Salman Khan expressed his enthusiasm about his new role, stating, "I am honored to join the Rewterz team and excited about the opportunity to lead this innovative company in the ever-evolving cybersecurity landscape. Together with AshreiTech, we will create a cybersecurity force to be reck-

Syed Azhar Ali Nasir, Director and Co-Founder of AshreiTech, emphasized the significance of this collaboration, saying, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in the cybersecurity sector. It combines the strengths of both AshreiTech and Rewterz, enabling us to offer unparalleled cybersecurity services."

# Tariffs for electricity and gas need to be reduced: Atif Ikram Sheikh

#### ★ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, the presidential candidate for FPCCI, expressed on production and exports while burdening the lower-income population.

Electricity and gas tariffs should be reduced in a bid to revive economic activities and reduce

Ikram Sheikh who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said that the dysfunctional energy sector has contributed to the devastation of the economy.

has asked Pakistan to increase the price of electricity, he said.

The business leader said that the power sector has become a major threat to the econ-Tuesday that expensive energy is constraining omy and no one has been able to solve it on a sustainable basis.

The power sector is harming the country's economy and the World Bank claims that the finishing load shedding can benefit the people by four and a half billion dollars and business-Speaking to the business community, Atif es by about eight and a half billion dollars, he informed.

Economic recovery is tied to the acquisition of cheap and sustainable energy for which recovery should be 100%, load shedding should A lot of electricity is wasted therefore the be eliminated and transmission and distribucircular debt is increasing day by day the IMF tion losses must be brought to global standards,



he demanded. He said that reliance on imported oil and gas

for power generation is a major obstacle to the development of the economy.

Power generation through nuclear and renewable sources is dismal while production in both these sectors needs to be increased to save valuable foreign exchange, he said.

The cost of installing wind and solar power plants is much lower than fuel-fired power plants and the promotion of private solar power can completely solve transmission losses and electricity theft.

The potential of wind power in Pakistan is at least 50,000 megawatts, but only 1335 megawatts of electricity are being generated from it, while only 600 megawatts of electricity are being generated through solar energy, which is only 1.4% of the potential, he said.

# Mobilink Bank and BMA Capital Management enter into a Distribution Agreement

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has signed a strategic partnership with BMA Capital Management Limited, one of the oldest and top financial groups in Pakistan, welcoming the company as a 'Brand Ambassador Organization' to help diversify revenue streams and boost business bottom lines for both organizations. Mobilink Bank aims to enhance customer journeys through this partner-

ship and help enable sustainable busi-

ness growth. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's popu-

Chairman & CEO of BMA Capital Management, Moazzam M. Malik expressed, "We are delighted to join hands with Mobilink Bank in this collaboration, which is a significant step forward in enhancing our business endeavors. We hope the partnership will ment Advisors, commented, "The part- of products available for our customers."



enable us to provide even greater value to our clients and stakeholders."

Saeed Ahmed, President BMA Invest-

effectively contribute to our growth and nership between BMA Capital and Mobilink Bank is a great accomplishment for both organizations, signifying a Also present at the event, Mian Qasim major advancement in promoting financial inclusion and improving the range

# PTCL Group partners with Evam for enhanced customer experiences



#### S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), Pakistan's leading telecommunications and ICT services provider has partnered with Evam, a leading Martech platform for creating real-time, cross-channel customer experience. This collaboration underlines the Group's unwavering dedication to provide its customers with the best communication services and driving forward Pakistan's digital transformation.

PTCL Group will be introducing new customer experiences and products with support from Evam's next-gen real-time engine. This cuttingedge technology will ensure seamless experiences across all digital and telco touchpoints. Evam will empower the Group's business partners to leverage real-time data, along with profiles and AI models to deliver a superior experience. This will

increase customer satisfaction in order to boost revenues and enhance customer loyalty. The project will be delivered through a collaboration between Evam's professional services team and their exclusive partner for Pakistan, Techfinity.

Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer for PTCL & Ufone 4G, shared thoughts on the partnership, stating, "This alliance between PTCL Group and Evam enhances our customer engagement strategies, aiming to provide a tailored experience for every customer, thereby delivering outstanding value.

Chief Executive Officer, Evam Doruk Mutlu, said, "As the CEO of Evam, I am deeply honored by the trust PTCL Group has placed in our company's capabilities. I am committed to working closely with our dedicated leadership team to not only meet but exceed their expectations

# Pakistan Investment Conference Jeddah will play an important role in the development of the country: Khurshid Barlas

#### Spokesman Report ■

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas along with Convener Exhibition Fahad Barlas met Air Sial Chairman Fazal Jilani at his head office yesterday in Sialkot. During the meeting, Khurshid Barlas said that the Pakistan Investment Conference is going to be organized on February 10, 2024 in the ciy of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The purpose of the Pakistan Investment Conference is to introduce the opportunities of medical tourism, hospitality projects, dairy and agriculture, information technology in the lucrative market of Saudi Arabia. The conference will be an important milestone in Pak-Saudi relations to increase investment in businessmen, investors and tourism and medical projects. Aviation industry in Pakistan has grown in the last few years. Growing domestic tourism has also encouraged the launch of new private airlines. The event will establish a strong foothold in the Saudi market, the real estate business community and companies from other sectors will have opportunities to directly address questions through discussions with potential investors. During the conversation Air Sial Chairman Fazal Jilani assured that he will participate in the Paki-



stan Investment Conference in Jeddah. And as the official airline will also be a part of your team. Finally, Chairman Pakistan Exhibition Khurshid Barlas also presented the shield to

Chairman Air Sial Fazal Jilani on behalf of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry. On this occasion, Convener Exhibition Fahad Barlas is also accompanied.

#### Students as ambassadors can make Rawalpindi clean and green: Saqib Rafiq

#### **Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: "You have to be the ambassador of this campaign and this clean and green campaign can only be successful once you become part of it. We have to fix our habits and become responsible citizens.

This was stated by Saqib Rafiq, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) who was invited as chief guest at an awareness Session at Rawalpindi Women University here on Tuesday. The session was part of Clean and Green Drive 2023 being organized by Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) in collaboration with RCCI.

Saqib Rafiq who has the portfolio of Chairman RWMC, informed the students complaints can be registered on the Company's

helpline 1139 or on our social media accounts and Android phone app, these complaints will be resolved immediately. The workers of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company are performing 24-hour cleaning duties, he added.

Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Women's University Professor Dr. Anila Kamal while addressing the session assured all possible support of Rawalpindi Women's University and thanked RCCI and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company for organizing the session. Dr. Muhtasim Billah said that holding the awareness session is very effective, this series should continue.

The cleanliness drive was aimed at creating awareness among students about the importance of keeping the surroundings clean and

# Abdul Rehman Aizaz PAAPAM new chairman, Mumshad new SVC

#### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Auto Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has coopted Abdul Rehman Aizaz and Mumshad Ali as Chairman and Senior Vice-Chairman, respectively, unopposed for the year 2023-24, while Tuafiq Sherwani will continue as Vice Chairman of member enterprises through the Association for the next one

While addressing the tyby helping to create a vibrant PAAPAM at the occasion, which was attended by a large number of auto parts manufacturers across the country, the

PAAPAM newly-elected chairman thanked the members for reposing confidence in him again to lead the auto parts vendors' community.

Abdul Rehman Aizaz said that he would strive to emulate the integrity, vision, and leadership of the past leadership, as the PAAPAM served about 300 members and affiliated its active business network services to promote economic vitaliclimate to support business growth. He appreciated the efforts of his predecessors and expressed wanting to continue



the policies to further the auto parts industry and enhance the industry to other engineering

man, Mumshad Ali, on this

occasion, also vowed to promote the Association to new heights and paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Munir K. Bana, and senior vice-chairman, Usman Malik, and said that the outgoing body, in the lead of its Chairman and senior vice-chairman had been actively promoting the interests of the auto parts industry throughout 2022-23.

Mumshad Ali said that the high cost of doing business, market access issues, and exchange rate are hindering Pakistan's industrial growth, and the government would have to work on it in consultation with the stakeholders to

resolve the problems.

He added that the industry is facing challenges due to frequent and skyrocketing increases of all inputs, devaluation of the rupee, shrinking profits, and limited cash flow of vendors owing to higher demand at lower profitability.

He said that Pakistan's macroeconomic goals, like GDP growth, employment generation, and export enhancement, can only be achieved through the 'Make in Pakistan' approach. PAAPAM members are geared up to adopt the new technologies for manufacturing hightech auto parts to generate

employment and substitute expensive import of auto parts. In order to achieve this national goal, PAAPAM will play its due role in formulating industry-centric policies in line with the government's vision, said the newly-elected Chairman PAAPAM.

Munir K. Bana, the outgoing Chairman, and Usman Aslam Malik SVC, also thanked the members and Executive Committee for extending unconditional support. Both the gentlemen resigned voluntarily to ensure the maximum participation of the PAAPAM. They were satisfied to leave the legacy

# PM directs facilities to prepare hockey players for int'l matches

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to provide hockey players all kinds of facilities to prepare them for international competitions. The prime minister issued the directive as Islahuddin Siddiqui, the former captain of the Pakistan hockey team and champion of the Hockey Asia Cup and the World Cup, called on him here at the PM House.

The prime minister said the national hockey team for many decades brought



laurels to the country. However, he pointed out that the current situation of the national sport of hockey in Pakistan demanded focus and attention. Kakar hoped that hockey once again would regain its lost glory in the country. He termed hockey legends such as Islahuddin Siddiqui the 'real heroes of Pakistan'. The government will take all possible measures to promote hockey, he added. Islahuddin Siddiqui presented his autobiography titled 'Dash Through My Life' to the prime minister. He thanked the prime minister for his participation in the final match of the hockey championship last night.

### Group Photo

KARACHI: Group Photo of Sindh Balochistan Feroz Saif Memorial Cycle Race winning cyclist of Sui Southern Gas with Sindh Cycling Association President Sardar Sajjad, Secretary Ehsanullah, Sui Southern Gas Admin and Media Coordinator Sports Department Arif Waheed Khan, Mohammad Javed and others.



# Players' fitness level not upto mark: Wasim Akram

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Sultan of Swing Wasim Akram while expressing disappointment on Pakistan team's loss to Afghanistan said the play ers' fitness level was not up to the mark, particularly in relation to their fielding performances. Afghanistan registered

an eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in the ICC World the importance of having per Misbah-ul-Haq also Cup on Monday. While speaking on a show at a local sports channel as quoted by cricketpakistan.com.pk, Akram said fitness plays a pivotal role in fielding and pointed out the need for the players to undergo fitness tests regularly, suggesting that some players seemed to be consuming excessive amounts of mutton.

just two wickets is pretty big. Wet pitch or no, look at the where we are lacking. Now fielding, the fitness levels. We've been screaming for the last three weeks that for ifs and buts to happen. these players haven't undergone a fitness test in the last held there for 8 months. two years. If I start taking Why do you have to make individual names, their faces will drop," he said.

Akram also underlined



specific criteria for players' fitness and mentioned that during Misbah-ul-Haq's coaching tenure, such criteria were enforced, yielding positive results. "Professionally you guys

are getting paid, playing for Rauf struggles to find his your country. There has to be a certain criteria. Misbah, when he was coach, had that criteria. Players hated him "To reach 280-odd losing but it worked. Fielding is all about fitness and that's we have reached that same position, where we will pray Not a single camp has been unnecessary changes? Just leave it," he said.

Meanwhile, Former Skip-

et as well. "It would have been good

expressed his disappoint-

ment with Babar Azam's

captaincy, attributing it to

the decline in Haris Rauf's

bowling confidence, particu-

larly during the powerplay.

rhythm in the early overs,

leaking 18-20 runs and

ever Haris Rauf is given the

ball to bowl in the power-

play, he is struggling. He

is low in confidence, he is

leaking 18-20 runs in his

first over. We have spoken

after the last match against

Australia as well, how New

Zealand bring Mitchell

Santner in the eighth or the

ninth over. It is an attack-

"We can see that when-

losing confidence.

According to Misbah,

for Haris's confidence if board. tain would have given the ball after the powerplay, when there are four fielders in the deep. Then he can bowl his bouncers. If he is bowling short of length outside the off stump, he will have a sweeper cover. Now what's happening is that he is getting hit four boundaries in the first over and he is done for the whole game.

over of the powerplay, bats-

men tries to take risk. It is a

gamble, you can take wick-

"We know that Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran play pace bowling well. If we could have bring the spinners early and forced them to attack, they could have got in trouble," said Misbah.

Former Skipper Shoaib Malik also highlighted the struggles in the spin department and felt there was lack of innovative thinking from

"Our spin department is also struggling. Our captain doesn't think out of the box. Saud Shakeel is there, he can bowl you don't give him the ing option, since it is the last ball," he said.

#### S World Cup 2023

# De Kock-inspired South Africa crush Bangladesh despite Mahmudullah's ton

MUMBAI: In-form Quinton de Kock played a swashbuckling 174-run knock before a combined bowling effort steered South Africa to humble Bangladesh by 149 runs in the 23rd match of the ICC World

Set to chase a mammoth 383, Bangladesh were bundled out on a paltry 233 despite Mahmudullah's grit.

South Africa pacers launched a collective attack on the Bangladesh top-order to leave the side reeling at 58/5 in 15 overs.

Coming out to bat at number six, Mahmudullah remained the standout batter for Bangladesh as he put on valiant partnerships with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (11), Nasum Ahmed (19) and Hasan Mahmud

He then put together an astounding 68-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Mustafizur Rahman – bringing up his valiant century in the process - before Gerald Coetzee finally sent him packing in

Mahmudullah top-scored for Bangladesh with a gutsy run-a-ball 111, which featured 11 boundaries and four sixes.

Lizaad Williams then dismissed Mustafizur (11) in the next over to complete a

resounding victory for South Africa. Coetzee led the bowling attack for South Africa with 3/62 in his 10 while Kagiso Rabada, Williams and Marco Jansen bagged two each.

South African batters justified their captain Aiden Markram's decision to bat first as they racked up a huge total on the

roteas, however, had a contrast: ing start to their innings as they lost opener Reeza Hendricks (12) and Rassie van der Dussen (1) cheaply with just 36 runs on the board in the eighth over.

Following the early blow, Quinton de Kock was joined by skipper Markram and the pair settled things down with a sensible partnership.

They added 131 runs for the third wicket at a decent rate before Markram's Bangladesh counterpart Shakib Al Hasan got rid of him in the 31st over.

He scored a cautious 60 in 69 deliveries with the help of seven boundaries.

Quinton de Kock then joined forces with in-form hard-hitting batter Heinrich Klaasen and the duo after settling down, turned the game on its head with belligerent hitting.

De Kock and Klaasen put together a 142-run partnership, conceding just 87 deliveries before the former finally perished in the 46th over.

He top-scored for South Africa with a quickfire 174 in 140 balls, laced up with 15 boundaries and seven sixes.

Klaasen then took charge of South Africa's onslaught and was supported by David Miller, who scored a brisk 15-ball 34.

The two finishers knitted a sensational 65-run partnership, taking just 25 deliveries before Klaasen fell in the final over.

#### Chairman PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf meets former test cricketers



Duratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: PCB Chairman Management Committee, Mr Zaka Ashraf, met with former Test cricketers Aaqib Javed, Mohammad Yousuf, and Inzamam-ul-Haq (chief selector) to seek advice in the player development process.

Chairman Management Committee, in the near future, is also looking to engage with other former players, which may include Umar Gul, Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq, to seek their opinion over the development process

Mr Zaka Ashraf emphasised on the Board's focus towards engaging the expertise of former players, who have represented Pakistan in various capacities, to help groom players as specialised batters, spinners and fast bowlers. In future, the National Cricket Academy plans to organise a specialised camp with top talent from the domestic circuit. The primary goal of this camp is to nurture these players and make them ready for the international stage, in an attempt to bridge the gap between domestic and international cricket.

Zaka Ashraf: "These players have served Pakistan at the highest stage and have a treasure of experience under their belts. We hope to utilise their expertise to help ensure our players are developed well in all aspects of the game. In this way, we hope we can produce players in all departments of the game who can

# DG Sports unhappy over pathetic show in Asian Games

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Expressing his displeasure over the poor performance of Punjab athletes in the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China, DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail has summoned an important meeting of 20 sports associations of the province on Oct 25 (Wednesday).

Dr Asif Tufail said that winning a mere three medals including one silver and two bronze medals in 24 sports in the Asian Games despite sending a huge contingent of 189 athletes including 136 male and 53 female players is quite alarming. "This disappointing result is not less than a wake-up call for all provincial stakeholders" he added.

He said that it is the right time for all the stakeholders of Punjab to sit together and find reasons for this massive failure. "We have several talented athletes who have great medal-winning credentials in different games".

He said that all the stakeholders of the province will have to make collaborative efforts and carve out concrete planning to achieve encouraging results in future international sports

The presidents and secretaries of 20 sports associations including Punjab Olympic Association, Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Golf, Kabaddi, Karate, Rowing, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Volleyball, Tennis, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Wushu have been invited to attend the key meeting.

#### National Basketball C'ship final on Wednesday

**₿** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The final of the Inter-Division National Basketball Championship Grade A would be played here at the Liaquat Gymnasium Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday. In the matches played, Peshawar defeated Faisalabad by 58-41 goals; Gujranwala beat Karachi 64-58 goals in the second match; Rawalpindi downed Hazara by 88-42 goals and in the fourth match, Lahore defeated Islamabad by 78-50 goals.

Teams of eight divisions participating in the event are divided into two groups. Group A: Peshawar, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Karachi. Group B: Lahore, Islamabad, Hazara and Rawalpindi. The third position would also be played before the final match on October 25.

# Mathews approved as replacement for Pathirana in SL squad



#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD,: The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has approved Angelo Mathews as a replacement for Matheesha Pathirana in the Sri Lanka squad. Mathews, who has played 221 ODIs, was named as a replacement after Pathirana failed to recover from a shoulder injury sustained during a warm-up match and was subsequently ruled out of the tournament, said a press release.

The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before the replacement player can be officially added to the squad. The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 consists of Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager - Cricket and ETC Chair), Chris Tetley (ICC  $Head \ of \ Events), Hemang \ Amin \ (Acting \ CEO-BCCI), Gaurav$ Saxena (General Manager - Operations, BCCI), Russel Arnold and Simon Doull (Independent Representatives).

# La Liga: Teen striker Guiu snatches Barcelona win over Athletic Bilbao

**Sports Desk** 

Teenage debutant Marc Guiu produce gems. snatched champions Barcelona a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao just seconds after coming on from the that everyone who comes brings bench in La Liga, taking the Catalans up to third.

Xavi's Barca will face La Liga table-topper Real Madrid next Saturday in the El Clasico just one point behind their bitter rivals, and second-placed Girona, who beat Almeria 5-2 earlier on.

like Barcelona would not find the breakthrough against their Basque visitors but striker Guiu, 17, netted under a minute after being thrown on by Xavi.

The forward was slipped in by the silky Joao Felix and slotted past Unai Simon, who got a hand to his shot but could not keep it out. Guiu became the latest on a conveyor belt of youths to make Donetsk in the Champions

their debuts for Barca as their La Masia academy continues to

"He's been training with us for the whole season, it's important something," Barcelona defender Inigo Martinez told DAZN.

We're happy for him, for the goal, and above all, for winning." Xavi started Martinez against his former club in La Liga and 20-year-old Fermin Lopez on the left of the attack, another acad-For a long time, it seemed emy product, with Barcelona down to the bare bones.

> Several regular starters, including key striker Robert

> Lewandowski, are out injured. Felix clipped the top of the crossbar with a shot from Ferran Torres' cut-back as Barcelona looked to get started quickly ahead of a tricky week.

from the flanks. The Catalans host Shakhtar over an Inaki Williams effort



welcoming rivals Madrid to the Ghana international, with Montjuic. However, the hosts Martinez producing a sublime were negated by former Barceblock to deny his sibling Nico lona coach Ernesto Valverde's from the rebound. Athletic, who took the sting out of the game and occasionally sprang forward with both

Approaching the hour mark Barcelona carved out their best chance, when Simon brilliantly Williams brothers threatening denied Lopez from close range, after initially saving from Felix's Marc-Andre ter Stegen tipped

Another followed when Felix

hand and Joao Cancelo was the next to draw a save from the watchful Simon. Xavi brought on Guiu in the 79th minute and with his very first touch he broke into the area and then confidently fired past

fed substitute Lamine Yamal in

the area but the 16-year-old star-

let dragged his shot wide of the

near post. The teenager's arrival

helped Barcelona gain the upper

Full of energy, the striker was soon booked for an attempted slide tackle which caught the goalkeeper as he tried to stop him clearing his lines, as he was roared

on by the jubilant home fans. Barcelona's victory takes them above Atletico Madrid, fourth, while Valverde's Athletic are sixth.

"I'm annoyed because it went just past me and maybe I could have done a bit more," Simon told