



Mushahid condemns Western double standards on Gaza Genocide

Chairman Senate Committee on Defence, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Leader of Pakistan Parliamentary delegation to the annual conference of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) has forcefully condemned Israeli crimes against humanity against the Palestinians and accused its Western supporters of 'hypocrisy and double standards'. He was addressing the general assembly of the IPU, where he urged legislation to counter Islamophobia.

Only 4 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan
Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 4 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

4 DAYS REMAINING

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Israeli air strikes

GAZA STRIP: Palestinians search for casualties at the site of Israeli strikes on houses in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday.



PM, US envoy discuss situation in Gaza



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan David Blome called on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad, Thursday. The Prime Minister highlighted steps being undertaken by the Government in priority areas, particularly for stabilization of the economy, repatriation of illegal foreigners, as well as the ongoing electoral process. Regional developments, including the situation in Gaza, were also discussed. The Prime Minister also emphasized the significance of strong ties between Pakistan and the United States.

Arab countries condemn targeting civilians in Gaza

Arab nations condemn violations of international law in Gaza, support two-state solution

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco on Thursday condemned the targeting of civilians and "flagrant violations of international law" in Gaza which has been under heavy Israeli bombardment. The foreign ministers of the Arab countries said that Israel's right to self-defence after a devastating Oct. 7 attack by Hamas fighters did not justify neglecting Palestinians' rights. Palestinians in Gaza said Israeli air strikes had pounded the territory again overnight and people living in central Gaza, near the Bureij refugee camp and east of Qarara village, reported intensive tank shelling all night. "We emphasize that the right to self-defence... does not justify flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law, or the deliberate neglect of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the foreign ministers said in their statement. They also condemned forced displacement and collective punishment in Gaza and emphasized that "the absence of a political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has led to repeated acts of violence and suffering for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and the peoples of the region". The ministers emphasized the need for a two-state solution, ensuring the establishment of "an independent, sovereign, contiguous and viable Palestinian state on the pre-June 4, 1967, lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital". Both the West Bank and East Jerusalem were captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Reuters

BRI to give huge leap to Pakistan's economy: PM

Anwaar ul Haq Kakar says CPEC is a win-win for both countries

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said the area will be linked with Pakistan's northern region of Gilgit Baltistan through roads network thus reviving the old silk route. He said Urumqi would be gateway for Pakistan with mainland China, and Pakistan anticipates a lot of trade and economic activity through this project. He said it will also usher in a new wave of tourism in the region as there are lot of historic and civilizational sites to be witnessed on the route. He said the initiatives will also transform the socio-economic lives of people of the two regions. To another question, the Prime Minister said he is highly impressed by the tremendous modernization and economic growth that China has went through. About the situation in Gaza, Urumqi, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said the area will be linked with Pakistan's northern region of Gilgit Baltistan through roads network thus reviving the old silk route. He said Urumqi would be gateway for Pakistan with mainland China, and Pakistan anticipates a lot of trade and economic activity through this project. He said it will also usher in a new wave of tourism in the region as there are lot of historic and civilizational sites to be witnessed on the route. He said the initiatives will also transform the socio-economic lives of people of the two regions. To another question, the Prime Minister said he is highly impressed by the tremendous modernization and economic growth that China has went through. About the situation in Gaza, the Prime Minister said it is humanitarian crisis but the first and foremost thing to do is establishment of humanitarian assistance corridor to ensure supply of food, medicine and then the short, mid and long term solutions can be sorted out. He said saving precious Palestinian lives is the foremost prerequisite. Replying to another question, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the challenge of climate change requires collective efforts and global partners as it cannot be handled single handedly by any country. He said Pakistan is a victim of climate change, which is going to become existential threat to many countries and a national security challenge for the global community. Regarding a question about Pakistan's relations with China, the United States, and other global powers, the Prime Minister said Beijing's rise is natural and no power on earth can undo this and there is a need to have better coordination rather than containing China. He said Pakistan strongly believes in this and have expressed these views in a very candid manner in Washington and Beijing. The Prime Minister, however, said Pakistan does have some commonalities with the United States on the issues of security and counterterrorism. He said Pakistan has been coordinating and cooperating with rest of the world, along with China, in a responsible manner. He recalled that Pakistan being a frontline state in the war on terror had suffered a lot and lost around 90,000 people in that global fight. Replying to a question on Pakistan's relations with India, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Islamabad has consistently been demonstrating its intent to have peaceful neighborhood relations with New Delhi. He said Pakistan has been sending signals and right kind of messages on different occasions, but Islamabad is not being reciprocated by New Delhi. He said the desire for peace on the other side seems to be an elusive idea and we have to wait for that moment, where it is realized that dialogue is the only answer and panacea to the problems and challenges to this region. The Prime Minister further said talks with India and normal trade activities will remain elusive without resolution of the Kashmir issue as per will of Kashmiris and UN Security Council resolutions. Agencies

Kashmir Black Day being observed today

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the across the world will observe Kashmir Black Day today (27th Oct, 2023) to convey to the world that India has occupied their motherland illegally and against their aspirations. It was on October 27, 1947 when Indian troops in total violation of the spirit of the Partition Plan of the Subcontinent had militarily invaded Jammu and Kashmir and illegally occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people. The day will be marked by a complete shutdown and civil curfew by the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

IHC restores Nawaz's pleas in Avenfield, Al-Azizia cases

NAB says 'appeals should be reinstated' if absconder appears before court

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday restored Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's appeals against accountability courts' conviction verdicts in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases. Nawaz, a thrice-ousted prime minister, appeared in person before an IHC division bench — led by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb — which heard his pleas against the sentences awarded to him in the two graft cases. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) informed the bench that it has no objections to revival of Nawaz's pleas. When asked if NAB would defend the judgments against Nawaz in its arguments upon the restoration of appeals, the anti-corruption body said that it will review the case and evidences before giving its arguments. The capital's high court had granted a protective bail to the PML-N supremo on October 19, allowing him to return safely to the country and appear before the court on October 24. Then, on October 24, after the anti-graft watchdog told the court that it had no objections to the pleas filed by Nawaz, the three-time deposed premier's bail in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases was extended till October 26. Moreover, Punjab government approved suspension of Nawaz's sentence in Al-Azizia reference on that same day. The ousted prime minister was handed down a 10-year jail sentence in the Avenfield properties corruption reference for owning assets beyond known income in July 2018 and a year for not cooperating with the anti-graft watchdog — both of the sentences were to be served concurrently. In the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference, Nawaz was sentenced to seven years in jail on December 24, 2018, and then taken to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail from where he was shifted to Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail the next day.

Pakistan committed to SCO spirit for shared prosperity: FM

BISHKEK: Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani says Pakistan plans to host conference on transport connectivity for regional prosperity this year. Addressing Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan Thursday, he said SCO Business Council and Inter Bank Association can play a vital role in fostering economic and commercial cooperation amongst SCO member states. As a succeeding chair of SCO, he said Pakistan will continue to support the existing mechanisms.

'Safety, security of every Pakistani at any cost'

Gen Asim Munir lauds armed forces for fight against menace of terrorism



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Syed Asim Munir poses for a group photo with participants of National Security Workshop — 25 at the General Headquarters on Thursday.

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir says intelligentsia and civil society have greater responsibility to ensure people, especially youth stay aware and steadfast against hostile propaganda onslaught being launched through soft offensive against state institutions of Pakistan. He was addressing participants of National Security Workshop-25 in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Forum was also apprised regarding host of measures being taken to curb activities of illegal spectrum to include smuggling, power theft, narcotics prevalence, border control measures, and repatriation of illegal foreigners from Pakistan. The Army Chief said that Armed Forces of Pakistan and its security and intelligence setups have fought the menace of Terrorism in an exemplary manner despite sustained and varied support of inimical forces. He said Success will be ours InshAllah with the continued support of the people of Pakistan. On the subject of repatriation and deportation of illegal foreigners, the Army Chief expressed safety and security of each Pakistani is of paramount importance which cannot be allowed to be compromised at any cost.

Kashmir Day

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick and All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leadership addressing a press conference on Kashmir Black Day on Thursday.



Photo: Online

UNGA special session to help bring about ceasefire in Gaza: FO

Says Pakistan believes that durable peace in the Middle East will emerge from a two state solution

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has hoped that the upcoming special emergency session of the UN General Assembly will play its role in bringing about an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and condemn the plans for ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch regretted that despite rising death toll of Palestinians and flagrant violations of international humanitarian laws, the UN Security Council failed to even call for a ceasefire and put an end to the carnage in Gaza. Reiterating Pakistan's full and unequivocal support for the Palestinian brothers and



sisters, the spokesperson urged the backers of Israel to play their role in bringing an end to the atrocities against Palestinians and take effective steps to lift the siege of Gaza.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the international community must also ensure that Israeli violence and bombing campaign does not spread and engulf the entire Middle East.

The spokesperson said Pakistan believes that durable peace in the Middle East will emerge from a two state solution and the creation of a secure, viable and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

When asked about the imposition of sanctions by the

US on three Chinese companies for providing missile related items to Pakistan, the spokesperson said that in the past also we have seen entities added to the entity list on suspicion. She said we do not see any new thing in the latest order. She, however, said that such designations contradict the US policy of export control waivers granting access to India to advance military technologies which is undermining the strategic stability in South Asia.

To a question, the spokesperson said Pakistan has always called for peace and dialogue including on the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said the current situation demands that New Delhi ensures that the people

of Indian illegally Jammu and Kashmir are able to live in peace without intimidation. She said the people of IIOJK will never accept and have never accepted the illegally occupation of their land. She said Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiri people until the realization of their inherent right to self-determination as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

When asked about the repatriation of illegal foreign nationals, she said this decision has been taken as per our national laws to ensure the safety and security of Pakistan. She said we have also informed the Afghan authorities that this policy is not Afghan specific.

No delay in election, says ECP

The election schedule will be announced after publication of the delimitation of constituencies, assures spokesperson

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday ruled out the possibility of a delay in the polls and assured that a schedule will be issued after the process of delimitation of constituencies is completed.

"After the publication of the delimitation of constituencies, the election schedule will be announced. There is no chance of a delay in the elections," said a spokesperson in a statement.

The official added that all the preparations have been completed for the elections.

The spokesperson said that the first phase of the delimitation process has been completed and the second one will conclude once the objections to the preliminary delimitations are filed.

The official said the ECP would start hearing objec-

tions on the delimitation from October 30-31 and a final list will be published on November 30.

"The election schedule will be announced after the final publication of constituencies. There is no ambiguity in the Election Commission's decisions."

The ECP's statement comes after President Dr Arif Alvi, a day earlier, said that he does not believe the general elections will take place in January next year, but at the same time, he called for the transparent polls when they are staged.

Political analysts have also raised concerns about a possible delay in the polls past January, with several noting that no political party seems in the "election mode", while others mentioned that politicians have also cautioned about



the "harsh weather" during winters that could hamper the polling process.

The country has been gripped in political uncertainty ever since the Imran Khan government was removed through a no-confidence motion in April 2022.

A coalition government that took over after Imran Khan's ouster dissolved the National Assembly on August

9 of this year.

Following the premature dissolution of national and provincial assemblies, the ECP was required to hold elections within the 90-day time period, meaning the polls should take place no later than November 6.

However, the ECP said it was constitutionally bound to draw fresh boundaries ahead of the elections as the

Council of Common Interest (CCI) had approved the census, hence holding elections within the stipulated time period was not possible.

Key political parties including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and others urged the ECP to hold polls at the earliest to end prevailing uncertainty in the country.

But in September the uncertainty ended to an extent after the Election Commission announced that it would hold polls in the country in the last week of January.

In the same month, the ECP also released the provisional report on the delimitation of constituencies based on the recently concluded census moving a step closer to the most sought-after general elections. Agencies

Mushaal urges int'l community to take notice of Indian war crimes in IIOJK

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant Mushaal Hussein Mullick has urged the international community to take notice of the genocide and war crimes being committed by the New Delhi regime in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a joint news conference along with Hurriyat leaders in Islamabad on Thursday, she said the global community, especially the United Nations, should act against the India's war crimes in IIOJK. She said India has issued five million domiciles to non-Kashmiris to change the demographic structure of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Special Assistant said India is using chemical weapons and phosphorus bombs against the innocent civilians in IIOJK. She said India is not only targeting Kashmiris but also

harassing Sikhs in Canada and other parts of the world.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick further said that entire Hurriyat leadership has been incarcerated, including her husband Yaseen Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah and Asiya Andrabi.

Speaking on the occasion, Hurriyat leaders said Kashmiris across the globe are going to mark Black Day tomorrow to protest the Indian occupation on this day in 1947.

They said India has deputed one million military personnel in the IIOJK, turning the territory into an open prison and the most militarized zone on the planet.

They demanded of the world and the United Nations to play their due role in resolving the longstanding Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions. They said peace in the region will remain elusive till the resolution of the Kashmir issue. The speakers also condemned Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Interior minister says plan finalised to expel illegal migrants as deadline looms

Illegal immigrants will not be allowed to carry more than Rs50,000 while leaving country, says Sarfraz Bugti

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated that no compromise will be made on the decision to expel illegal immigrants, saying that a plan has been finalised in this regard as the November 1 deadline approaches.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the interior minister said centres have been set up in various cities across the country to keep the illegal immigrants, while those leaving voluntarily will be helped to leave Pakistan.

"It is a challenging task," Bugti said, adding Pakistan was determined to expel all illegal immigrants. The illegal immigrants, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for years, will not be allowed to carry more than Rs50,000 while leaving the country, he added.

The minister also warned the local residents against giving shelter to illegal immigrants saying strict action will be taken against them. Bugti said the authorities have conducted geo-fencing and gathered all information regarding illegal immigrants.

"We know in which village and city the illegal immigrants are present," he said. Bugti also clarified that the crackdown is only against illegal immigrants and those willing to visit Pakistan with valid visa will be welcomed.

Separately, Balochistan caretaker Home Minister Zubair Jamaali also confirmed the development that the plan for the repatriation of illegal immigrants has been finalised. "As many as 14,000 migrants from Balochistan have returned to their homeland through Chaman [border]," he told the presser.

He said strict action will be taken against illegal residents after November 1 deadline. "The federal and provincial institutions are on the same page to make the country peaceful," he added.

Earlier this month, Pakistan announced November 1 as the deadline for all illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan or face deportation and seizure of properties and businesses.



Bugti had warned on October 5 that the illegal immigrants had been given a deadline of November 1 to leave Pakistan for their native countries or face deportation. "Their assets and businesses in Pakistan can be confiscated after the expiry of the deadline," the minister announced.

Illegal Afghan nationals were responsible for 14 of the 24 suicide bombings in the country this year, he said and added, "Safety and security of the people of Pakistan is the prime responsibility and foremost priority of the government."

He said a drastic crackdown would be launched against the illegal immigrants, including Afghan nationals, who would be arrested and expelled to their native countries.

He had said that at least 4.2 million Afghan people were living in Pakistan, of which not less than three million were living illegally without any legal documents.

After authorities lunched crackdown, the Foreign Office clarified that the decision to deport illegal residents was not specifically targeted at the Afghan refugees but against all immigrants residing in the country illegally without valid visa documents.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing had said the national policy towards the Afghan refugees in the country "remained unchanged" and their safe repatriation was a separate issue.

The spokesperson said the ongoing operation was against the individuals who had either overstayed their visas or did not have the valid documents to stay.

Baloch clarified that the operation had nothing to do with the Afghan refugees that Pakistan had been hosting for several decades despite its economic constraints.

UK orders charter flights for Afghan refugees in Pakistan

LONDON: The UK will relocate Afghan refugees from Pakistan who had been promised sanctuary in Britain on charter flights starting Thursday, the BBC reported.

Thousands of refugees who had worked alongside Western coalition forces before the Taliban takeover had moved to neighboring Pakistan for safety after the evacuation from the country.

They have lived in hotels funded by the UK government while awaiting permission to move to Britain, with some families waiting for almost two years.

Many had received UK visas ahead

of their planned journey to Britain, but the documents have now expired due to delays in the UK relocation schemes for Afghan refugees.

The plan to use charter flights to relocate the refugees follows a decision by Pakistan to begin deporting illegal migrants in November.

Afghans in neighboring Pakistan include former translators who worked with the British Army, as well as teachers who were employed by the British Council.

UK government data shows that about 3,250 Afghans, including men, women and children, are living in temporary accommodation

in Islamabad while they await decisions on applications to the resettlement schemes.

Many have no legal right to work in Pakistan, and their children are unable to access education due to a lack of documentation.

One of the refugees in Pakistan told the BBC: "I am just concerned what will happen if my family will not be on one of those flights until the end of December."

"My wife is pregnant, and if we don't travel soon, we may have to wait into next year."

The Independent reported that the first charter flight will take about 200

Afghans to the UK on Thursday.

It is believed that at least 12 flights will take place in a bid to relocate all 3,250 refugees by the end of the year.

A government spokesperson said: "The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 24,600 people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for our Afghan schemes."

"We continue to honor our commitments to bring eligible Afghans to the UK, with new arrivals going directly into settled accommodation where possible." Arab News

Polish envoy stresses technology sharing to fight climate change

Poland and Pakistan celebrate 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Pakistan Maciej Pisarski said on Thursday it was time to move beyond traditional areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Poland and enhance collaboration in technological solutions for fighting common challenges like the climate change.

Talking to the APP on the sidelines of the International Conference on 'The Future of Sustainability: Water-Food-Environment & Energy Nexus' at the Expo Centre here, he said the world today faces multiple challenges and these challenges relate to climate change, growing strain on water and limiting access to good quality water, adding that these technological advances, offered by the Polish firms during the conference, could make huge difference in the lives of individuals and, similarly, might enhance bilateral collaboration.

The conference was part of the three-day International Pakistan Exhibition on 'Water and Energy', during which a



large number of international and local organisations displayed their technologically innovative equipment for water and sanitation solutions. Chief Executive Officer Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority Syed Zahid Aziz visited a number of stalls as a guest of honour.

"Poland and Pakistan celebrate 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year and it is high time that we move beyond our traditional areas of cooperation. Yes, we cherish our achieve-

ments in the past, but we need to move beyond for the common good," the envoy stressed. In his message to the Pakistani friends, Ambassador Maciej Pisarski said Poland is a friend of yours, adding that peoples in both countries cherish their traditions, family values, history and freedom, and both countries might offer each other great support and cooperation.

Earlier, the Polish envoy conducted a conference on the future of sustain-

ability during which the representatives from various technology firms from Poland like Symbionia, Nano-Seen and Meliorex connected with the Pakistani businesses, engineers, academics and technocrats online and introduced their technologies, which could help Pakistan fight water scarcity, frequent natural disasters, glacial impacts, lack of access to clean drinking water, and agricultural impacts of climate change. Polish envoy stresses technology sharing to fight climate change. The firms also offered cheapest eco-friendly desalination technology while the nano-technologists claimed solving many of the challenges facing humanity and the planet. The conference shared the vision to create a world where everyone has access to clean water and healthy food, and agriculture is sustainable and environmentally sustainable. Polish envoy stresses technology sharing to fight climate change. The ambassador presented mementos to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority Syed Zahid Aziz and other guests.

Pakistan, Brunei to enhance coop in defence sector



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Brunei have resolved to work together for enhanced cooperation in defence and security related fields.

The resolve was expressed at the three-day 6th Round of Pakistan-Brunei Joint Defence Working Committee that concluded in Islamabad.

Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan led the Pakistan delegation while Brunei side was led by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Brig Gen (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi Bin Haji Perudin.

During the meeting, they discussed the whole spectrum of bilateral defence cooperation, training, exchange visits and co-production of defence equipment.

It was agreed that 7th Round of Pakistan-Brunei Joint Defence Working Committee meeting will be held in Brunei on mutually agreed dates.

Pakistan Literature Festival on Oct 28-29

SUKKUR: Arts Council of Pakistan is going to hold the Pakistan Literature Festival at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Sukkur on October 28-29, this literary festival will bring together intellectuals and common people.

While addressing the Press Conference here on Thursday, the President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that the Sindh province has its own history. Special programs and sessions will be held in this regard.

He said that in the literary fair, poets and writers will share their treasures. The history of Sindh province will be highlighted.

During the press conference, it was told that countrywide and domestic issues will be highlighted through this festival. There will be discussions, and musicians will enthrall the audience with their art. Vice Chancellor Sukkur IBA, Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh, President Sukkur Arts Council Mumtaz Bukhari and Chairman District Council Syed Kumail Hyder Shah were also present. APP

India trying to hide Israel like war crimes through media gags: Farooq Rehmani

PESHAWAR: Breaking all records of repressions and media gags, the fascist Modi regime was trying to hide war crimes of Indian occupation forces through communication blackout after revoking the special status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. "The Hinduva backed Modi regime has imposed unlimited restrictions on free media and is trying to hide its forces Israel like war crimes through media gags," said Chairman J&K People's Freedom League Muhammad Farooq Rehmani.

He said after an illegal act of August 5, 2019, India had enforced an unprecedented lockdown and communications blackout in a bid to hide its Israel-like war crimes in IIOJK. He said besides the house arrest of pro-freedom Kashmiri leadership, the fascist Modi Government had blocked social media and internet services in the IIOJK that virtually turned into the world's largest jail. As a result of communication blackout including landlines, cellphones and internet services, the Kashmiris were deprived of free access to information and unable to make contact with their loved ones, he added.

Rehmani said the movement of independent media in IIOJK was restricted and added media was not allowed to publish or air the statements of APHC leadership while great Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Geelani was buried at night after snatching the body from his family. He urged the international community to look beyond trade and business interests and step forward with collective action to stop genocide of oppressed Kashmiris besides pressurize Modi government to reverse all its illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and give right to self-determination to them for lasting peace and stability in South Asia. APP

ECP, PEMRA submit replies in Faizabad sit-in case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Thursday submitted their comments to the Supreme Court in review petitions pertaining to the Faizabad sit-in case. PEMRA stated in its reply that the Authority had implemented the court orders in letter and spirit, and directed all the TV channels to be more careful while covering the religious issues.

It said that it had also forbidden the TV channels from live coverage during the operation at sit-in site, and stopped the transmission of some channels on violations of its instructions. It, however, did not issue any advisory to close any news channel. The ECP, in its reply, said that the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan was not involved in anti-state activities as per the report of Interior Ministry. It said that as per its scrutiny committee, the TLP had received Rs 1.5 million from prohibited sources, and that small amount could not be declared as foreign funding. The apex court will take up the Faizabad sit-in review petitions on November 1. APP

Women being deprived of rights in unconstitutional way: CJF

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday observed that women were being deprived of their rights in an unconstitutional and un-Islamic manner. The CJF was heading a three-member bench which heard the case pertaining to a land dispute.

The court ordered the Revenue Department of Dera Ghazi Khan to immediately hand over possession of her share of inherited land to woman Sara Akhtar after taking it from her maternal uncle Sardar Mansoor. The court also directed the maternal uncle to pay all the expenditure his niece had incurred on litigation. During the course of hearing, the CJF remarked that the court was not giving special concession to women.

The petitioner's lawyer said that the woman had sold her land in 1989 to her maternal uncle Sardar Mansoor, and reclaimed its ownership after 20 years and denied her own signature on the sale deed. Justice Athar Minallah observed that it was the responsibility of the buyer to prove the purchase of the land. Three courts had ruled against the petitioner, he noted. Sara Akhtar's lawyer said that his client was a minor at the time of the alleged sale of the land. Sardar Mansoor is the former chairman of district council who had transferred the land to his young children, wife, mother-in-law and brother-in-law, he added. APP

Health hazard

KARACHI: Motorists are commuting through sewerage water accumulated on Gulshan-e-Iqbal Road, which needs the attention of concerned authorities. ONLINE PHOTO by Sabir Mazhar



Photo: Online

AJK PM terms October 27 darkest day in Kashmir's history

Our Correspondent

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming 27 October 2019 as the darkest day in Kashmir's recent history, has said that on this day, in 1947, India occupied Kashmir illegally by flouting international laws and norms of justice and fair play. In his statement issued on Thursday on the eve of Black Day falling on Friday, the PM said that the Indian invasion of Kashmir had led to death and destruction in the region.

Bloodshed and violence, oppression and suppression have been a hallmark of India's neo colonial rule



in the region, the PM said, adding that India's belligerent occupation opened the floodgates to violence and human rights violations against the Kashmiris. He said that the so called champions of democracy deprived Kashmiris of their basic political and human rights.

He said that Kashmiris living on both sides of the bloody line (LoC) and the world over were celebrating Black Day as a mark of protest against India's occu-

pation of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the Kashmiri people had never accepted the illegal occupation of India. Terming India as a usurper, he said, "The Indian government approached the UN Security Council on January 1, 1948 and promised to give Kashmiris their right to self-determination at the UN".

He said that India later on backtracked from its commitments and refused to implement the UN resolutions that guaranteed the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir. He said that the so called largest democracy was using its repressive state apparatus

to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right of self-determination. He, however, maintained that despite using its military might, the Indian government has miserably failed to dent the Kashmiris resolve and their spirit of freedom. "Kashmiri youths are being martyred in fake encounters and strict restrictions have been imposed on the media to hide the ground reality situation in Occupied Kashmir", he said. The PM demanded the United Nations to take practical steps to implement its resolutions on Kashmiri and help stop the ongoing oppression in Occupied Kashmir.

Health authority urges preventive measures to avoid smog

RAWALPINDI: To create awareness about the hazards of smog, the District Health Authority, Rawalpindi distributed pamphlets and masks in various areas of the city here on Thursday.

On the occasion, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Aamir Sheikh said that the objective of the activity was to reach out to a maximum number of people and to educate the general public about the precautionary measures to avoid smog.

He asked the residents to ensure the spraying of water to prevent dust and to use masks and glasses. The DHO advised the people to avoid bringing smoke emitting vehicles on roads which was harmful to the environment and human health.

He said that the promotion of tree plantation was vital for avoiding smog and checking environmental pollution.

Governor Punjab felicitates on 31st Republic Day of Kazakhstan

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has extended heartfelt felicitations to the brotherly people of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the occasion of 31st Republic Day of the country.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark 31st Republic Day of Kazakhstan at the Al Hamra Hall here on Thursday, he said Kazakhstan is a resilient and independent nation, adding that transformation of Kazakhstan as dynamic economic and regional power is recognised throughout the region and beyond.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur

Rehman said people of the two countries share common historical, cultural and religious ties. He hailed the role of Kazakh Ambassador in fostering the brotherly ties between the two countries.

He further said that due to the efforts of the Kazakh Ambassador to Pakistan, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are now operating direct flights through the operations of SCAT Airlines, which will increase our trade and increase relations between the people. He said that Kazakhstan is blessed with the largest oil reserves in the Central Asian region and can serve as an energy hub. He said that it is gratifying to share that Kazakhstan is our largest trading partner in Central Asia, and the exchange of

trade delegations between the two countries will definitely strengthen our bilateral economic relations.

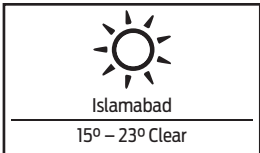
The Governor Punjab said idea of establishing Kazakhstan House in Lahore and the inauguration of Pakistan House in Kazakhstan is an important step towards wider links and trade.

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said citizens in Palestine, especially children, are suffering, and it is a human tragedy. All countries of the world should come forward to stop atrocities on Palestinians. Similarly, in occupied Kashmir, the Kashmiri people are victims of brutality and repression by the Indian forces. The international community should also raise

its voice for them, he added.

The Governor Punjab further said that the initiative of a passing point between the Eurasian countries such as the Belt and Road Initiative BRI, the Middle Corridor (MC) and the International North has appeared in the form of a trade corridor among others align perfectly towards our shared goal of regional and international peace and prosperity.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, Kazakhstan's Honorary Consul General Rao Khalid Mohammad Khan, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar, Vice Chancellor (VC) University of South Asia Imran Masood and others attended the ceremony.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 4:57 am
 Zohr 11:52 am
 Asr 3:43 pm
 Maghrib 5:22 pm
 Isha 6:46 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

FBISE organizes first-ever ceremony for its alumni

ISLAMABAD: Federal board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad on Thursday organized first-ever ceremony in honour of its former students.

According to the details, Federal Board organized this ceremony keeping in view the practice under which the educational institutions around the world keep records of their graduating students and organize ceremonies for them.

The event was attended by a large number of ex-students and apart from this, ex-students from other cities of Pakistan and other countries also participated online.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, after which Chairman FBISE Qaiser Alam as a special guest thanked all the participants for coming to Federal Board.

During his address, he made a detailed statement about the reforms made in the examination system and also highlighted the importance of technical education.

He reiterated that in future the President of the Alumni Association can also be made a member of the Board of Governors.

Along with Chairman Federal Board, Director Research and Academic Mirza Ali, Professor Amjad Iqbal Islamabad Model College, F/7-3 also participated in this prestigious event. National Anthem was presented at the end of the ceremony. APP

President asks medical universities to increase graduate numbers

To enhance accessibility to healthcare facilities for the general public

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday asked the medical universities to increase graduate numbers to fulfill the requirement of a large number of doctors and nurses in the country.

"To enhance accessibility to healthcare facilities for the general public, there is a need to increase the number of trained individuals in health sector", the president said while presiding over the 6th session of the Senate of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad.

He also stressed for taking special measures to maintain the services of female doctors in the field of health adding that creating a friendly and harassment-free environment for women at their workplaces was very important.

The president also advised that the universities should enhance their performance in research fields besides hiring the services of the experts to obtaining research grants from abroad.

The session of the university's senate was attended by Senator Samina Mumtaz, Vice-Chancellor Professor Tanveer Khalique of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University and other members of Senate. During the session, a briefing was given on the university's performance and future development projects. It was highlighted in the meeting that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University had increased number of admissions in various fields, including nursing.

The briefing also highlighted that the university has trained 429 specialists in various fields within a short period. The university has



secured significant international research grants in various fields. It has also shown remarkable performance in medical research.

The meeting was informed that in the future, the university planned to initiate new PhD programs and complete the construction of its

first teaching block. President Arif Alvi appreciating the university's contributions to medical education and acknowledging its over-

all performance, drew attention towards the need for policies related to healthcare, emphasizing the importance of focus on disease treatment and prevention.

President Alvi emphasized that early prevention and timely diagnosis could reduce the burden on the healthcare system. He said focusing on disease prevention could lead to improvement in the overall health situation of the country at a lower cost.

The meeting also discussed the successful completion of 10 years of the university's establishment and its services in the field of health. The university's senate also granted approval for amendments in the service laws of the university's employees, which is a significant step. The annual report of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University was also presented in the meeting.

Outside IHC

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is leaving from High Court after the verdict as Nawaz Sharif was convicted by accountability courts in Avenfield and Al-Azizia references. The accountability court had awarded 10 years jail term with eight million Pounds fine to Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield case and 07 years sentence in Al-Azizia reference.



Photo: Online

UAE Air Force Commander calls on Air Chief

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation, led by Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi, Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) here at Air Headquarters on Thursday. The meeting covered a wide array of matters pertaining to geo-strategic environment, regional security and the aspect of exploring new avenues to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of PAF presented guard of honour to him. He was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of PAF.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on Air Chief in his office.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared the broad contours of PAF's modernization drive aimed at augmenting current operational capability in the domains of Cyber,



Space, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Niche technologies. He also highlighted various ongoing projects of Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare. Appreciating the participation of UAE Air Force contingent in PAF's multi-national Exercise Indus Shield, the Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoyed unprecedented brotherly relations and reiterated his resolve to further

enhance the existing bilateral ties in military-to-military cooperation, joint exercises and training domains.

The Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates conveyed his deep appreciation for the remarkable advancements achieved by PAF in the realm of indigenous capabilities and commended the professionalism of PAF personnel. Both sides concurred to further optimize the existing military ties between the two coun-

tries with a specific focus on advanced tactical training, emerging technologies and strengthening operational competencies.

They also discussed the potential for joint military exercises and exchange programmes with an aim to facilitate the exchange of expertise, enhancing interoperability and fostering closer ties between Air Forces of both the brotherly countries. Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates also visited different installations and technological infrastructure established at the air headquarters including National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF's Cyber Command. He also visited National Aerospace Science and Technology Park and expressed his deep admiration for the project. He appreciated the dynamic leadership of Air Chief, which enabled the realization of this mega project in a record time frame.

Mushahid thanks China for supporting Pakistan



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: In recognition of his longstanding role on CPEC, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was presented with a Silk Road Award during the Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road Initiative being held in Beijing.

In his acceptance speech, Mushahid Hussain Syed said this is an honor not just for him but for Pakistan and its people.

The Senator thanked China for its consistent and enduring support to Pakistan, particularly investment in CPEC. He noted that the BRI is bringing benefits and opportunities globally.

Lok Virsa to host fundraiser event for Palestine's victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a compassionate display of solidarity, Lok Virsa is set to host a special fundraiser exhibition, uniting Pakistani and international artists in support of Palestinian families.

As the world's thoughts and prayers turn towards the afflicted in Palestine, this event is aptly themed 'In the Pursuit of Freedom.'

Citizens are urged to mark their calendars for the fundraiser exhibition, commencing on Saturday, at the Lok Virsa Gallery in Islamabad.

This art showcase will feature the exquisite works of renowned artists such as Alefiya Abbas Ali, Nabahat Amin, Faziil Shah, Hanane Kai, Haris Qayyum, Javeria Ahmed, Javeria Ali, Minna Haroon, Rabia Ajjaz, Sakina Akber, Sara Qaed, Sundas Azfer, Sundas Shaikat, and Uzma Farooqi, all contributing their talents to aid the war-stricken victims of Palestine.

The organizers have requested that people join this noble cause and celebrate the power of art to make a difference.

Info Minister expresses grief over death of Ilyas's mother

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of mother of Express News Bureau Chief Lahore, Muhammad Ilyas.

In his condolence message, the Minister commiserated with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Minister visits NAVTTC, reviews its ongoing projects

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah here on Thursday visited the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) to review the ongoing project of the commission.

During the visit, Director General NAVTTC Dr. Khalid Mehmood briefed the minister about the Youth Skill Development Program (YSDP) and expressed their commitment to jointly working for the betterment of the organization, said a news release.

Wasi Shah was also briefed regarding the achievements of NAVTTC and its programmes to make the youth skilled empower. The minister appreciated the efforts and programmes launched by the NAVTTC in empowering youth and make them able to compete in the world.

He committed in helping NAVTTC for media strategy to encourage youth to join skill development opportunities. He further said that NAVTTC had made a major contribution to Pakistan's national human resource development and creates numerous employment opportunities for the skilled youth both overseas and in the country that benefiting the individuals and boosting national economy. APP

Search operation conducted in suburbs of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and combing operation at Noon police station jurisdiction and arrested three suspects.

Police said that search and combing operations were being conducted in different areas of the city to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.

A search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Noon police station jurisdiction by CTD, FC and local police team under the supervision of SP CTD. APP

PIDE to hold Economy Festival 'EconFest-2023' from Saturday

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Research for Social Transformation & Advancement (RASTA) programme and the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), will hold the second two-day Economy Festival 'EconFest-2023' from October 28-29 here at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

For the event, PIDE will bring together leading economists, public policy experts, practitioners, profes-

sionals, academicians, and prominent personalities from various fields to address Pakistan's pressing economic challenges, a news release said.

PIDE said there would be no registration fee to participate in the festival and it would be open for all.

The Institute, with its rich tradition of convening experts to tackle the intricate challenges faced by the country offers a unique opportunity for the broader public to engage directly with the genuine issues impacting the national economy. It serves as a platform for concerned citizens to engage in meaningful dialogues with experts

from diverse backgrounds.

PIDE promises an amazing experience with 33 esteemed partners, 27 enriching sessions, over 200 experts sharing their insights, a vibrant cultural show, a cutting-edge tech exhibition, an inclusive academic exhibition, a literary journey at the book exhibition, excitements at the fun zone, and delectable delights at the food court.

Students and faculty members from various universities, including LUMS, University of the Punjab, Arid Agriculture University, NUML University, SZABIST Islamabad, IMSciences Peshawar, FAST National University,

Fatima Jinnah Women University, Riphah University, Quaid-i-Azam University, the National Incubation Centre for Aerospace Technology, Air University, Rawalpindi Women University, University of Haripur, Federal Urdu University, University of Wah, National Defence University, and Foundation University, are actively participating in the mega event.

"By working together, we can attain the festival's aims of fostering meaningful dialogues and generating insights into the economic challenges facing Pakistan," PICE Vice-Chancellor Dr Nadeem ul Haque said.

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Public concerns regarding SC's decision on civilian trials in military courts - II

Corruption within the judicial system in Pakistan remains a persistent issue. Reports of corruption, bribery, and undue influence on judges and court officials have surfaced. These practices erode the credibility and impartiality of the system, hindering the delivery of fair justice.

The judicial system's inefficiencies in case management, including the absence of modern case tracking systems, pose challenges for effective caseload management. The lack of technology-driven solutions can result in errors, mishandling of documents, and further delays in the legal process.

Pakistan's judicial system often operates with limited resources, which include insufficient infrastructure, staffing, and facilities. This inadequacy hampers the system's optimal functioning, contributing to its inefficiency and poor performance.

Legal procedures in Pakistan are frequently overly complex and bureaucratic, making it daunting for ordinary citizens to navigate the system. Streamlining and simplifying these processes would not only enhance access to justice but also alleviate the burden on the courts.

Access to legal aid in Pakistan is restricted, leaving many individuals with-

out adequate legal representation. This disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized populations, leaving them unable to effectively assert their rights in court.

The subpar state of Pakistan's judicial system is a grave concern. Addressing these challenges is imperative to ensure that justice is not only served but also perceived to be served. Urgent reforms are essential to enhance efficiency, reduce delays, and combat corruption within the system. Moreover, efforts to improve accessibility and provide better legal aid to those in need are critical steps toward a just and effective judicial system.

Collaboration among the government, judiciary, legal professionals, and civil society is vital to enact these necessary changes and rebuild public trust in Pakistan's legal system. Only through comprehensive reform can the judicial system fulfill its pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the rights of all citizens.

Regrettably, the Pakistani judicial system has thus far fallen short in delivering prompt and equitable justice to all its

citizens. A well-functioning legal system is the cornerstone of any democratic society, preserving the rule of law and safeguarding the rights and freedoms of its populace. Many countries have acknowledged the importance of establishing specialized courts to address specific types of cases, as they play a crucial role in the legal landscape by catering to unique needs and challenges that standard courts may not adequately address.

The significance of special courts primarily lies in their specialization. These courts are designed to handle specific categories of cases, such as family law, tax law, military law, or environmental law. This focused approach allows judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys in special courts to develop a profound understanding of the intricacies and subtleties within their respective domains. Consequently, this expertise leads to more informed and equitable decisions, ensuring that justice is served in these specific areas.

Special courts are renowned for their efficiency. By exclusively dealing with particular types of cases, these courts can

expedite case resolution effectively. This efficiency proves particularly advantageous in cases necessitating immediate attention, such as family law disputes related to child custody or domestic violence. In contrast, standard courts, which handle a wide range of cases, frequently grapple with delays and backlogs, potentially causing undue hardship for involved individuals.

Specialized courts often implement distinct procedures and protocols tailored to the specific requirements of their respective legal domains. For instance, family courts may provide mediation services to amicably resolve disputes, while environmental courts may focus on conducting environmental impact assessments. This custom-tailored approach ensures that the legal process adapts to the unique circumstances and complexities of each case, ultimately promoting fairness and justice.

Specialized courts can significantly enhance access to justice, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations. For example, drug courts offer treatment and rehabilitation programs to individuals grappling with addiction instead of resorting to punitive measures. This approach aids in breaking the cycle of addiction and reducing recidivism.

To be Continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

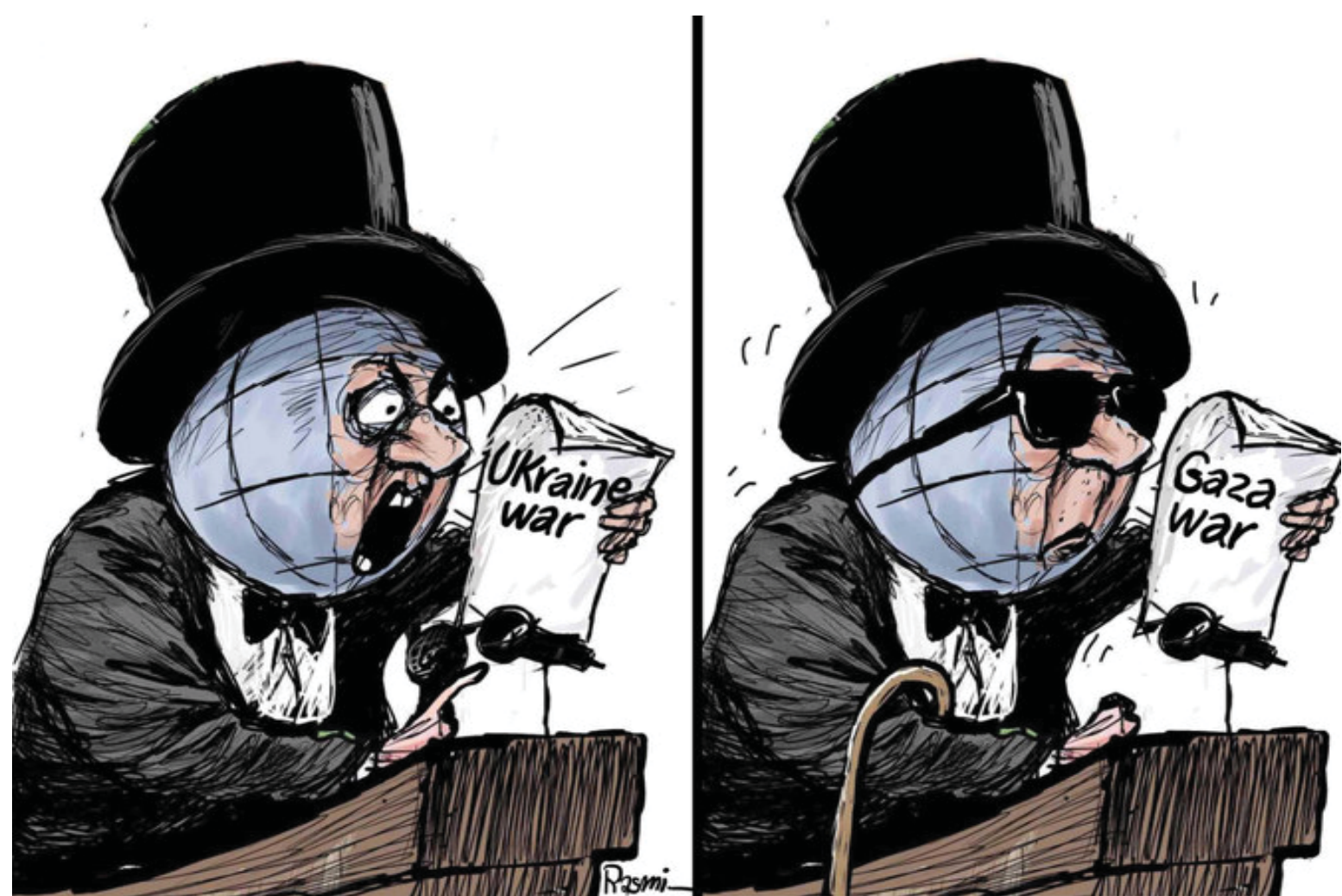
India's systematic state terrorism against Kashmiris

As the sun rays disappear behind Mahadev mountain peak at Srinagar of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the oppressed Kashmiris are being seen locking doors of their houses due to human rights abuses and systematic state terrorism of Indian occupational forces since they invaded the held valley on October 27, 1947. Breaking all records of oppression, rights violation of modern era, the Indian occupational forces unleashed terror in IIOJK after the fascist Modi government revoked its special status on August 5, 2019, forcing most Kashmiris to spend sleepless nights due to indiscriminate firing, cluster ammunition, sniper attacks, excessive use of pellet guns, fake encounters where women and children were being abducted and sexually assaulted as weapon of war.

Organization of Islamic countries (OIC) has also repeatedly supported Kashmiri people's struggle and called upon India to give Kashmiris their just right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, Shah stated, "Coercion, intimidation and harassment of political activists, journalists, rights groups and civil society activists, has been a hallmark of the Modi government's Kashmir policy."

He urged the world leaders to influence India to resolve the lingering on Kashmir dispute and appealed to Kashmiri people to observe complete strike on October 27 as a mark of protest against the India's illegal and forcible occupation of their motherland. Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, Voice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir's Peoples League told APP that most of oppressed Kashmiris in IIOJK were either being attacked or kidnapped after Indian forces resorted to serious human rights abuses mostly against women and children as weapon of war after Hinduvata BJP regime had abolished special status of IIOJK. Accompanied by sniffer dogs, Indian occupied forces forcefully entered the houses of Kashmiris even at mid night on the name of so-called search operation and misbehaved with women and children that made Kashmiris almost sleepless, he said. "The 43 page report of the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) 2019 had exposed Indian security forces' systematic terrorism and war crimes at IIOJK," said Mushtaq Ahmed Shah.

He said the gruesome violation of human rights including the forced disappearance of over 8,000 innocent Kashmiris, 8,652 unmarked mass graves, imposition of longest curfew on some 10 million unarmed Kashmiris, extra-judicial killings and human rights abuses especially against women and children exposed India's ugly secular face before the world. Adnan Sarwar Khan, former Chairman, International Relations Department, University of Peshawar said the illegal occupation of Kashmir valley by India had contravened multiple articles of the 30 fundamental human rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) drafted by representatives from all the regions of the world including India on December 10, 1948 and subsequently was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He said this declaration was applied to all the signatory members of the UN including India and restrained them from all kinds of abuses, exploitation, maltreatment and violence besides violation of any fundamental rights protected in the UDHR.



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

America's 'dual' concerns for Israel-Gaza victims driven by hypocrisy

Ray Hanania

No word defines the American approach to policy, violence or peace in the Middle East more than "dual." That is because America long ago decided to support Israel no matter what it does or what it demands. The US' relationship with Israel is based on hypocrisy and exceptions — hypocrisy on violence and exceptions that benefit Israel over others.

This dual policy is most apparent in the ongoing brutal Israeli assault on the 2 million civilians trapped in the Gaza Strip, from where Hamas militants on Oct. 7 launched a horrendous assault on Israeli targets that surprised the world, particularly Israel itself. Regardless of the exaggerations made regarding the attack, many innocent civilians and off-duty Israeli soldiers were killed, wounded or kidnapped.

Since Israel's military tightly controls and censors media coverage of everything involving its conduct toward Palestinians, it is difficult to know where the truth ends and the lies begin. But the word dual falls in line pretty quickly.

For example, the US has a dual approach to news coming from the conflict. Whatever Israel asserts in its media propaganda campaigns, American officials embrace without question and stick to it even when evidence ultimately shows it to be an exaggeration or an outright lie. This dual approach to violence is stunning. The Hamas militants who attacked Israel on Oct. 7 took the lives of more than 1,000 civilians and 300 Israeli soldiers. US officials have joined Israel in expressing outrage at the "carnage," while considering all the fatalities as "victims," including those serving in Israel's military.

The duality surfaces when the same American officials brush aside the even more staggering death toll resulting from Israel's bombardment of Gaza's civilian population, which has destroyed hundreds of residential buildings, hospitals, mosques and churches and killed more than 6,000 Palestinians. This number will continue to rise as long as the US blocks calls for a ceasefire.

President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have both rejected calls for a ceasefire that would end the killing of innocent civilians — a reflection of America's dual policy, which cares for Israeli lives but lacks concern for Palestinian lives. To obfuscate that duality, Biden and Blinken have both expressed a need to stop the killings of civilians, without mentioning that the only killings taking place now are of the Palestinians being indiscriminately targeted by Israel.

In another example of America's dual policy, the Biden administration is working hard to evacuate Americans who wish to leave Israel. In fact, despite concerns about Israel's qualifications and commitment to applying it fairly, Biden fast-tracked Tel Aviv's entry to the Visa Waiver Program that will allow Israelis to enter the US without requiring a visa. But what the Biden administration is not doing is evacuating Americans who are in Gaza. Hundreds of American citizens are huddled at the Rafah crossing. They cannot cross and the US has done nothing to help them.

The word dual also impacts citizenship loyalty. Many Israelis have dual US-Israeli citizenship. Regardless of their origins, all Israelis over the age of 18 are required to serve in the Israeli military. In contrast, there is no mandatory military service for American citizens. So, Israeli Americans do not have to defend America, just Israel. When the US expresses concern for "American lives in Israel," particularly those being held hostage, they do not address that issue.

As an American of Palestinian heritage who proudly served in the US military during the Vietnam War, I think Americans who wish to serve in the military should do so in the American armed forces, not those of a foreign country.

A question neither Biden nor Blinken will address is whether the American hostages being held by Hamas are actually American or if they are Israelis who enjoy dual citizenship and who serve in Israel's military, but not America's. Is it right to use the label "American?"

Finally, the US has a distinct dual policy when it comes to Americans killed in the conflict. If you are an Israeli American, your life is sacrosanct. Both Biden and Blinken

have repeatedly and strongly expressed concerns for those Americans. But how has the US government responded when Palestinian Americans are killed? In nearly every instance, it has expressed weak concern for their tragic fate.

Last year, two Americans were killed by Israeli soldiers. In January 2022, a 78-year-old Palestinian American citizen, Omar Assad, was brutally beaten, hooded and abused during a nighttime raid on a Palestinian village in the West Bank. He was not involved in any terrorist activities and an embarrassed Israeli government said it would investigate and punish the soldiers involved. Many months later, Israel announced that, while the soldiers would face disciplinary measures, no charges would be filed.

In May 2022, an Israeli soldier shot and killed Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian American citizen who was working as a journalist covering an Israeli assault on the Palestinian city of Jenin. There has been no justice for that killing. Not even any tough words about wanting to get to the bottom of the case. The US merely accepted Israel's assertion that she was shot accidentally.

Going back further, American activist Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer in 2003, but her killing was never investigated by the US government. In 2010, 18-year-old Turkish American Furkan Dogan was killed by Israeli soldiers on the Mavi Marmara during the Gaza flotilla raid. And, in 2016, 16-year-old Palestinian American Mahmoud Shaalan was killed by Israeli troops while crossing a checkpoint in the West Bank. The unbalanced expressions of concern from the American government reflect a dual morality at every level — one that is higher for Israel and nearly nonexistent for Palestinians. Many people recognize that the word dual, in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, really means hypocrisy.

Courtesy: Arab News
 Ray Hanania is an award-winning former Chicago City Hall political reporter and columnist. He can be reached on his personal website at www.Hanania.com. X: @RayHanania

Israel-Gaza war: UN, UAE demand immediate relief, end to Gaza blockade

Sadiq Shaban

Amid the escalating Gaza conflict, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has pleaded for an immediate ceasefire and a reassessment of underlying issues.

Speaking at the UN Security Council, Guterres asserted, "Hamas attacks didn't occur in a vacuum," highlighting the imperative need to fathom the root causes fuelling the ongoing strife.

At the core of his address, there was acknowledgement of the 56-year suffering endured by Palestinians under a "suffocating occupation".

The UN chief noted, "They (Palestinians) have witnessed their land devoured by settlements, beset by violence, their economy stifled, people displaced, and homes demolished."

Guterres condemned the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, urgently demanding a ceasefire. His deep concern about violations of international humanitarian law in the ongoing conflict reinforced his unequivocal demand for all parties to uphold their obligations, with a focus on safeguarding civilian lives.

UAE highlights protection of civilians

At the Security Council, the UAE recommitted to employing all diplo-

matic means and resources to secure an immediate, sustainable Gaza ceasefire, addressing one of the region's most challenging modern crises.

The statement of the UAE delegation, delivered by Reem Al Hashemi, Minister of State for International Cooperation, affirmed that the region is currently witnessing one of the most difficult crises in its modern history.

Calling for giving priority to diplomatic efforts, the minister underlined the importance of harnessing all capabilities to reach an immediate and sustainable ceasefire.

"More than fifty years ago, when the war of 1967 broke out, this Council delayed the adoption of a ceasefire resolution, which resulted in creating the world's longest military occupation, which continues until today. Should we leave the peoples of the region to live in a series of wars, violence, and hatred accumulated from one generation to another?" Reem Al Hashemi added.

The minister emphasised that Hamas's actions can never justify Israel's policy of collective punishment towards Gaza and called on Israel to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians.

Courtesy: GulfNews

Israel pummels Gaza as Putin warns conflict may spread beyond ME

Death toll from Israeli attacks on Gaza rises to 7,028, including 2,913 children, says Health Ministry in Gaza

GAZA: Israel continued its brutal bombardment of the Gaza Strip as it prepared for a ground invasion it says is aimed at annihilating the Palestinian resistance group Hamas as Russia warned the conflict could spread beyond the Middle East.

The Palestinian death toll from the Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7 rose to 7,028, the Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Thursday.

The ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qedra said during a press conference: "The death toll from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip has reached 7,028, including 2,913 children, 1,709 women, and 397 elderly individuals. In addition, 18,484 citizens have been injured since Oct. 7."

He said the Israeli forces committed 43 massacres in the past 24 hours, killing 481 people, the majority of whom were displaced to the south of the Gaza Strip, an area that Israel claims to be safe.

"The Israeli occupation intentionally committed 731 massacres against families. We have received 1,650 reports of missing individuals, including 940 children who are still under the rubble," he continued.

The spokesperson said the Israeli forces deliberately targeted 57 healthcare facilities, rendering 12 hospitals and 32 primary care centres out of service, adding that 101 medics were killed in attacks.

In besieged Gaza humanitarian supplies were critically low, as world powers failed to agree on a lull to Israeli aerial attacks to deliver aid, and residents buried the dead in mass graves as the civilian toll mounted.

In an indication Israel was widening assaults into Gaza that began at the weekend, the military said ground forces attacked multiple targets in the Hamas-ruled enclave on Thursday before withdrawing, in what Army Radio described as the biggest incursion of the current war.

US President Joe Biden, in remarks looking beyond the war, said on Wednesday that the future should include Israeli and Palestinian states side by side.

"Israelis and Palestinians equally deserve to live side by side in safety, dignity and in peace," Biden said at a joint press conference in Washington with visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Biden said he believed one reason Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct 7 was to prevent normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the conflict could spread beyond the Middle East and said it was wrong that innocent women, children and old people in Gaza were being punished.

"Our task today, our main task, is to stop the bloodshed and violence," said Putin in a meeting with Russian religious leaders of different faiths, according to a

Kremlin transcript.

"Otherwise, further escalation of the crisis is fraught with grave and extremely dangerous and destructive consequences. And not only for the Middle East region. It could spill over far beyond the borders of the Middle East."

Reflecting concerns the Gaza war may spread, the Wall Street Journal reported that Israel had agreed to delay invading Gaza until US air defence systems can be placed in the region, as early as this week, to protect American forces.

Asked about the report, US officials told Reuters that Washington has raised its concerns with Israel that Iran and other groups could escalate the conflict by attacking US troops in the Middle East. An Israeli incursion into Gaza could be a trigger for Iranian proxies, they said.

Gaza's war has already sparked conflict beyond the Palestinian territories. Israeli warplanes struck Syrian army infrastructure on Wednesday in response to



rockets fired from Syria, an ally of Iran. Israel has also targeted Syria's Aleppo airport and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

At the United Nations, Russia and China vetoed a US-drafted Security Council resolution calling for pauses in hostilities to allow food, water and medicine to be delivered to Palestinian civilians. The United Arab Emirates also voted no, while 10 members

of the UN Security Council voted in favour and two abstained.

Russia made a rival proposal that advocated a wider ceasefire, but failed to win the minimum number of votes. Israel has resisted both, arguing that Hamas would only take advantage and create new threats to Gaza civilians.

As the death toll mounts in Gaza, Palestinians are burying the unidentified dead in mass graves, with a number instead of

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a televised statement that Israel was "preparing for a ground invasion. I will not elaborate on when, how or how many."

Israeli tanks and troops are massed on the border with Gaza awaiting orders. Israel has called up 360,000 reservists. International pressure is growing to delay any invasion of Gaza. Reuters/Anadolu Agency

Eight ex-Indian Navy officials sentenced to death in Qatar over espionage

'Deeply shocked' India's Ministry of External Affairs says exploring all legal options

DOHA: A Qatar court on Thursday handed down death sentence to eight former Indian Navy officials currently detained in the Gulf country over serious espionage charges.

The verdict has sent shockwaves through India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which has expressed deep concern and is eagerly awaiting the detailed judgment, The Hindu reported.

The officials, who have worked at various positions in Indian Navy, are accused of spying for Israel. The accused have been identified as working for the Indian intelligence agency, RAW. They were reportedly caught carrying out espionage activities in Qatar.

According to the country's investigative agency, these officials provided Israel details of Qatar's secret



programme to buy advanced submarines from Italy.

The Indian MEA released a statement, acknowledging the court's decision: "We have initial information that the Court of First Instance of Qatar has today passed a judgment in the case involving eight Indian employees of Al Dahra company." It continued, "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of a death penalty and are awaiting the detailed

judgment. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options."

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the statement emphasised the importance of this case and the Indian government's commitment to providing support. It noted that the authorities had been closely monitoring the case and assured the public that they would continue to extend consular and legal assistance while also taking up the matter with Qatari authorities.

The MEA, however, mentioned the confidential nature of the proceedings, making it clear that no further comments would be made at this juncture.

The eight former Indian Navy officers include Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasishth, Commander

Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Ragesh. They were apprehended by Qatari intelligence services in Doha on August 30, 2022.

The chief executive officer of a private defence company and the head of international military operations of Qatar had also been arrested in the same case.

This incident has become a source of international embarrassment for India, despite attempts by Indian politicians to downplay the issue. The imprisonment of these eight Indian Navy officers in Qatar for alleged espionage raises significant international concerns following the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav in Pakistan and recently the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Agencies

Wildfires erupt in south Lebanon as Israel-Hezbollah border clashes escalate



BEIRUT: The United Nations peacekeeping force UNIFIL said on Thursday it was working with Lebanese authorities to extinguish wildfires that have spread for several kilometres in south Lebanon after being started by gunfire along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Heavily armed Hezbollah, which is part of an Iranian-backed regional alliance, has been engaged in daily exchanges of fire with Israeli forces along the frontier since war broke out between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7. More than 40 Hezbollah fighters have been killed in the borderlands so far, while Israel's military says at least seven soldiers have been killed.

Lebanese civil defence fire brigades have been working on extinguishing the fire, UNIFIL spokesperson Andrea Tenenti told Reuters, adding that strong winds and a heat-wave, along with minefields, increased the risk of the fires spreading.

"These fires are also occurring in minefields, which makes them more complicated to extinguish," Tenenti said, adding that although the fires have affected uninhabited areas so far, they were close to border villages and olive groves. Reuters

Belgium charges Tunisian man in relation to Brussels Islamist attack

BRUSSELS: Belgium said on Thursday that it had arrested a 45-year-old Tunisian man in connection with the gun attack earlier this month by another Tunisian who had pledged allegiance to Islamic State and shot dead two Swedes.

The Brussels Federal Prosecutor said a Tunisian identified as Lamjed K was arrested this week over the October 16 attack and was charged with murder and attempted murder in a terrorist context and participation in the activities of a terrorist organization.

"The federal public prosecutor's Office only wishes to confirm that he can possibly be linked to the weapon used during the terrorist attack on 16 October 2023," it said in a statement.

The gunman behind the October 16 attack called himself Abdesalem Al Guilani. He had unsuccessfully sought asylum in Belgium in 2019 and was living in Belgium illegally. The gunman targeted Swedes who were in Brussels to watch Belgium play Sweden in a European championship soccer match. The game had to be abandoned, and a police manhunt for the gunman culminated in police shooting him dead.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo called the shooting a "brutal terrorist attack," and criticism over how Belgian authorities had been monitoring the gunman resulted in the resignation of the Belgian Justice Minister. Arab News

Israeli army kills families of 2 Indonesian Hospital doctors in Gaza air raid

JAKARTA: The Israeli army has killed the families of two doctors working at the Indonesia Hospital in Gaza, the NGO that funds the facility said on Thursday, amid a surge in strikes targeting the relatives of Palestinian doctors.

The families of doctors Mohammad Al-Ran, who is the head of the surgery department, and Muayyad Al-Ran, were among those killed in an Israeli air raid on Thursday morning.

Since Tel Aviv started to bombard the besieged enclave following an Oct. 7 attack by the Gaza-based militant group Hamas, more than 6,500 people have been killed in the raids and over 17,000 injured, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The air strikes have also targeted dozens of health centers and doctors in the densely populated territory.

The Indonesia Hospital in north Gaza, which is funded by the Indonesian NGO Medical Emergency Rescue Committee, or MER-C, was one of the first health facilities hit by



Israeli missiles at the beginning of the escalation.

"The news is true. We are still looking into the details now," Filki Roful Haq, a MER-C volunteer at the hospital, told Arab News in a text message.

Clips shared widely on social media showed the moment the doctors received the news over the phone, as they were surrounded by colleagues trying to comfort them.

"The targeting of surgeons, who

are very much needed by war-injured patients, is a cruel and inhuman decision. Doctors and other health workers are protected by the Geneva Convention," Sarbini Abdul Murad, chairman of MER-C's executive committee in Jakarta, told Arab News.

"In Gaza, health workers are often targeted by Israeli attacks. Not only doctors, even the Indonesian Hospital has also received threats."

The World Health Organization has so far documented 171 Israeli attacks on health facilities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including 75 in the Gaza Strip. The strikes have killed at least 16 health workers on duty.

These attacks occur as Gaza hospitals are overwhelmed by thousands of patients with traumatic wounds from incessant bombardment, and are also filled with tens of thousands of people seeking shelter.

Health facilities in Gaza are struggling to function as crucial supplies, such as fuel and medicines, have run out. According to the WHO, six hospitals were already forced to shut down due to a lack of fuel.

"Without fuel, medicines and health supplies, Gaza's hospitals are on the precipice of an unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe," the WHO said in a statement on Thursday.

"WHO calls for immediate and uninterrupted access into and across Gaza, so that its ailing health system can be urgently revived." Arab News

EU leaders tackle Middle East war

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders meet on Thursday to grapple with the conflict between Israel and Hamas while also aiming to show continuing support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion.

The summit in Brussels will be the first in-person meeting of the EU's 27 national leaders since the deadly Oct. 7 assault on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas, which prompted Israel to bombard and blockade Hamas-run Gaza.

While EU countries have all strongly condemned the Hamas attack, leaders have struggled to stick to the same message beyond that, with some stressing Israel's right to self-defense and others emphasising concern about Palestinian civilians.

In the lead-up to the summit, EU countries were wrangling over whether to call for a "humanitarian pause," with some arguing such a measure

was vital to get aid into Gaza while others said it could limit Israel's ability to defend itself.

Diplomats said the EU appeared to be coalescing around a compromise call for "pauses" in the plural, as this suggested short breaks in fighting for specific missions such as hostage releases or aid convoys, rather than a formal cease-fire.

EU leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have visited the Middle East to express solidarity with Israel and bolster diplomatic efforts to prevent the conflict spiralling into a regional war.

While the EU's influence on the conflict is modest, officials fear that an escalation could have grave consequences for Europe, including a rise in tensions between communities, possible Islamist militant attacks and a large flow of refugees.

"Our meeting comes at a time of great global instability and insecurity, exacerbated most recently by developments in the Middle East," said Charles Michel, president of the European Council of EU leaders, in an invitation letter to the summit.

"These developments require our immediate attention, without distracting us from our continued support to Ukraine."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will address the summit by video link and support for Kyiv will have first place in the summit declaration.

The EU and its member countries have provided billions of euros in assistance to Ukraine since Russian forces invaded in February last year.

But some officials and diplomats have voiced fears that Ukraine may now struggle to get the same political attention and resources from the



West, particularly the United States, due to the new crisis in the Middle East.

The summit will not be able to sign off on multi-year plans for 50 billion euros in financial aid and up

20 billion euros for military aid for Ukraine, as they are part of a broader budget battle that officials hope to conclude by year's end.

At the summit, the leaders will have their first debate on that budget package, which diplomats expect to be contentious.

"It's hard to ask for more money for the EU budget when national budgets are getting squeezed," said one EU diplomat.

Diplomats say there is broad support for more money for Ukraine but other elements of the proposal by the European Commission — the bloc's executive — are more contentious, as countries clash over priorities and sources of funding. The Commission has asked for 15 additional billion euros to deal with migration and further money to cover increased borrowing costs for joint EU debt as interest rates rise. Agencies/Reuters

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
51,185.28	51,177.13
Day's High	Day's Low
51,520.68	51,140.64
Index Value	Change
7,510,245,332	+8.15
Percentage	Time
+0.02%	26 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,354.57	-59.77
Percentage	Time
-0.81%	26 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,818.27	-217.66
Percentage	Time
-0.66%	26 Oct, 1:07 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,601.78	-668.14
Percentage	Time
-2.14%	26 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177.00
Bahrain Dinar	743.42	751.42
Canadian Dollar	204	206.00
China Yuan	38.27	38.67
Danish Krone	39.64	40.04
Euro	296.10	299.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.62	35.97
Indian Rupee	3.36	3.47
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.66
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.86	912.86
Malaysian Ringgit	58.48	59.08
New Zealand \$	162.79	164.79
Norwegians Krone	25.02	25.32
Omani Riyal	726.11	734.11
Qatari Riyal	76.79	77.49
Saudi Riyal	74.65	75.25
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	25.17	25.47
Swiss Franc	312.31	314.81
Thai Bhat	7.73	7.88
U.A.E Dirham	77.85	78.6
UK Pound Sterling	343.5	347
US Dollar	280.25	282.9

Beijing assists Pakistan in enhancing exports to China

Caretaker Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz signed MoU on Pakistan's behalf with the Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao during his recent visit to China

BEIJING: Caretaker Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pakistan's behalf with the Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao during his recent visit to China.

Under the MoU, China will assist Pakistan in enhancing its exports to China. The MoU will go a long way in increasing Pakistan's exports to China and will contribute to job creation, in addition to balancing bilateral trade, said the Commerce Minister who attended the Belt and Road Forum along with the Caretaker Prime Minister last week, Beijing Review reported on Thursday.

The Minister of Commerce concluded a series of highly productive meetings with prominent Chinese business leaders and investment groups on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum in Beijing.

The meetings were aimed at strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and China and exploring various investment opportunities in Pakistan.

According to the Ministry's official statement, Dr. Gohar Ejaz met with Wang Zihai,

Director of China-Pakistan (Qingdao) International Cooperation Hub.

The discussions centered on investment opportunities in Pakistan, including areas such as civilian and defense equipment, EV lithium batteries, solar panels, and semiconductors.

The role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating these opportunities was a key point of conversation.

In a meeting with Li Yiman, Chairperson of Eman Logistics, the focus was on expanding Pakistan's presence on Chinese digital platforms.

Eman Logistics plans to launch "Pakistan National Pavilion" display centers in China, demonstrating a commitment to digital diplomacy.

The minister also engaged with Jin Weidong, President of Wellhope, a leading Chinese agricultural producer.

The company's global leadership in smart farming and meat processing can pave the way for a mutually beneficial partnership.

The minister met with Wang Guidong of Donghua Group, emphasizing Pakistan Steel



Mills' privatization and the government's dedication to the process. The establishment of SIFC is set to bolster these efforts, and all possible facilitation for the partnership was assured. A productive working lunch was held with representatives from MCC, China's metallurgy giant, a key player in the Saindak Copper-Gold Project. The discussions revolved around expanding collaboration and tapping into MCC's expertise to foster partnership growth. The minister also visited COFCO, a leading global food procurement agency, to discuss the possibilities of enhancing Pakistan's grains and food exports to China.

He invited them to establish their regional offices in Pakistan to procure more Pakistani products, invest in Pakistan, and make it a hub of its global value chain and storage network with support from SIFC.

Dr. Gohar also urged COFCO to establish a joint working group between COFCO, the Pakistani business community, and the Ministry of Commerce.

The Commerce Minister met with several other prominent Chinese enterprises and organizations, including Shandong Xinxu Group, ADM Group, China National Agriculture Development, China National Fisheries Corporation, Tianjin Meat Association, and CNAGS.

The discussions explored collaboration in various sectors, such as mining, trade, hospitality, construction, EV infrastructure, agriculture, and rice sourcing. In a separate meeting with BYD, a global leader in electric vehicles (EVs), discussions focused on investment opportunities in Pakistan and the government's supportive policies, including the role of SIFC. APP

PTCL transforms its optical ultra-long-haul network

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, a leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, has announced its collaboration with Nokia to transform its nationwide optical ultra-long-haul network to deliver an astounding 15 Terabits per second (15T) capacity. Moreover, Group Chief Technology & Information Officer of PTCL & Ufone 4G Jafar Khalid and Senior Vice President of Network Infrastructure, Nokia MEA Roque Lozano jointly announced further strengthening of the two companies' long-term strategic collaboration at a grand handshake ceremony during GITEX Technology Week 2023 in Dubai.

During previous years, PTCL Group had deployed Nokia's cutting-edge CD-F (Colorless, Directionless, Flex-grid) technology on its network to efficiently manage nationwide transport traffic, followed by successful demonstration of 1 Tera per lambda in its Metro network. With the emergence of more bandwidth-hungry applications in recent years, PTCL Group is now preparing to introduce Pakistan's first 'commer-

cial deployment' of 400G per lambda on its ultra-long-haul network, using Nokia's latest CDC-F (Colorless, Directionless, Contentionless, Flex-grid) technology and 1 Tera in metro layer using newer chipsets. Adoption of CDC-F technology will enable to transmit any of the components of optical signal in any colour, in any direction, at any time, guaranteeing the highest capacity and lowest latency.

The technology will efficiently scale up PTCL Group's transport network capacity, serving the evolving needs of corporate,



consumer and carrier customers. It will enable secure and resilient networks that can stand against multiple and simultaneous network failures, guaranteeing premium connectivity even in the worst conditions generated by natural disasters. It is also a scalable futuristic architecture that will cater to PTCL's high bandwidth forecasts.

"As the world continues to experience an exponential surge in data consumption, the importance of high-capacity solutions and agile networks, coupled with efforts to reduce carbon emissions, takes centre stage in shaping a sustainable digital future," Jafar Khalid said while commenting on the development. He said PTCL Group had strengthened its strategic collaboration with Nokia to benefit from its 5th Generation Super-Coherent Photonic Service Engine (PSE-Vs) and CDC-F ROADM Technology to deliver 400G per lambda on its long-haul.

Roque Lozano, Senior Vice President, Network Infrastructure, Nokia MEA, said, "The collaboration between Nokia and PTCL Group stands as an example of how collaborative efforts can effectively address the global challenge of managing exponential data growth while embracing eco-friendly practices. This collaboration underlines our commitment to providing rock-solid advanced solutions that not only enhance connectivity but also play a pivotal role in building an ultra-resilient, sustainable digital future for all."

Finance Minister, Governor KP discuss strategies to bolster economic dev

Staff Reporter



shad Akhtar in Islamabad on Thursday. Key strategies to bolster economic development in the province came under discussion.

Turkey lifts key rate for 5th month in inflation battle

ISTANBUL: Turkey's central bank sharply lifted its policy rate for the fifth month running on Thursday as part of its politically charged battle against historically high inflation rates.

The bank said it was taking its main lending rate to 35 percent from 30 percent because "inflation readings were above expectations" over the past three months.

Its statement also retained a pledge to raise rates further "in a timely and gradual manner" until "a significant improvement in the inflation outlook" is achieved.

Turkey's official annual inflation rate peaked at 85 percent last October and climbed back up above 60 percent last month.

The bank has now more than quadrupled borrowing costs since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped — or at least put aside — his

lifelong objection to the idea that raising interest rates helps fight inflation.

The Turkish leader had entered a difficult May election pledging to never allow the bank to raise its key rate while he was president.

He reversed course after winning the vote and allowing a new team of Wall Street-trained economists to take on the job of steering Turkey out of its worst cost-of-living crisis of Erdogan's two-decade rule.

Erdogan has given his new policy team several crucial votes of support in the past few months.

He told his ruling party faithful on Wednesday that Turkey was waging a "multi-faceted fight against inflation."

"It takes time to see the steps taken in the economy reflect on people's daily lives," he said in televised remarks. Agencies

OICCI to organize 2nd PCC to propose solutions for Pakistan's climate emergency

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) will organize Pakistan Climate Conference (PCC) on November 1. This is the second consecutive year that the OICCI is organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue to propose collective solutions for Pakistan's climate emergency, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Starting from 2022, the Pakistan Climate Conference brings together national and international experts to identify and implement efforts needed to promote positive climate actions and reduce climate change impact in Pakistan. The PCC will also address the mitigating efforts needed to prevent the recurrence of natural disasters such as the devastating floods of 2022. The floods alone caused a significant devastation in the country, affecting at least 33 million people, displacing nearly eight million people,



and resulting in 1,700 casualties. The PCC 2023 will bring together global climate experts, policy makers and corporate decision-makers to share learning's and best practices to help Pakistan develop necessary policy and climate interventions. Amir Paracha, President of OICCI, stressed the urgency of tackling climate risks in Pakistan. "In 2022, Pakistan bore the weight of a devastating loss, exceeding \$30 billion, brought about by catastrophic floods. The ongoing threat of climate and environmental change poses a dire threat, potential-

ly reducing Pakistan's GDP by 18-20% by 2050. These stark numbers underscore the urgent need for a proactive approach to develop a national effort to mitigate climate change."

Rehan Shaikh, Vice President of OICCI, added "Pakistan has a considerable amount of work ahead of it to live up to its ambitious Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs). The Pakistan Climate Conference is strategically designed to kickstart dialogues on several critical fronts, paving the way for sound policy directions and the implementation of

best practices that can help accelerate the country's journey toward a climate-positive future." Andrew Bailey, Managing Committee member of OICCI, highlighted "This year's conference will build on insights from PCC 2022 and COP 27, to pinpoint the necessary actions to mitigate climate risks in Pakistan, which are also aligning with the COP 28 agenda."

OICCI member companies have actively worked towards climate action in Pakistan having contributed Rs1.2 billion in 2022 alone. Secretary General of OICCI, M. Abdul Aleem said "Addressing climate issues must be a collective national effort, and the OICCI acknowledges the significance of public-private collaborations and coalitions in accomplishing these objectives. By uniting, we have the potential to harness our combined strengths, knowledge, and assets to forge a robust and enduring future for Pakistan."

Pakistan working on balanced space policy: IT Minister



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif says Pakistan is working towards a balanced space policy.

Chairing a meeting on Pakistan's National Space Policy in Islamabad, he said the policy will protect our national interests and enable us to benefit from rapid advances in private sector.

The meeting, attended by authorities from SUPARCO, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, SIFC and SPD, discussed in details the finalization of Pakistan's National Space Policy.

EFU Life, easypaisa, Roche unite to pioneer cancer awareness and care

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In honor of World Breast Cancer Day, easypaisa, EFU Life Assurance Ltd., and Roche joined forces to unveil an innovative "Cancer Cover Plan." This pioneering initiative reflects the partners' unwavering commitment to providing individuals and families with vital support and financial security during one of life's most formidable challenges. The plan assures access to dedicated patient support and complementary cancer medication through Roche's Unmol Patient Support Program, a press release said on Thursday.

Through this collaboration, easypaisa customers will benefit from a comprehensive cancer insurance plan, of up to PKR 1 million, which is easily accessible through a

user-friendly Mini-App of EFU integrated within the easypaisa app. This streamlined application ensures a swift and convenient process, designed with simplicity in mind, enabling individuals to take their first step towards securing their future.

The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of key figures, including Farhan Hassan, Head of easypaisa Wallet Business, TMB & easypaisa, Mohammed Ali Ahmed, MD & CEO of EFU Life, Ms. Nilofer Sohail, DGM & Head Channel Strategy & Execution, Shahmeer Nadeem Head of Products, easypaisa and Mr. Farhan Bhatti, CFO and Head of Partnerships Roche Pakistan, alongside other distinguished members of the teams. Speaking about this unique partnership, Farhan Hassan, Head of easypaisa Wallet Business said, "At easypaisa, we are

deeply committed to enhancing the financial well-being of our customers and simplifying their lives. Our partnership with EFU Life and Roche empowers us to provide a holistic cancer insurance plan that offers financial support in a quick and convenient manner. We firmly believe that this initiative will have a profound impact on the lives of our valued customers and their families, especially during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, when we are reminded of the importance of early detection and treatment."

During the event, MD & CEO of EFU Life Mohammed Ali Ahmed shared his thoughts: "This initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our fellow citizens. The Cancer Cover Plan signifies a pivotal leap forward, one that offers unwavering support during life's most challenging

moments. Through our collaboration with our esteemed partners, we are providing individuals and families with the vital tools to confront the daunting specter of cancer with renewed confidence and resilience. This is the first time we have offered Cancer Cover through a digital platform and with such a simplified customer journey as we want the customer experience to be seamless."

Farhan Bhatti, CFO and Head of Partnerships Roche Pakistan, shared: "Our commitment to enhancing healthcare outcomes goes beyond the realm of pharmaceuticals. By collaborating with EFU Life and Easypaisa on the Cancer Cover Plan, we aim to be a source of support and assistance for individuals and families navigating the challenging journey of cancer. Together, we can make a meaningful impact."

Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation to visit Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said a high level Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation would visit Pakistan to further explore the possibilities of collaboration for joint ventures and investment. Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Araib Arain here, he said series of fruitful meetings with Turkish furniture manufacturers through zoom had been arranged to invite them to Pakistan.

He said both the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries were significant players in the global market. The chief executive said collaboration

between the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries could lead to exciting opportunities for the two countries. It could involve sharing expertise, technology, and design ideas, resulting in the production of unique and high-quality furniture products, he added. This partnership might also facilitate access to each other's markets, potentially increasing trade and economic benefits for both nations, he added.

He said their visit would be an exciting opportunity for both Turkish and Pakistani businesses to strengthen ties and explore potential investment and joint ventures in the furniture industry. It could lead to beneficial collaborations and economic growth for both the countries, he added.

Sri Lanka heap more World Cup misery on England with big win

England in increasing danger of missing out on semi-final spot after Islanders crush defending champions by eight wickets

Sri Lanka breathed life into their World Cup campaign and left England in increasing danger of missing out on a semi-final spot after crushing the defending champions by eight wickets in a low-scoring match on Thursday.

Chasing a modest 157 for only their second win, Sri Lanka overcame the loss of two early wickets before Pathum Nissanka (77 not out) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (65 not out) got them across the finish line in 25.4 overs.

The pair played with plenty of patience in their 137-run partnership for the third wicket after an initial burst by David Willey (2-30) to ensure England suffered a third straight World Cup defeat for the first time since 2015.

The win lifted Sri Lanka to fifth in the table while England are ninth, ahead of only the Netherlands.

Sri Lanka earlier restricted England to a below-par 156 all out in 33.2 overs in the must-win clash between the tournament's stragglers, with only Ben Stokes offering some resistance in an otherwise dismal batting display.

Stokes (43) took the attack to Sri Lanka on a dry wicket at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after England's middle-order



England's Chris Woakes (centre) looks as Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama take runs at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, India.

collapsed in the face of some incisive bowling, but he holed out to Dushan Hemantha in the deep off Lahiru Kumara (3-35) in the 31st over.

"I'm very happy with my performance. I've worked really hard for it," said man of the match Kumara, before heaping praise on returning veteran Angelo Mathews for his impact.

"Angelo has a lot of experience, he helped me a lot at mid-off. It was really great to have him back.

England enjoyed an early slice of luck after Jos Buttler won the toss and opted to bat as Jonny Bairstow (30) survived an lbw chance when Sri Lanka failed to review, but he did not build on his breezy start and gifted his wicket to Kasun Rajitha (2-36).

Sri Lanka had put the brakes on England's scoring following the power-play as Mathews (2-14) first got rid of opening batsman Dawid Malan (28) and then helped run out Joe Root before Kumara struck twice to leave the holders in tatters at 85-5.

Mathews, called in to play in his fourth World Cup as an injury replacement for Matheesha Pathirana, snared Moeen Ali in his second spell while Chris Woakes fell to Rajitha after a low diving catch by Samarawickrama.

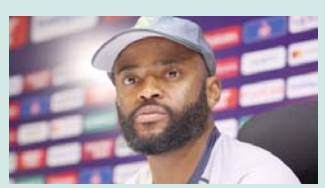
"The plan was to hit the middle overs with discipline, we stuck to it and were rewarded with wickets," Kumara said.

Sri Lanka, who came into the contest with the same record as England—three losses in four matches—then ripped through the tail to ensure the lowest all-out total in Bengaluru and lay the platform for a comprehensive victory. "It's been an incredibly tough and incredibly disappointing tournament," said Buttler.

"Disappointed in myself and all the boys that we haven't shown a good account of ourselves. There's no clear answer at the moment. Can't really fault the boys' efforts, but we're playing a long way short of our best." Reuters

South Africa captain Bavuma wary of 'dangerous' Pakistan

CHENNAI: With their backs against the wall, Pakistan are eager to roar back into the competition when they play South Africa in their sixth match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 here on Friday in Chennai.



Expressing his caution during the pre-match press conference on Thursday, South Africa's captain, Temba Bavuma, acknowledged the formidable challenge posed by Pakistan.

"We can't write off Pakistan. At the start of the tournament, I had them among the top four teams at the end of the group stages, so that is the amount of respect you have for Pakistan. We don't have a great record against Pakistan in ODIs," Bavuma said.

Highlighting Pakistan's unpredictable nature, Bavuma described them as mercurial, capable of delivering outstanding performances on one occasion and faltering on another. He stressed the importance of South Africa matching their performance level to that of Pakistan when the latter is in good form.

"Pakistan can be mercurial, which means they can be good one day and not so good the other day. We want to make sure that when they are good, we are good as well," he added.

Acknowledging that Pakistan has yet to showcase their best cricket in the tournament, Bavuma labeled them as a dangerous team. He asserted the need for South Africa to be prepared for the possibility that Pakistan might hit their stride in the upcoming match.

"Pakistan are a dangerous team and we know they haven't played close to their best yet. But tomorrow could be that, so we want to make sure, we are ready for that. We want to exploit their weaknesses," he concluded. Agencies

Shahid Afridi gets called out for ignoring Iftikhar Ahmed

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi has been called out for his apparent inconsistency in team selection.

Afridi, who served as the interim chief selector during Pakistan's ODI series against New Zealand in January 2023, is now facing criticism for not including all-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed in the squad during his tenure.

Afridi took to 'X' (formerly known as Twitter) to praise Australia's Glenn Maxwell's explosive innings against the Netherlands, scoring 106 runs off 44 deliveries. Afridi highlighted the importance of power-hitting in the game and expressed his hope that Iftikhar Ahmed could play a similar role for Pakistan in the ongoing Cricket World Cup 2023.

"What an innings by @GlenMaxwell Thursday, its a showcase of top class power hitting, well deserved win for Australia. I expect Iftikhar Ahmad to play a similar role for our team, he definitely has the capability to do so and the pitches are curated for power hitting, we all need you to fire up now #CWC2023," Afridi wrote on X.

However, his comments did not go unnoticed by cricket journalists, who pointed out that Afridi had omitted Iftikhar Ahmed from the squad during his tenure as interim chief selector earlier this year.

"The journalist's response can be roughly translated as, 'But Lala, you didn't select Iftikhar in the first place'.

It is worth noting that Iftikhar is renowned for his power-hitting abilities. He played a brilliant innings of 40 runs off 27 balls against Afghanistan, providing essential contribution to the team. However, the Men in Green couldn't secure a victory.

Haider wins gold medal to qualify for Paris 2024 Paralympics



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Haider Ali qualified for Paris 2024 Paralympics as he claimed the gold medal in the discus throw competition at the ongoing Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, on Thursday. Haider finished at the top with a throw of 51.23m in his fourth attempt, according to information received here.

Japan's Yamato Shimbo earned the silver medal with a throw of 49.70m, while China's Zhang Xuelong won bronze medal with a throw of 48.26m. The minimum entry requirements for Paralympics is 39m. Haider's all six throws were above that mark. Haider had also won a gold medal in the discus throw at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games with a throw of 55.26m, becoming the first Pakistani to do so. APP

Pakistan likely playing XI for World Cup clash against South Africa

Pakistan could make up to two changes for the crucial encounter against South Africa

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan cricket team is gearing up for a crucial match against South Africa in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, which is set to take place in Chennai on Friday.

After overcoming a knee injury, Fakhar Zaman is now fit and available for selection. Although he took part in practice sessions on both Wednesday and Thursday, there were signs of rustiness in his batting. Despite the team management's inclination to include him in the playing XI in place of fellow opener Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar's recent lack of form with the bat could be a potential hurdle.

All eyes will be on the skipper Babar Azam, who is gear-



ing up to show his skills and make a significant contribution in this crucial match.

Mohammad Rizwan, the team's wicketkeeper-batsman, is expected to hold the fort at number four, showing his composed approach to the game.

Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed will be eager to make a noteworthy impact in their respective areas of expertise and contribute to the team's

victory.

Despite missing the Afghanistan match due to illness, Mohammad Nawaz has now recovered. However, it is likely that he will remain on the sidelines, with Shadab Khan and Usama Mir continuing to handle the spin department.

Unfortunately, Hassan Ali is currently unwell and has been ruled out of the South Africa game. The PCB medi-

cal panel has advised the pacer rest and as a result, Mohammad Wasim Jr is expected to step in and replace him in the playing XI.

Pakistan's expected playing XI:

Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman/Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam (C), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Usama Mir, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Harris Rauf

Pakistan squad for World Cup:

Babar Azam (C), Shadab Khan (VC), Fakhar Zaman, Imam ul Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Agha Salman, Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Shaheen Afridi, Harris Rauf, Hassan Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jr

National Jr Tennis C'ship continues



ISLAMABAD: The matches of the National Junior Tennis Championships 2023 continued here at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Wednesday. In the boys 14& under Singles Match (2nd round) unseeded Orhan Sohail upset 7th seed Essa Fahd in straight sets 4-0,5-3.

In Boys 18 & Under Singles- 2nd Round: Saifullah Khan beat Sohaan Noor 6-2,6-2; Hamza Roman beat Fawaz Ganjera 6-1,6-0; Amir Mazari beat Rohaan Noori 6-1,6-0; Rayan Khan beat Abdullah Khan 6-3,6-4; M. Hamza Asim beat Ali Zain 6-1,6-1; Kashan Tariq beat Inam Qadir 6-2,6-2; Uzair Khan beat M. Haziq Aasim 6-3,6-2; In Girls 18 & Under Singles-1st Round: Amna Ali Qayum beat Mahrukh Sajid 6-1,6-0; Sheeza Sajid beat Zainab Ali Raja 6-3,6-4; Lalurukh Sajid beat Fatima Ali Raja 5-0(Retd); Zumaisha Noor W/O Zainab Ali Naqvi. In Boys 14 & Under Singles-2nd Round: Orhan Sohail beat Essa Fahd 4-0,5-3; Nabeel Ali Qayum beat Muhammad Yahya 1-4,4-1,4-0; M. Hassan Usmani beat Saqib Ali 4-1,5-3; M. Haziq Asim beat Ammar Masood 5-3,4-2. APP

AFC Champions League

Ronaldo lights up Asia as Al-Nassr edge 7-goal thriller

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo lit up the Asian Champions League on Tuesday with two spectacular goals and delicious assists as Al-Nassr defeated Al-Duhail 4-3 in a thrilling encounter.

It was compelling because of the excitement and quality on show in Riyadh, especially from the five-time Ballon D'or winner. It means also that Al-Nassr made it three out of three to stay three points clear of Iran's Persepolis at the top of Group E and on course for the knockout stages. It was a close-run thing, however.

The home team were quick out of the blocks with Anderson Talisca cutting inside from the right in the third minute and firing a shot just over the bar. It set the tone for much of what was to follow as the Saudi Arabia team were quickly on top while the visitors were very much on

the backfoot.

It was not a surprise at all then that Talisca found the back of the net after 25 minutes from a similar position but there was a piece of Ronaldo magic in the buildup.

Abdullah Al-Khaibari found the former Real Madrid star on the edge of the area who then, with his back to goal, produced a delightful backheel past Portuguese compatriot Ruben Semedo and rightwards along the 18-yard line for Talisca, who still had some work to do, to turn and then send a low shot back across the goalkeeper.

As the half went on, however, Al-Duhail started to ask questions and not long before the break Almoez Ali saw his shot saved by Nawaf Al-Aqidi, and then the prolific Michael Olunga saw a header go off-target.

On the stroke of halftime, Ronaldo almost recorded an even more outrageous assist. From a stationary position just outside the area, he scooped the ball over the defense onto Sadio Mane whose header went just wide.

Early in the second half, Al-Duhail showed their attacking threat as Philippe Coutinho hit the post but after 56 minutes the hosts extended their lead. Ronaldo almost got on the end of a cross from the right but Mane was there at the far post to fire home.

And then five minutes later, Ronaldo got his goal and it was a special one. He took possession from Sultan Al-Ghannam outside the right edge of the penalty area and then unleashed an unstoppable left foot shot that flew into the top right corner of the Duhail goal. It was 3-0.

The three points looked done and dusted but then it all started to go wrong. Within two minutes, Ismael Mohammed headed home to give last season's semi-finalists some hope. Then four minutes after that, a deflected shot from Almoez Ali beat Al-Aqidi once more and then Al-Nassr were faced with the prospect of throwing away two points.

With nine minutes remaining, however, Ronaldo intervened once more with another goal to remember. A floating cross from Al-Ghannam found the forward in space and he just waited in the left side of the area to volley a low shot across the goalkeeper. Not for the first time, fans chanted his name and their hero acknowledged those chants with a smile and a wave. Even watching FIFA boss Gianni Infantino looked impressed.

Karachi Whites crowned Quaid-e-Azam Trophy champions

Saim Ayub was adjudged player of the final, whereas Sarfaraz Ahmed was awarded player of the tournament

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Karachi Whites clinched their fifth Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title after defeating Faisalabad at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore by 456 runs on the last day of the five-day final. Faisalabad captain Faheem Ashraf was the last batter to be dismissed off the bowling of Ghulam Mudassar, sparking off celebrations for the Sarfaraz Ahmed-led side that pocketed a cash prize of PKR 10 million.

Karachi Whites' last Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title win came in the 2001-02 season, when they beat Peshawar in the final by eight wickets. Before that, they completed a hat-trick of titles in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93.

Faisalabad resumed from their overnight score of 129-6 with

Faheem leading a counterattack, delaying the inevitable. They lost two wickets in the first session with Ali Asfand and Khurram Shahzad the batters dismissed as Faisalabad reached lunch at the score of 230-8.

Faheem then completed his fourth first-class century off 119 balls, and added 57 runs for the ninth wicket with Arshad Iqbal and 51 runs for the last wicket with Mohammad Ali. Faheem was eventually dismissed for 147 off 181 deliveries, his career-best score including 23 fours and two sixes.

For Karachi Whites, Ghulam Mudassar registered figures of 3-62 while Shahnawaz Dahani took 2-119. Mir Hamza, Noman Ali and Asad Shafiq bagged one wicket apiece.

At the conclusion of the

round-robin stage of the tournament, Faisalabad had topped the points table with Karachi Whites second on the standings. Peshawar's Sahibzada Farhan topped the batting charts with 847 runs in 10 innings and was awarded best batter of the tournament. For his 203 in the first innings and 109 in the second innings, Karachi Whites' Saim Ayub was named player of the final.

The victorious team's captain Sarfaraz Ahmed (697 runs and 28 dismissals) was declared player of the tournament. Faisalabad duo Khurram Shahzad (36 wickets in eight matches) and Ali Shan (28 catches and one stumping) were named best bowler and best wicket-keeper of the tournament respectively.

Scores in brief: Karachi Whites beat Faisal-

abad by 456 runs
Karachi Whites 543 all out, 120.2 overs (Saim Ayub 203, Shan Masood 180; Mohammad Ali 3-63, Arshad Iqbal 3-94, Khurram Shahzad 3-120) and 370-7 dec, 98.1 overs (Asad Shafiq 113, Saim Ayub 109, Sarfaraz Ahmed 73; Khurram Shahzad 2-49, Arshad Iqbal 1-41)

Faisalabad 124 all out, 35.5 overs (Muhammad Irfan Khan 32, Ali Waqas 27; Mir Hamza 5-44, Shahnawaz Dahani 4-50) and 333 all out, 88 overs (Faheem Ashraf 147, Ali Waqas 48, Taimoor Sultan 31; Ghulam Mudassar 3-62, Shahnawaz Dahani 2-119, Asad Shafiq 1-15, Noman Ali 1-37)

Player of the tournament – Sarfaraz Ahmed (697 runs & 28 dismissals) (Karachi Region



Whites)
Best Batter – Sahibzada Farhan (847 runs) (Peshawar Region)
Best Bowler – Khurram Shahzad (36 wickets) (Faisalabad Region)
Best Wicket-keeper – Ali (Karachi Region Whites)

Player of the final – Saim Ayub (Karachi Region Whites)