



**Political stability vital for economic wellbeing: President Alvi**

President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday underscored the critical role of political stability in ensuring the economic wellbeing of the country. Speaking at a ceremony of the Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI), he highlighted the substantial contributions of the business community in Karachi to charitable endeavors. President Alvi acknowledged Karachi's significant contribution, accounting for nearly 70 percent of Pakistan's revenue.

**DAYS REMAINING**  
**3**

**Only 3 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan**

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 3 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday.



Photo: PID

**Atrocities in IIOJK**

**President, PM urge world to take steps to hold India accountable**

*Kashmir Black Day observed*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has urged the international community to hold India accountable for its atrocities and human rights violations in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, he said the world community and the media should highlight the plight of Kashmiri people.

The President said peace and stability in South Asia depends on the peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute according to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and aspirations of the Kashmiris.

He said India should understand that it cannot suppress the freedom struggle of Kashmiris through the use of force.

The President said Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the final resolution of the

dispute in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has urged the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its excesses in the occupied Kashmir.

In his message on day, he said an intensified campaign to 'Indianize' Kashmir and transform Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their own land has been in full swing since 5 August 2019.

He Indian Occupation has taken a number of steps to realize these nefarious designs, including gerrymandering of the electoral constituencies, addition of non-Kashmiris to voter rolls, issuance of domicile certificates to outsiders, and introduction of new laws on ownership of land and property.

**At UN, Pakistan calls for an end to war, killings in Gaza**

*Ambassador Munir says world is witnessing human tragedy of epic proportions unfold in front of our eyes*

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: At the United Nations, Pakistan has called for an end to war and killings in Gaza so that a durable two-state solution to the Palestine issue can be found.

The call was made by Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Munir Akram while speaking at the 10th Emergency Special UNGA Session in New York on Friday.

He said the world is witnessing a human tragedy of epic proportions unfold in front of our eyes. The Palestinians are being



bombed indiscriminately and without mercy or compunction. Their essential lifelines—water, food, fuel—have been cut off. Over a million have been internally

displaced. The ambassador said thirty-seven staff members of the UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) in Palestine have tragically lost

their lives.

He said Pakistan strongly and unequivocally condemns Israeli air strikes and the systematic and barbaric crimes against the Palestinians. These Israeli attacks on civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure, blockade of water, food and fuel, as well as the forced transfer of people from the occupied territory, are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Munir Akram called for reaffirming the right of Palestinian people under international law to struggle by all possible means, including armed struggle,

to secure their freedom from foreign occupation and exercise their right to self-determination.

He said in the context of this war, consideration should also be given to some form of an accountability mechanism as crimes being committed cannot go unpunished.

He also underscored the need to consider ways to prevent a recurrence of this slaughter. He called for giving serious consideration to the OIC Foreign Ministers' proposal of deployment of a protection force to safeguard Palestinian civilians in the Gaza and perhaps also in the West Bank.

**Sh. Rashid moves SC seeking withdrawal of review petition in Faizabad sit-in case**

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday filed an application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, seeking the withdrawal of his review petition in the Faizabad sit-in case.

The former minister, in the miscellaneous application to the apex court, has contended that neither did he attend the concerned sit-in nor did he have links with the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP).

Multiple pleas were filed challenging the SC verdict — given by the apex court's two-member bench comprising now-Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mushir Alam — on the Faizabad sit-in staged by the TLP in 2017 against the then-Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government.

Rashid's application for withdrawal comes after the federal government along with Pakistan Tehreek-In-

**Ordeal of Gazans persists as Israel-Hamas conflict continues**

GAZA: Rana al-Najjar and her family watched in dismay as their hard-earned four-story house in Gaza was reduced to rubble during an Israeli attack.

In densely populated Gaza, where land is scarce, many residents are forced to construct additional floors on their existing houses as their families grow. For al-Najjar's family, the four-story home was their sole sanctuary.

"I have no ties to any military activities against Israel, and I can't understand why Israel is holding us accountable," al-Najjar, a mother of six, lamented, saying that

"we've lost family members, homes, and our way of life. We're exhausted and can't endure anymore."

For three weeks, Israel has launched massive airstrikes and limited ground operations against Gaza in retaliation for a surprise attack by Gaza-ruling Hamas militants on Israeli military targets and towns on Oct. 7, which, so far, has killed at least 1,400 people in Israel.

The death toll of Palestinians from Israeli military strikes on Gaza has risen to 7,326, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Friday, adding another 18,967

Palestinians have been injured.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) said on Thursday that approximately 96 percent of Gazans have been plunged into poverty due to the ongoing conflict, compared to a 45-percent poverty rate in 2017-2018.

"In just three weeks, the airstrikes have decimated our life in Gaza," Khader Bashir, another resident in the Palestinian enclave, said, stressing that Israel's quest to dismantle Hamas has led to the destruction of all of Gaza, affecting innocent civilians.

**Govt firmly believes in freedom of expression: PM**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the government firmly believes in freedom of expression.

Talking to Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad today, he said the media is an important pillar of the state. He directed the legitimate demands of the media should be resolved. The PM said the process of meetings with media organizations will continue, assuring necessary steps will be taken to solve the problems.

**China ex-Premier Li Keqiang dies at 68**

*Li was premier and head of China's cabinet under Xi for a decade*

BEIJING: Li Keqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 17th, 18th and 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) central committees and former premier of the State Council, passed away on Friday in Shanghai. He was 68.

Li died of a sudden heart attack at 00:10 on Friday after all-out rescue efforts failed, according to an official obitu-



ary notice issued on Friday. Li was extolled as an excellent CPC member, a time-tested and

loyal communist soldier and an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, statesman and leader of the Party and the state.

The obituary notice was jointly issued by the CPC Central Committee, the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Born in July 1955, Li was from Dingyuan, east China's Anhui Province. In March 1974, he went to Dongling Brigade, Damiao Commune, Fengyang County of Anhui as an educated youth.

He became a CPC member in May 1976.

Between November 1976 and March 1978, Li served as the Party chief of Damiao Brigade.

**OICCI launches 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference**

*To propose solutions for Pakistan's climate emergency*



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) unveiled details for the Pakistan Climate Conference (PCC) 2023, scheduled to take place on November 1, 2023.

This is the second consecutive year that the OICCI is organizing a multi-stakeholder dialog to propose collective solutions for Pakistan's climate emergency. 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 Pakistan Climate Conference will also address the mitigating efforts needed to prevent the recurrence of natural disasters such as the devastating floods of 2022. Those 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.

**Imran terms Nawaz's return 'total mockery of law'**

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has slammed the "complete collapse of our justice system" and termed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's return to the country as the execution of London "agreement".

In a statement, originally issued through his family on October 24 but tweeted out from the PTI chief's official X handle on Friday (today), the former prime minister — who was removed from power through a parliamentary vote in April last year — said that all that is happening today is a "total mockery of the law".

"My Pakistanis! In the last few days, we have witnessed a total mockery of the law. All that is happening today is not just an execution of a London "plan"

but London "agreement" that was signed between a cowardly fugitive & corrupt criminal and his facilitators," Khan was quoted as saying.

The statement was released six days after Nawaz's homecoming from four years of self-imposed exile in London on October 21.

Nawaz — the three-time former prime minister — was given protective bail in two graft cases and arrest warrants in another case were suspended before his arrival paving a way for a smooth return.

Lamenting the relief granted to the PML-N leader, Khan said: "The only way a convicted criminal could be allowed to return to politics with a clean chit is by destroying State institutions. And hence, what we are witnessing is a complete collapse of our justice system."

## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of the participants of painting Competition on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day along with Secretary Information Mr. Zahoor Ahmed and Executive Director General DEMP, Mr. Arshad Munir on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan observes 76th anniversary of India's occupation of IIOJK as 'Black Day'

*Pakistan reiterates unflinching moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmir Cause*

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government and the people of Pakistan and Kashmiri people on Friday observed the 76th anniversary of the Indian troops' landing in Jammu and Kashmir as a 'Black Day'.

The president, the prime minister and the foreign minister, in their special messages on the occasion, reiterated Pakistan's unflinching moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmir cause.

They also underscored the need to reverse India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, which have triggered a process aimed at changing the demographic

structure and political landscape of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The foreign minister addressed letters to the President UN General Assembly, the President UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OIC Secretary General to apprise them of the latest situation in IIOJK.

In the letters, the foreign minister called for the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future.

He requested the inter-

national community to urge India to immediately release the political prisoners and dissenters, including Yasin Malik, for whom the Indian authorities had sought a death penalty.

The foreign secretary briefed the Islamabad-based diplomatic missions on the situation in IIOJK. He also highlighted the legal, security and human rights dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

A 'Protest Walk' was also held from Foreign Office to 'D-Chowk' on the Constitution Avenue in Islamabad. It was led by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, and

participated by the officers and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A range of activities, including public rallies, seminars, webinars, panel discussions and photo exhibitions, were organised throughout the country to mark the 'Black Day'.

With the active participation of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora, Pakistan's diplomatic missions around the world also arranged special events to raise global awareness about India's decades-long occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Embassy of Pakistan organised an event on Friday to observe the Kashmir Black Day as 76 years ago, on 27

October 1947, India without any legal justification, forcibly took control of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since then, India has continued to blatantly deny the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination as stipulated by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

During the event, the special messages from the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read, underlining Pakistan's continued political, moral and diplomatic commitment and support to the Kashmir cause. Qian Feng, a distinguished Chinese scholar and expert on South Asia, also spoke.

## ISSI holds seminar 'Oct 27, 1947: A Black Day for Humanity'

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a seminar Friday, titled "October 27, 1947: A Black Day for Humanity." Dr. Khuram Abbas, Director ISC in his introductory remarks highlighted the significance of this day and the importance of mobilizing the international community to advance the Kashmir cause. Other participants included: Dr. Maria Saifuddin Effendi, Assistant Professor Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU; Mr. Imran Shafiq, Advocate Supreme Court of

Pakistan and International Law Expert; Ambassador Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, former Ambassador of Pakistan; Mr. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Convener APHC; and Mr. Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, DG South Asia and SAARC at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks, welcomed the guests and highlighted the legal, human rights, and peace and security aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He underlined that, on 27 October 1947, the darkest chapter in Kashmir's history commenced when Indian forces illegally landed in Srinagar on the basis of the so-called 'instrument of



accession' that has been proven, through meticulous research, to be fraudulent. While maintaining its illegal occupation, India continues to willfully defy the UN charter and United Nations

Security Council resolutions. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stressed that torture, extrajudicial killings, and collective punishment were being carried out by the occupying forces with

impunity; also a demographic change was being effected in the occupied territory in violation of international law, particularly the 4th Geneva Convention.

In terms of further steps, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood suggested proactive and sustained diplomatic outreach; efforts in the legal domain to challenge the illegal Indian measures; including demographic changes; documentation of all human rights abuses to be conveyed to the United Nations human rights machinery; and continuous engagement with the United Nations Security Council to apprise the international community of the threat to international peace and security.

## FM, UK Foreign Secretary discuss bilateral issues, situation in Gaza

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani received a telephone call on Friday from the UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly. They discussed bilateral cooperation and stressed the importance of high-level engagement and dialogue to further strengthen Pakistan-UK relations.

The foreign minister underlined the strong legacy of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and expressed his desire to jointly craft a more robust and long-term vision for this important bilateral relationship.

## Pakistani engineers of power transmission project under BRI lift techniques by training in E. China

JINAN: "I'm really happy to be here in China with my team for our training. It has been a great experience for me to embrace Chinese culture and of course learning technical knowledge from the best professionals at China's State Grid Technology College," speaking of the one-month technical training, Muhammad Talha, a supervisor of Matiari converter station of 11660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), expresses his excitement of first trip to China to Xinhua.

Talha is one of the eleven Pakistani engineers who receive skill training in China's State Grid Technical College of Tai'an city of east China's Shandong province. The technical



training, which started in late October this year, arranged around 55 professional courses including converter station equipment inspection, direct current power adjustment, operation and maintenance of converter station, in order to help them to lift techniques of HVDC operation.

As a key project under the CPEC, a flagship project of

the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Matiari-Lahore HVDC project was invested and constructed by the State Grid Corporation of China and started its commercial operation in September of 2021. It has the maximum capacity to transmit electricity of 35 billion kilowatt-hours annually.

"With the help of Chinese technology and equipment in

this project, power loss of the 886 km-long transmission line has been reduced greatly," said Talha, adding that as Karot Hydropower project, Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project and some other power projects under CPEC became fully operational, the Matiari-Lahore HVDC project will play more critical role and will take on large proportion of Pakistan's transmission capacity from south to north.

Besides the hectic technical training, the participants also have and will visit some Ultra-High Voltage converter stations in cities including Qingdao, Jinan, Linyi of the province, providing them with the opportunity to closely learn about the world-leading Chinese UHV technology.

## Ashrafi urges global action to address Kashmir, Palestine HR violations

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday emphasized that the severe human rights violations in Kashmir and Palestine posed a significant threat to world peace. Addressing Arab media on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he called on world powers and the United Nations to intervene and prevent India and Israel from perpetrating acts that threaten humanity.

He warned that neglecting these enduring global issues could lead the world towards anarchy. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council highlighted the determination of the third generation of Kashmiris who continued to fight for their freedom. Despite Indian oppression, tyranny, and the unlawful alteration of the Muslim population's demographic makeup in the occupied valley, the spirit of independence remained strong among Kashmiris. "They look to the United Nations and the world's major powers for justice and support," he added.

India's violations of international law, United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the Fourth Geneva Convention had persisted for 76 years, he said, adding that India had employed brutal tactics to prolong its

illegal occupation of Kashmir. He said on August 5, 2019, India repeated the dark history of October 27, 1947, effectively converting the entire held valley into the world's largest prison. Despite 76 years of Indian coercion and tyranny against innocent Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, every attempt to subdue them had failed, he added.

Ashrafi stressed the urgent need for the United Nations to step in and halt the war crimes, genocide, and all other atrocities committed by the occupying forces. He affirmed that Kashmiris had never accepted Indian occupation and would continue their peaceful struggle for freedom. He believed that India could not maintain its usurpation of Kashmir indefinitely and would eventually have to acknowledge the indomitable spirit of the Kashmiri people.

He concluded by asserting that Pakistan, its government, and the Kashmiri people would persist in their diplomatic and moral support for the oppressed. He also noted that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan shared a unified stance on the issues of Palestine and Kashmir. He said Saudi Arabia's unwavering commitment to supporting oppressed nations had found expression through its leadership role on the Kashmir and Palestine issues within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation platform. APP

## ECP 'likely' to finalise Jan 28 for general elections

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is considering to set January 28 as the date for the General Elections 2024, media reports said on Friday.

The top electoral body, commencing its preparations for upcoming elections, is expected to apprise the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) in writing within the next two days, the reports added.

The ECP is set to apprise the SC after the top court sought the commission's response in the case of timely elections.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, earlier this week, during the apex court's hearing on the issue of timely elections observed that it was "not possible" to meet the 90-day deadline for holding elections and lamented the lack of preparations of the peti-

tioners.

The CJP's remarks came as he is leading a three-member bench comprising himself, Justice Athar Minallah, and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to hear the petitions filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and others seeking elections within the 90-day constitutional limit.

During the hearing, the SCBA lawyer appraised the court that the "90-day period will complete on November 3".

To this, CJP Isa inquired whether it would even be possible to hold the polls within 90 days, to which the lawyer conceded that even if the top court gives the order even then it will not be possible to hold the elections within 90 days. Agencies

## Japan recognizes Imtiaz Ahmad's outstanding contributions

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has conferred the 2023 Spring Imperial Decorations, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" on Imtiaz Ahmad, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan in recognition of his significant contribution towards strengthening friendship, cultural and economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan. The Order of the Rising Sun is awarded by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to Japanese and foreign individuals in recognition of their long-time contributions.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, WADA Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conferred the decora-



tion on Imtiaz Ahmad at a ceremony held at the Ambassador's residence on October 27th in recognition of his decades of service. The ceremony was attended by the family, relatives, friends, and colleagues of Imtiaz Ahmad. Asad Majeed Khan, former Foreign Secretary, and former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan, also graced the occasion with his kind presence.

## Zubair Elahi named President of Global Peace Jirgah in KP



### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A respected figure and community leader from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zubair Elahi has been elected as the President of the Global Peace Jirgah. The organization's goal is to address regional and individual issues in line with Pashtun traditions and promote peace within the province.

The swearing-in ceremony for the Global Peace Jirgah's leadership took place at National Press Club Islamabad, with the participation of tribal elders and prominent figures from former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Senate passes resolution strongly reaffirming Pak solidarity with Kashmiris

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Friday unanimously passed a resolution strongly reaffirming Pakistan's solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for right to self-determination.

The resolution moved by Senator Kamil Ali Agha, reiterated Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people.

The resolution strongly condemned the Indian brutalities and the killing of thousands of innocent Kashmiris in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It urged the International community for the expeditious formation of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the gross human rights violation in IIOJK.

# All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference declares 27th October black day

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that October 27 is the darkest day of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Army occupied the village by force. Kashmiris have been celebrating October 27 as a black day for 76 years and are convincing the United Nations that Indian forces have forcibly occupied Occupied Kashmir, which has no moral or legal justification. Indian army is playing Holi with the blood of Kashmiris. Children of Kashmir are raising voices of freedom. The Modi government is using new tricks day by day to suppress the freedom movement. Sometimes there is an attempt to turn the majority of Muslims into a minority and sometimes the abrogation of 35A, but India should remem-



ber that Kashmir was not hers in the past and will not be in the future. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan while addressing a protest gathering to observe 27th October as black day.

He said that All over India, the minorities are suffering from insecurity. The Houses of India are shaking with the echo of the slogans of Kashmir will be created in the Kashmir Valley. He said that on October 27, 1947, India landed troops in Kashmir and justified the fake agreement by the Maharaja. The English researcher also investigated that the resolution of accession to the Maharaja was fake.

Indian premier Jawaharlal Nehru had promised the United Nations that a referendum would be held in Kashmir. Despite the passage of 76 years, India is not fulfilling its promises. Mountains of oppression and oppression are being destroyed in Kashmir. India is also rejecting it. Human rights organizations have presented reports of Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, but India remains adamant. India is involved in terrorist activities in neighboring countries. The international community should put pressure on India to give Kashmiris their fundamental right to self-determination. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that India is running away from negotiations, it knows that when negotiations are held, its dark deeds will be exposed to the world he added.

Earlier he addressed to Party workers at Plandri that the policy makers have to adopt a strong policy on the

Kashmir issue, if our intention is to stop here, the enemy will move towards us. The best rule of victory in war is to reach the enemy's yard, we have to move forward. There is a clear difference between the Government of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Pakistan. Today there is a need to be the hope of Kashmiris. A policy should be made on Kashmir so that the Kashmiris of Occupied Kashmir do not feel alone. He said that this region has been won by our leaders and people. In this journey of freedom movement in 1947, the tribal people supported us fully, which Kashmiris are proud. Sardar Attique said that the politicians in Pakistan could not play their role as it should have been played. The young generation should not be fooled by the anti-army narrative, our army is strong, this army has won the war against terrorism and crushed the enemy's ambitions.

## At present, Muslim Ummah at a crossroads: Chaudhry Yasin

**Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that at present the Muslim Ummah is standing at a crossroads. Salahuddin Ayubi was needed at that time. Just like Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Shaheed laid the foundation for the unity of the Muslim Ummah by calling the Islamic Summit Conference. That October 27, 1947 is the darkest day for Kashmiris when India occupied a large part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir by force and the misfortune of the Palestinians began on the day when the Israeli refugees were sheltered by Palestine and the United States and Europe Conspiracy succeeded. He was addressing a seminar on Kashmir and Palestine Solidarity Day under the auspices of Jamat Islamic AJK which was also addressed by Ameer e Jamaat Islamic and APHC Leaders. Lockdown in Occupied Kashmir. Target killing of youth. Rape of women is being used as a weapon of war. Kashmiris are being destroyed economically. Blockade of Palestine, destruction of hospitals, schools. What is being done is that most of the martyrs are children and women. Israel has crossed all limits in war crimes. And the United Nations, America and Europe have adopted a double standard. International law has been put on the tip of the shoes. It is necessary to show honor to the Muslim Ummah. Otherwise, the same will happen to everyone one by one. The Muslim Ummah will have to move forward. Today, the world is divided and the division was already there, but The ambitions of Jews and Christians are coming to the fore.



## International Cancer and Pink Ribbon Day celebrated at Women University Multan



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Department of MMG organized one day "International Symposium on Diagnosis and Prevention of Cancer" at Matital Campus. While Directorate of Students Affairs celebrated international Pink Ribbon day at Katchery Campus, commemorating breast cancer awareness month to raise public awareness about self-examination, screening, prevention and treatment of breast cancer with a particular focus on early detection as it can help save lives. According to spokeswoman Women's, University Multan the event included awareness stalls, bake sales, fun games, creative artwork, poster competitions, pink ribbons, plants, and educational material distribution. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha along with Director Students Affairs Dr Adeela Saeed. Dr. Hina Ali. Dr. Sara Musaddiq visited every stall. Addressing on the event Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha encouraged ideas and hardwork of students for raising funds for prevention of infectious disease like cancer. She said that Pakistan has the highest rate of this disease in Asia. According to an estimate, every year in Pakistan 40 thousand women lost their lives due to this deadly disease. She said that the exact cause of the breast cancer was not known as yet everyone is at risk of developing breast cancer irrespective of class, creed or gender. According to research, one out of every 9 Pakistani women is at risk of this disease, most of whom are adolescent girls. If the patient is diagnosed with this disease in the early stages, the chances of the patient's survival increases to 90%. She advised the female students to be aware of the disease as the awareness about it could save the life. On this occasion, Dr. Adeela Saeed said that Women University was observing the Pink Ribbon Day each year to create awareness among the female staff and the students. Dr. Asiya Bibi expressed pleasure on this initiative taken by the Women University every year. In these circumstances, more and more awareness programs can lower the mortality rate, since early detection is the best remedy for breast cancer. In this regard, students also arranged an awareness walk at Katchery campus.

Meanwhile, a symposium on "Diagnosis and prevention of cancer" was held at Matital campus, which was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, while the guest of honor was Dr. Mamoon Noreen and Registrar Dr. Mamoon Khan and focal person was Dr. Iqra Arooj. While speaking, at symposium Dr. Blossom Neelam (Head of Mammography Cancer Centre, NHM) explained the participants about the non-cancerous lumps around the breasts. She said that Pakistan has highest number of breast cancer patients. "This is because of lack of awareness and the shyness among the women" she explained. She also emphasised the importance of early detection to cure the fatal disease as it was easier to treat when found early. Dr. Hina Usman (Post Doc Scientist, University of Chicago) also highlighted the topic as well as elaborated upon female health issues. She said that junk food, fast food, family history of cancer, substandard diet and mothers not giving milk to their children are among the main causes of cancer.

## PM Talent Hunt Professional Squash League held in Multan

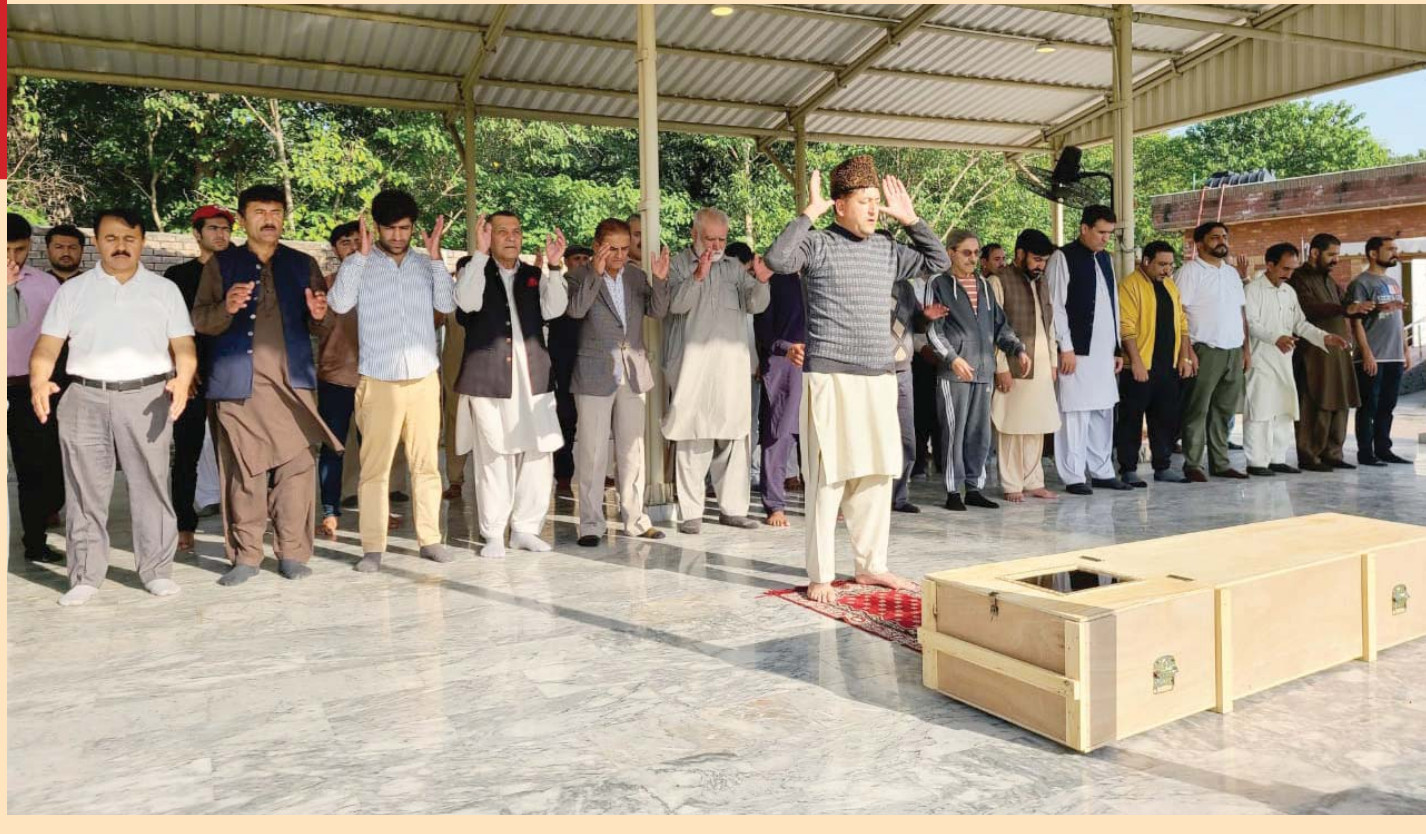


**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The Prime Minister Talent Hunt Professional Squash League was formally inaugurated and four matches were decided in the Girls Boys categories. According to the results, Rawalpindi defeated Sialkot by 0-3 in the girls round. In the boys matches, Lahore defeated Faisalabad by two games to zero in both the girls and boys categories. About the matches held at Zakariya University Multan Squash Court, Men's Women's Focal Person of the event Abida Khan Assistant Director CBZU said that in the girls round matches Palwasha of Rawalpindi defeated Bisma Batul of Sialkot by 08\_11 and 06\_11. In the third match, Rawalpindi overcame Sialkot by two games to zero against Sialkot's Fajr Shehbaz by 0\_11 and 07\_11. In the girls matches, Sarah of Lahore beat Ayman of Faisalabad 02\_11. And Fajr of Lahore defeated Maryam GMD of Faisalabad from 02\_11 and 02\_11. In the boys category, Kaleemullah of Lahore defeated Usman of Faisalabad by 02\_11 and 01\_11 and Zain of Lahore won against Riyaz of Faisalabad by 03\_11 and 03\_11. Shuzab Ali is the umpire in the match. Amjad Ali. Naqash Shahid. And performed Tahor. The official scorer was Ghazanfar Raan. The guests were Special Registrar BZU Zubair Ahmed Khan and Chairperson Department of Psychology BZU Professor Dr Sarwat Sultan.

## Funeral prayers

ISLAMABAD: Janaza prayer of Islamabad Esteemed Social Worker Numberdar Niat Shah, Gilgit brother of Rehmat Shah offered.



## Black Day observed with great fervor in Lower & Upper Waziristan

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In South Waziristan Lower District and South Waziristan upper District observance and rallies were held at various places regarding the Black Day.

On October 27, 1947, the tyrannical state of India occupied the territory of the oppressed Kashmiris, which continues to this day.

In this regard, Kashmir Black Day was observed on October 27 at Government High School Chaghmalai with the collaboration of District administration SW upper along with Youth Office, District Sports Office and Education Office.

In which the children presented songs, speeches and Naat and a poster competition was also held.



The bodies were exposed to the atrocities of the Indian army and a rally was held in favor of the Kashmiri brothers.

The speakers pledged that we will always continue our moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri brothers.

At the end of the program, a collective prayer was also offered for the Kashmiri brothers.

On the other hand, a rally was held in Wana camp by the district administration of South Waziristan Lower to express solidarity with the Kashmiri

brothers on the occasion of Black Day.

Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir addressed the rally and said that October 27, 1947 is the darkest chapter in human history, India has established an atmosphere of terror in occupied Kashmir.

DC said that despite the cruel tactics and oppression of the Indian forces, Kashmiris have not retreated an inch from their demand for self-determination.

He said, India should read the writing on the wall and follow the UN resolutions for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict.

DC future said that Pakistan will continue to provide moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Need to develop Rules of Business for Gilgit-Baltistan Disability Act 2019 highlighted

**News Desk**

GILGIT: Ensuring the journey from legislation to implementation, Sightsavers, provincial chapter of "Community Based Inclusive Development Network" (CBIDN) and a local partner organisation "Amjad Nadeem Foundation Gilgit" co-hosted a consultation workshop with representatives of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and their networks on the development of Rules of Business for Gilgit-Baltistan Disability Act 2019. The consultation was attended by representatives of Social Welfare Department Government of Gilgit, Special Education Department Gilgit, local advocates and other civil society organ-

izations. This initiative will help translating Disability Act into practical guidelines and also indicating respective government departments and offices responsible to deliver for enactment of the Disability ACT 2019. Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has approved the Disability Act in 2019 but it has not been enacted due to absence of any rules of business, therefore it is critical to include the voices of people with disabilities and OPDs in the development of rules for business for the Disability ACT.

Mr Fida Hussain, Secretary General Social Welfare Department appreciated Sightsavers and CBIDN including Amjad Nadeem Foundation, Gilgit-Baltistan Disability Forum, Darul

Hunar Foundation, Damer Welfare Association, Karakoram Disability Forum, Association for Differently able Persons Ghizer, Nagar Disability Forum, Goodwill movement, and Association of Disable-persons for Hunza for their advocacy to push this endeavor and for their inputs and support in development of rules of business. He assured to support this initiative further to get the rules of business approved from parliament.

Jamila Yar, Project Officer, Sightsavers said this initiative will help ensuring the fulfillment of rights of persons with disabilities and creating an equitable access and opportunities for all services. This will further contribute towards implementation of UNCRPD

and SDGs in Gilgit-Baltistan. She requested all stakeholders for their active participation and open feedback to further refine the rules of business.

Mr. Amjad Nadeem, CEO, Amjad Nadeem Foundation appreciated Sightsavers' technical and financial support for CBIDN, and other local OPDs for developing rules of business on Gilgit-Disability Act 2019. He further shared his gratitude for the Department of Social Welfare in Gilgit for being forthcoming in this process.

Ms. Tasneem, Chairperson, Darul Hunar Foundation said that including voices of women with disabilities are critically important to ensuring rules of business are gender sensitive and are addressing their needs.

Advocate Saleem Khan and advocate Shabbir Khan talked about the history of disability legislation in Pakistan and appreciated the government of Gilgit-Baltistan on taking lead in approval of Disability Act in 2019 and now initiating the development of Rules of Business for its successful implementation.

Advocate Rana Asif Habib, and Mr Ghulam Nabi Nizami, Inclusion and Diversity Advisor, HANDS, presented the draft of rules of business to all stakeholders for their input and suggestions to make it an effective document covering all aspects. The comments, feedback and suggestions provided by stakeholders will be incorporated in the draft to make it as effective as possible.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:58 am  
Zohr ..... 11:52 am  
Asr ..... 3:42 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:21 pm  
Isha ..... 6:45 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04

*Spotify Elevates Pakistani Artist Maanu from RADAR to Global Spotlight, Showcased at Iconic Locations Worldwide*

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Spotify continues to celebrate the music in Pakistan with its listeners while also connecting local artists with new fans globally. This time, RADAR Pakistan, Spotify's flagship music program for emerging local artists, is celebrating its 1 year anniversary in Pakistan with RADAR Fest Pakistan, and the music streaming platform has kicked off promotions with a bang. Launching RADAR Fest Pakistan as a grand affair, Spotify has elevated last quarter's RADAR artist Maanu onto the global stage by featuring him not only at the digital billboard of Times Square, New York City, but also on four other iconic global locations, including Penn Plaza, New York, The Reef, Los Angeles, Leicester Square, London, and Cardiff, Wales as part of RADAR's global creative approach.

"RADAR stands as a pioneering force in Pakistan's music scene, offering unwavering on and off-platform support to emerging artists. This program not only allows listeners to Meet The Future in music but also discover artists unlike ever before," Khan FM, Artists and Label Partnership Manager for Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh commented. "Maanu's journey from the city of Lahore to global prominence represents a historic moment for artists in Pakistan and underscores Spotify's dedication to music discovery," he added further.

**PANAH Think Tank**

# We have to reduce deaths caused by non-communicable diseases: President PANAH

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: For the last 40 years, Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) has been working to raise awareness and with policy makers to protect their countrymen from heart and related diseases, and now PANAH has extended its scope to non-communicable diseases. As these diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide and 60% of the total deaths in Pakistan are due to NCDs. To control deaths from NCDs, PANAH has now developed a think tank from all over Pakistan by involving experts from all relevant fields of life including health professional, civil society,

and policy makers to guide PANAH for developing an effective campaign on the world's tried and tested methods to reduce NCDs. The meeting of this think tank was held at a local hotel in Islamabad. Among the participants were Ex Surgeon General of Pakistan Army Lieutenant General Kamal Akbar, Patron PANAH Major General (R) Muhammad Ashraf Khan, Secretary General of Diabetes Association of Pakistan Dr. Abdul Basit, former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, President of Pakistan Dietetic and Nutrition Society Dr. Faiza, former Member National Assembly Dr. Nisar Cheema, Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali,

Vice President PANAH Col. Dr. Shakeel Mirza, Former Commissioner FBR Abdul Hafeez, Senior Executive Vice President PANAH Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan, President Federal Union of Journalists Mr. Afzal Butt, consultant to Global Health Advocacy Incubator Mr. Munawar Hussain and representatives of ministries. The event was hosted by PANAH Secretary General Sanaullah Ghuman.

General Muhammad Ashraf Khan said that the recent increase in heart and related diseases is alarming. The responsibilities of PANAH has increased to educate people about the world's proven and effective ways to prevent these



diseases. This think tank comprising experts from health professionals, civil society, media and

top experts. In the meeting, the members suggested that one of the major

reasons for the increase in non-communicable diseases is unhealthy food such as ultra-processed foods. They are high in salt, sugar and fat. Among the policy options adopted by the world to reduce their consumption, one effective policy option is to put front-of-pack warning labels on them so that consumers know that these foods are harmful to health. This will help them make healthy food choices. After detailed consideration, it was decided that Panah will now launch a campaign for front-of-pack labeling of ultra-processed foods to educate people about their dangers as well as work with policy makers.

## National Day

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development Aami Saeed along with Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Park Kijun and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day, at the residence of the Korean Ambassador.



Photo: Online



Political alliance staged protested in Wana for release ANP leader.

## SECP initiates consultation on voluntary ESG Disclosure Guidelines

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued draft guidelines on ESG disclosures for consultation as part of its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Regulatory Roadmap issued in June 2022.

The guidelines have been prepared to encourage listed companies to enhance their ESG disclosures in a fair and transparent manner on voluntary basis. Since the guidelines are non-mandatory in nature, non-listed companies may also seek guidance from the draft guidelines for embarking on their journey towards adoption of ESG standards.

The draft guidelines cover a wide range of topics under the E, S and G pillars including the recommended metrics related to climate change, Green House Gases emissions, energy usage, gender diversity, executive compensation, non-discrimination, health and safety, board diversity, incentivized pay and internal controls etc. Under the draft guidelines, the companies have the liberty to disclose their ESG performance by issuing a separate sustainability report, integrating it with the company's annual report or publishing it online on their website.

The SECP is committed to promoting sustainable and responsible business practices in Pakistan and issuance of the draft ESG guidelines is a significant step forward in this direction. By improving ESG disclosures, the SECP aims to improve transparency in company's operations, promote sustainable business practices to reduce impact on environment and help investors make more informed investment decisions.

## Faysal Bank Unveils Strong Financial Results for the nine months ended Sep 2023

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL), a leading Islamic bank in Pakistan, has recorded an operating profit of PKR 28 billion, an increase of almost 100% as compared to the same period last year. Net profit for the same period was recorded at PKR 12 billion, showcasing healthy business fundamentals as well as prudent risk management.

The Bank recently published financial report for the first nine months which reveals that FBL kept up its traditional strong performance with an improvement across nearly all metrics.

The Bank's total assets reached PKR 1.3 trillion and net advances increased to nearly Half a Trillion, reflecting growth across all lending businesses by capitalizing on opportunities while maintaining a cautious approach to risk management.

Deposits increased by 21.5% and reached PKR 950 billion, whereas Current Accounts grew by 20% to reach PKR 332 billion. This achievement has strengthened the bank's financial position and highlights its ability to meet the evolving needs of its growing customer base.

Earnings per share have also shown an increase, soaring from PKR 5.05 to PKR 7.94. Additionally, the bank announced an interim cash dividend of Re. 1/- per share i.e., 10%. This is in addition to the interim cash dividend of Re. 1/- already paid during the year.

## Dr Faisal Khan speaks at the WEF Young Global Leader's Summit in Dubai

**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI, UAE: The Young Global Leaders (YGL) Summit 2023 organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Government of UAE concludes in Dubai. The Summit brought together 500 Young Global Leaders, or YGLs, from across the world representing some of the leading organizations across sectors as well as the government and academia.

The Conference was inaugurated by Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and a newly-minted Young Global Leader himself.

Each year, the Forum of Young Global Leaders identifies the world's most influential leaders under the age of 40 driving innovation for positive change across civil

society, arts, culture, government and business. Since its establishment in 2004, the Forum of Young Global Leaders has cultivated a diverse community of outstanding people addressing the world's most pressing problems.

Dr Faisal Khan was nominated as a YGL from Pakistan in 2019. "This is a community of an eclectic group of some very inspiring young leaders from all over the world who are keen to share, learn and inspire.

You could be bouncing off your next big idea for some trusted and unvarnished feedback or seeking help with navigating a challenge at work.

Or you could simply be having fun together and getting inspired in so many ways, said Dr Faisal Khan, who leads the federally-funded Precision Medicine Lab in Peshawar.

## The SBTi approves Pakistan Cables science-based emissions reduction target

**News Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Cables, the pioneer wires and cable manufacturer in Pakistan, has become the country's first building material company to have its science-based emission reduction targets validated and approved by SBTi.

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) drives ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling organizations to set science-based emissions reduction targets.

"We plan to drive sustainability by investing in continuous process improvement and cleaner energy to reach our targets by 2030," said Fahd K. Chinoy, CEO at Pakistan Cables.

"By setting science-based targets, Pakistan Cables is accelerating its efforts to align

with ongoing global efforts to reduce global warming".

The Company's science-based emission reduction targets are part of its long-term vision to develop its net zero strategy and is actively working to establish long term science-based net zero targets that are aligned with SBTi's net zero criterion.

Earlier in 2021, Pakistan Cables became one of the 26 Pakistani companies and the only building materials company that signed the pledge for Business Ambition 1.5oC ahead of COP26.

To date, the Company has planted 50,000 trees approximately at the Pakistan Cables Urban Forest situation in Nooriabad factory, which is the country's first and largest Miyawaki based Urban Forest on an industrial estate.



# Increasing Tobacco taxes to combat inflation: A path to health and prosperity

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: At an event hosted by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), dedicated health activists reinforced the pressing need for a consistent uptick in tobacco taxation that aligns with inflation. They highlighted its pivotal role in curbing tobacco consumption and safeguarding public health.

Zaheer Qureshi, Project Director, Track and Trace System, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) declared the FBR's unwavering commitment to preserving both revenue and public health. He emphasized the critical role of the

tobacco track and trace system, implemented by FBR, in reducing revenue losses, combating counterfeit products, and effectively regulating the tobacco industry.

Akhtar Abbas, Secretary, Sales Tax Budget, FBR shed light on pressing issues such as the prevalence of non-duty paid, counterfeit, and smuggled cigarettes. He highlighted the challenges posed by a limited workforce, logistical hurdles, and an undocumented economy, which have made tax evasion and duty avoidance alarmingly accessible.

Muhammad Sabir, Principal Economist of SPDC hinted that, the govern-

ment is actively exploring strategies to boost revenue, with the imminent possibility of a mini-budget in December. Increasing cigarette taxes emerges as a viable option to augment revenue and discourage smoking, thus yielding health benefits.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC drew attention to the devastating effects of the tobacco pandemic, causing 465 daily deaths and ensnaring 1200 children into addiction each day. He commended the government's initiative to raise tobacco prices, a much-needed and commendable step. This decision has already delivered dividends for the



economy, and it promises to reduce health burdens while generating additional revenue.

Prominent health advocates including Malik Imran, Country Head of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head of the Tobacco Control Cell at the Ministry of Health; and Shariq Mahmood Khan, Chief Executive Director of Chromatic, joined the discussion and appealed to the government to adopt sustainable policies that safeguard both public health and the economy. The event witnessed participation from civil society members, journalists, and youth alike.

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

Similarly, specialized juvenile courts prioritize rehabilitation and education over incarceration, recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach to justice often proves ineffective and detrimental for both individuals and society.

Special courts enjoy the flexibility to explore innovative legal solutions and experiment with novel approaches to address specific legal challenges. This experimentation can lead to the establishment of new legal precedents and alternative dispute resolution methods, which may eventually be integrated into the broader legal system. The adaptability of special courts serves as a testing ground for legal reforms that can positively impact the entire justice system.

By handling specialized cases, special courts lighten the caseload burden on standard courts, enabling them to focus on more intricate and general legal matters. This reduction in caseloads can significantly mitigate delays and backlogs within the legal system, ensuring that justice is dispensed in a timelier manner.

Special courts stand as an indispensable component of any country's justice system. Their specialization, efficiency, tailored procedures, and emphasis on facilitating access to justice collectively contribute to the establishment of a just and effective

legal framework. By addressing the unique requirements of specific areas of law, special courts not only ensure the dispensation of justice but also aid in preserving the overall integrity of the legal system. As legal landscapes evolve, the role of special courts remains crucial in adapting to the evolving societal needs and upholding the rule of law.

Pakistan encountered acts of terrorism shortly after its decision to support the US-led war against terrorism in September 2001. Beginning in 2006, various targets, including police stations, army posts, garrison centers, schools, colleges, parks, hotels, courts, and even mosques, were repeatedly attacked by terrorists. Numerous individuals lost their lives in these attacks, which included major incidents such as the attack on the Lahore High Court, ISI and FIA offices in Lahore, Islamabad, Hyderabad, and other regions of the country.

Acts of terrorism targeted critical institutions, such as the FIA headquarters in Lahore, district courts in Islamabad, as well as churches and mosques nationwide, with alarming ease. A period of intense fear and uncertainty gripped

the nation, leading schools to hire sharpshooters and snipers for the protection of students. Instructors were asked to receive weapons training. Provincial governments admitted their incapacity to provide policing resources for safeguarding all schools. Even when terrorists were apprehended and arrested by intelligence and law enforcement agencies, they were

often released under the pretext of "lack of evidence." In reality, this was often attributed to factors behind the scenes, including corruption within law enforcement agencies, bribery, deficient forensic procedures, inept and uninterested prosecution, and threats from terrorist groups directed at prosecutors and judges.

An illustrative example of the inadequacies of Pakistan's criminal justice system is the case of the Marriott Hotel bombing in 2008, where over 50 people, including diplomats and foreigners, lost their lives, and around 300 were injured in a horrific act of terrorism in the heart of Islamabad. Despite overwhelming evidence linking the terrorists to the Marriott bombing, they were ultimately released after several months of an ineffective trial.

Military courts were established in Pakistan in response to a devastating terrorist attack on the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar on December 16, 2014. This audacious assault resulted in a tragic loss of life, with at least 144 people killed, including 133 children. In early January 2015, following an All Parties Conference (APC), the proposed 21st Constitutional Amendment was approved, officially came into effect on January 6, 2015. This amendment permitted modifications to the Pakistan Army Act, expanding its jurisdiction to expedite the trial of cases under specific acts and providing constitutional legitimacy, complete with a two-year sunset clause from the date of enactment.

Subsequently, on January 9, 2015, Pakistan lifted the moratorium on the death penalty, making way for trials to be conducted in military courts. According to official statistics up until December 2018, over the course of slightly more than three years, approximately a dozen military courts handled 717 cases, successfully concluding 546 of them. Among the verdicts, 310 individuals were sentenced to death, while 234 received various terms of rigorous imprisonment, ranging from life imprisonment to 5-year imprisonment. Additionally, two accused were acquitted.

*To be Continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## International community to help resolve Kashmir issue

Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Friday urged the international community to play its due role in helping to resolve the lingering Kashmir issue peacefully in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

In a statement issued on the eve of the black day observed on Friday against the Indian invasion of Kashmir on this day 76 years ago in 1947, Haq said that India has turned the held territory into a military cantonment where people have been deprived of their basic rights. Terming October 27 as one of the darkest chapters of Kashmir history, Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that it was on this day in 1947 when India landed its troops at Srinagar Airport and occupied the state forcibly in violation of international law.

He said that the move, which was rightly condemned as an act of aggression, had pushed the entire region into the throes of instability and perpetual violence. He said that it was quite unfortunate that the United Nations and other international human rights organizations have failed to stop human rights violations and atrocities inflicted upon Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces. Referring to the attempted annexation of the state by the Modi government, the PM said that in stark contrast to the UN resolutions on Kashmir, India's fascist regime led by Modi wrapped up the region's political system, imposed a crippling siege on the state, detained the political leadership of all hues and shades, dissolved the state and reduced its status to a union territory. Terming it as a glaring example of high-handedness on the part of the Indian government, he said that the move was an atrocious assault on the Kashmiris' cultural and political identity.

The Prime Minister said that Kashmiri people would never forget India's vicious attack to deprive them of their nationhood and identity. The people of Kashmir, he said, have never accepted India's dominance and its forcible control over the territory. "They are still fighting for their inalienable right, the right to self determination", the PM said, adding that Azad Kashmir and Pakistan have always supported their just cause and pleaded their case at international level. The PM expressed the hope that the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people would never go in vain.



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

## Two party system, Why is necessary?

**M. Shahzad Saleem Balouch**

With years of experience in the legal profession, I've frequently encountered a pressing question: why does democracy struggle to find stability in our nation? The constant interference of unseen forces and the establishment's efforts to undermine the government have perplexed many. In light of this, I firmly believe that adopting a two-party system could be the remedy to eradicate the pernicious practice of toppling governments.

A country in which only two political parties have influence in its parliament. One of them forms the government based on its majority, while the other party plays the role of the opposition. In the UK, there are effectively two parties, the Labour Party and the Conservatives. In the United States, there are also two parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. That's why these countries have a two-party system of government.

Establishing a two-party system in Pakistan would require a shift in the political landscape. It would encourage the consolidation of political ideologies, leading to more coherent platforms and policies. This would, in turn, enable voters to make more straightforward choices based on ideological alignment, enhancing the accountability of elected officials.

In conclusion, until a two-party system is established in Pakistan, its politicians are likely to remain divided along numerous party lines.

The transformation towards such a system could promote greater unity, clarity, and effectiveness in Pakistani politics, contributing to a more stable and responsive democratic framework.

Until a two-party system is established in Pakistan, politicians will remain divided, and democracy will continue to struggle.

The absence of a two-party system in Pakistan has been a persistent challenge in the country's political landscape. The prevailing multiparty structure has often led to divisions among politicians, hindering the establishment of a stable and coherent governance system. This, in turn, has posed significant obstacles to the growth and strengthening of democracy in the nation.

Pakistan's political scene is characterized by a multitude of political parties, each with its own set of agendas and interests. While diversity and representation are essential in a democracy, the excessive fragmentation of political power can lead to gridlock, inefficiency, and a lack of clear accountability. Without a dominant two-party system, it becomes difficult to establish a strong and effective government that can address the pressing issues facing the country.

One of the significant drawbacks of the fragmented political landscape is the struggle for consensus on critical policy matters. In a two-party system, political parties tend to converge towards the center to appeal to a broader base of voters, which can facilitate decision-making and compromise. In contrast, in Pakistan's multiparty environment, the absence of a dominant opposition party often results in adversarial politics, with each party pushing its agenda without the necessary checks and balances.

Furthermore, the lack of a two-party

system can also contribute to political instability. Frequent changes in government and shifting alliances among smaller parties can create an atmosphere of unpredictability, which can deter foreign investments and hinder economic development.

Establishing a two-party system in Pakistan could help address these challenges. It would encourage a clearer demarcation of political ideologies, promote more robust competition, and lead to more efficient governance. Such a system could also provide voters with a more straightforward choice, thereby enhancing political accountability and the overall quality of democratic representation.

In conclusion, the absence of a two-party system in Pakistan has contributed to political division and has been a significant impediment to the growth of democracy. To build a more stable and effective political system, Pakistan might need to explore reforms that encourage the emergence of strong, ideologically distinct, and nationally appealing political parties. This could pave the way for a more robust and enduring democracy in the country.

In a country, when there is no political stability, it poses significant risks to the survival and prosperity of that nation. It is essential for the establishment of a two-party political system for political stability. Where there is a two-party political system, issues do not escalate, and bitterness is reduced. Those who are familiar with history know that as long as there was a single-party or two-party political system, national politics ran smoothly, and we were never opposed to political activities. However, it is necessary to have legislation that places a check on every party, limiting their office space to just one room. This will clean up the "political mess." Without the necessary legislation, there is a severe risk of "political anarchy" in politics. Establishing a two-party political system in the country can yield great benefits in the future.



Analysis

M. Shahzad Saleem Balouch

## Gaza Conflict: the all-encompassing effects on children's life

There is conflict, poverty, danger, and overcrowding that Gaza's children have never experienced before. 18 years have passed since Israel's settlers and military personnel were evacuated from the Gaza Strip by Ariel Sharon, the country's prime leader at the time. However, the Israeli government placed a total blockade on the Gaza Strip two years later, after Hamas was elected.

The siege and the relocation of settlers and soldiers did not absolve Israel of its legal obligations to the civilian population of Gaza under international law. The International Committee of the Red Cross states that Israel is still "obligated by certain provisions of the law of occupation." This covers providing food, medicine, and other necessities to the people of Gaza, as stated in article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Nonetheless, in recent days, the Israeli government has intensified the embargo, depriving the civilian populace of even necessities for survival. The impact that Israel's most recent siege-like conditions—imposed in response to Hamas attacks—are having on the children of Gaza are becoming widely known. The children will always be more directly and severely impacted than adults by a shortage of food and water.

Children who become ill or are injured go to a crumbling health system that is under attack at several different locations for care. Numerous kids are at risk of serious injury or even death in these situations.

### The Toll Of War

But it would be erroneous to believe that children in Gaza had healthy lives even before the recent tightening of the restrictions. The Israeli siege has resulted in an exponential growth in the health needs of children within the densely populated Gaza Strip. The physical and mental well-being of young people is impacted by frequent exposure to direct military attacks.

Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), a Palestinian human rights organisation

that focuses especially on children's rights, has documented 1,189 Palestinian children killed in Gaza by Israeli military operations since Israel imposed its blockade in 2007 until the present war. Long-term risks to children's survival and well-being have also resulted from these battles.

Rebuilding homes, schools, hospitals, and public areas is impossible. Playing outside puts kids at serious risk due to the lack of repair.

### Crumbling Infrastructure

The development of the necessary infrastructure has also been impeded by blockade. Massive investment is needed to meet the population's needs for clean water, proper sewage treatment, and waste disposal. The sea in Gaza is heavily contaminated by sewage and wastewater that has not been properly cleaned due to the lack of sanitation facilities and electricity.

Certain youngsters need specialized medical attention, which is unavailable in Gaza. Israel is accountable under international law for ensuring that children have access to quality medical treatment. Human rights organisations claim that Israel frequently denies requests for medical permits that would allow children to receive the care they need.

When in 2018 and 2019, thousands of kids and young people took part in protests. In response, 46 people were killed and almost 8,800 were injured when Israeli soldiers used live and rubber bullets. Permits to leave Gaza for the purpose of receiving the necessary rehabilitative care were denied to numerous children who suffered life-altering injuries, including limb loss.

Hospital staff and infrastructure are also targeted. Recall that over a thousand Palestinian youngsters have died in the last week, according to DCIP.

It must be recognised that Israel has been executing children's bodies and hopes through its embargo for the past 16 years, and this is what Israel has been doing for the past week.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

**IS Airstrikes continue**

# Israeli forces conduct overnight ground raid in Gaza

*At least 7,000 Palestinians killed, including over 2,900 children in relentless bombing, thousands injured*

GAZA: The Israeli army carried out a "targeted raid" on ground in Gaza backed by fighter jets and drones while continuing bombardment, which has claimed over 7,000 Palestinian lives, including at least 2,900 children.

"During the last day, IDF ground forces, accompanied by IDF fighter jets and UAVs, conducted an additional targeted raid in the central Gaza Strip," an Israeli army statement said on Friday as it prepares for a land invasion.

"The IDF identified and struck numerous terror targets, including anti-tank missile launch sites, military command and control centres, as well as Hamas terrorists," it said, saying troops "exited the area at the end of the activity".

Black-and-white footage released by the military showed a column of armoured vehicles as a thick cloud of dust billowed into the sky after the strikes.

The army conducted a similar ground operation using tanks and infantry the previous night in the northern part of the Palestinian terri-

tory.

The latest incursions came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeated earlier this week that Israel was "preparing for a ground offensive".

Palestinian sources told Al Jazeera that Israeli forces carried out "a very limited incursion" overnight into the outskirts of the town of Beit Hanoun, north of the Gaza Strip, as well as in al-Bureij refugee camp.

Israel said military raids into Gaza were preparing "the next stage of the operation", amid fears that a ground invasion of the Palestinian enclave could spark a wider Middle East conflict.

Israeli air and artillery strikes have killed at least 7,028 Palestinians in the narrow Gaza Strip, including 2,913 children, since October 7, according to a list of names released by the Palestinian health ministry.

The relentless bombing amid a complete siege of Gaza has continued for 21 days as Israel vowed to 'annihilate' Palestinian resistance group Hamas after it launched a surprise

offensive claiming the lives of 1,400 Israelis and kidnapping 224 others.

The fatalities in Gaza are the highest there since Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Palestinian territory in 2005.

Gaza's 2.3 million residents have been running out of food, water, medicine, and fuel, and aid convoys allowed into the narrow strip of Palestinian territory have carried only a fraction of what is needed.

As the plight of Palestinian civilians grows more desperate, the issue of whether to have humanitarian pauses or ceasefire agreements in the Hamas-run coastal enclave will come before the 193-member United Nations General Assembly on Friday in a draft resolution submitted by Arab states calling for a ceasefire.

Unlike in the Security Council where resolutions on Gaza aid failed this week, no country holds a veto in the General Assembly. Resolutions are non-binding, but carry political weight.

More than 613,000 people were estimated to have been made homeless by the Israeli bombardment of Gaza and



were being sheltered by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

A Russian newspaper Kommersant quoted a Hamas official Abu Hamad calling for a ceasefire before captives can be freed.

Hamas said on Thursday that around 50 of the captives taken in the surprise raid have been killed by Israel's continued airstrikes in Gaza.

The official further said that a calm environment and time is needed for Hamas to locate the captives before they can be released.

Hamas freed four captives over the last week amid efforts by regional mediator countries to arrange a larger-scale release.

Israel has called on Russia to expel the visiting Hamas delegation dubbing

their visit to Moscow "deplorable".

Almost half of Israelis want to hold off on any invasion of Gaza, according to a poll published on Friday.

Asked if the military should immediately escalate to a large-scale ground offensive, 29% of Israelis agreed while 49% said "it would be better to wait" and 22% were undecided, the poll published in the Maariv newspaper said.

The daily said the results contrasted with its October 19 poll that found 65% support for a major ground offensive.

Maariv said "it is almost certain that the developments on the matter of the captives, which is now topping the agenda, have had a great impact on this shift (in opinion)".

At least six people were wounded when a missile struck a healthcare facil-

ity and residential building in the Egyptian resort town of Taba near the Israeli border early Friday, reported Anadolu Agency. Local sources said an investigation has been launched.

An unnamed Egyptian official said Egypt reserves the right to respond once it is determined who fired the missile, according to local media.

The Israeli military said it was aware of a security incident around Taba, noting that it unfolded "outside our border," according to the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper.

Meanwhile, two US fighter jets struck weapons and ammunition facilities in Syria on Friday in retaliation for attacks on US forces by Iranian-backed militia as concerns grew that the Israel's war in Gaza may spread in the Middle East.

# Kashmir Black Day observed in Tokyo

**Spokesman Report**

TOKYO: An event was organized by Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo to observe 27th October as Kashmir Black Day. Pakistani community members, Kashmiri diaspora as well as Japanese media persons attended. Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, which emphasized on support and solidarity with Kashmiri people for realization of their legitimate right to self-determination were read out.



TOKYO: Members of the Pakistani community and Kashmiri Diaspora marched towards the UN Office in Tokyo and submitted a demarche.

Ambassador Raza Bashir Tatar highlighted the contin-

uous atrocities being committed by Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and expressed Pakistan's full support for the Kashmir cause.

Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in a video message expressed his views on the current repression and severe violations of human rights of Kashmiris by India. Members of the Pakistani community also spoke in support of our Kashmiri brethren.

Earlier in the day, the members of the Pakistani community and Kashmiri Diaspora, with banners and placards in hands, held a protest in front of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo to observe the Kashmir Black Day and highlight the gross human rights violations in IIOJK by Indian security forces. They also marched towards the UN Office in Tokyo and submitted a demarche.

A photographic exhibition was organized at the Embassy which was open to all incomers of the Consular Section, interested Japanese individuals and Pakistani Diaspora.

## Iran's army kicks off 2-day drill in central province

TEHRAN: The Iranian army's Ground Force started a two-day military drill in central Isfahan Province on Friday, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The drill involves the Ground Force's infantry, armored vehicle, missile, artillery, drone, engineering, cyber security, communication and information technology units, etc., as well as the transport and support aircraft of the army's Air Force, IRNA quoted the exercise's spokesman Karim Cheshak as saying.

Cheshak added that during the drill, the army units would assess their equipment's capabilities in terms of firing range, precision in hitting targets, smart features, automation capacities, and network-based adaptability.

The spokesman said the drill aims to evaluate the capabilities of the Ground Force, practice ground battle tactics, estimate the operational capabilities of new weapons, improve the armed forces' deterrence power, and ensure lasting security.

He listed the operations to be carried out during the drill as the simultaneous land and air transfer of brigades, intelligence collection using drones and electronic systems, coastal defense, and offensives against invading forces.

A number of senior Iranian military officials, including the army's chief commander Abdolrahim Mousavi, attended the opening event of the drill. Xinhua/IRNA

## Kashmir Black Day observed in Moscow



MOSCOW: A special event to mark 27th October as Kashmir Black Day, commemorating Indian Illegal Occupation of the Valley, was held at the Embassy of Pakistan on Friday.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Muhammad Khalid Jamali, members of Pakistani community in Russia, officers and officials of the Embassy participated in the event.

Messages by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read by Second Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Tayyab and Second Secretary Dr. Jetha Nand respectively. A documentary dedicated to the resistance of the Kashmiri people to the Indian occupation in Jammu and Kashmir was screened on the occasion.

# UK PM calls for global responsibility to take AI risks seriously

**Spokesman Report**

LONDON: UK Government officially publishes report on capabilities and risks from frontier AI for the first time, drawing on sources including from intelligence assessments.

This will inform discussions at next week's AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, which aims to build a shared global understanding of the risks posed by frontier AI.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will today (Thursday) give a speech on how we have a global responsibility to understand and address the risks surrounding AI, in order to realise all its benefits and opportunities for future generations.

A new paper into the capabilities and risks from frontier AI has been published for the first time by the UK Government today (Thursday 26 October), as the Prime Minister is set to give a speech on the global responsibility to address the risks head on and make the most of the opportunities AI can bring.

There are a range of views in the scientific, expert and global communities about the risks in relation to the rapid progress in frontier AI, which is expected to continue to evolve in the coming years at rapid speed. The report published today draws on various sources, including UK intelligence assessments.

One of the key objectives of the AI Safety Summit – the first ever global summit to discuss AI safety – is to come to a shared understanding on the emerging risks, which can then inform how nations manage them. It also highlights the need for countries around the world to understand the pitfalls presented by frontier AI to unlock its enormous benefits.

The publication will serve as a discussion paper at next week's summit. It forms part of the UK Government's action to take long-term decisions for a brighter future, leading the way globally on AI safety. It is in the long-term interest of the country to understand and grip the risks of AI in order to seize the enormous opportuni-

ties it brings to improve people's lives, public services and economic growth and productivity.

The publication comes ahead of a speech by the Prime Minister today on AI. He will set out how the UK Government will do what is right to make AI safe, cement the UK as a global leader in AI safety, and ensure we can harness its benefits to build a better future for generations to come.

In his speech, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is expected to say: "AI will bring new knowledge, new opportunities for economic growth, new advances in human capability, and the chance to solve problems we once thought beyond us. But it also brings new dangers and new fears.

"So, the responsible thing for me to do is to address those fears head on, giving you the peace of mind that we will keep you safe, while making sure you and your children have all the opportunities for a better future that AI can bring.

"Doing the right thing, not the easy thing, means being honest with people

about the risks from these technologies."

The report is made up of three parts: Capabilities and risks from frontier AI: A discussion paper on the need for further research into AI risk. It covers the current state of frontier AI capabilities, how these might improve in the future, as well as the risks they currently present, including societal harms, misuse and loss of control.

Safety and Security Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence to 2025: A report drawing on sources including intelligence assessments, which states that generative AI development has the potential to bring significant global benefits but will also increase risks to safety and security by enhancing threat actor capabilities and increasing the effectiveness of attacks.

Future Risks of Frontier AI: A report from the Government Office for Science, which considers key uncertainties in frontier AI development, the risks future systems might pose, and a range of potential scenarios for AI out to 2030.

# UNGA resumes emergency session on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly on Thursday resumed its 10th Emergency Special Session on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

General Assembly President Dennis Francis, in his opening remarks, condemned both the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's indiscriminate targeting of civilians and the destruction of critical infrastructure in Gaza.

"The brutality of the Hamas assaults is shocking and unacceptable, and has no place... in our world," he said. "The ceaseless bombardment of the Gaza Strip by Israel and its consequences are deeply alarming. The right of self-defense does not and cannot lawfully give license to undertake indiscriminate and disproportionate reprisal."

Francis said all parties to this



conflict must abide by international humanitarian law and immediately create the necessary conditions to allow for an opening of a humanitarian corridor to the Gaza Strip.

"We must ensure that urgently needed life-saving assistance reaches those in need—from the delivery of basic foodstuff to the safe passage of humanitarian and medical staff. Any action to the

contrary—to deprive the people of Gaza of unimpeded access to essential livelihood supplies—would be a clear violation of their human rights and an affront to international humanitarian law," he said.

"We, the United Nations, cannot allow the fundamental principles of human rights and of international law to be compromised. As the United Nations, we are obliged to uphold them—without any conditions, or reservations, and certainly without any exceptions," Francis noted.

At this juncture, the most immediate step is clear: "the violence must cease, and further bloodshed must be prevented," he said, calling for the prompt and unconditional release of all hostages; an immediate, unconditional humanitarian cease-fire; and an immediate, unconditional

opening of corridors of humanitarian assistance and relief.

The only path to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace is a negotiated two-state solution, consistent with international law, the UN Charter, and relevant UN resolutions—a solution that fulfills Israel's legitimate needs for security and that fulfills the state of Palestine's legitimate aspirations for an independent state, said Francis.

He urged all parties to set aside their animosities and focus instead on averting war by prioritizing saving lives.

"I urge the (UN) membership to use today's session not to further fan the flames of hate, division and revenge. Let us seize the opportunity, instead, to unify our purpose and our actions to save lives and to end violence."

The resumed Emergency

Special Session is expected to run into Friday and a resolution tabled by Jordan is expected to be voted on.

The UN Security Council, which holds the primary responsibility for international peace and security, has failed to adopt any resolution on the latest escalation in the past two weeks.

In an emotional speech, Palestine's UN ambassador Riyad Mansour said Israel's war on Gaza is not defensible.

Some 7,000 Palestinians have been killed since Oct. 7, 70 percent of them were women and children. Almost all of the killed were civilians, he said.

"Is this the war some of you are defending? Can this war be defended," he asked Western delegations. "These are crimes. This is barbarianism." Xinhua

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
50,943.83	51,185.28
Day's High	Day's Low
51,269.73	50,834.72
Index Value	Change
7,732,036,050	-241.45
Percentage	Time
-0.47%	27 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,291.28	-63.29
Percentage	Time
-0.86%	27 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,489.41	-294.89
Percentage	Time
-0.90%	27 Oct, 1:17 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,991.69	+389.91
Percentage	Time
-1.27%	27 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.25	180
Bahrain Dinar	745.28	753.28
Canadian Dollar	204	206.00
China Yuan	38.27	38.67
Danish Krone	39.55	39.95
Euro	296.10	299.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.62	35.97
Indian Rupee	3.36	3.47
Japanese Yen	1.65	1.72
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	727.9	735.9
Qatari Riyal	76.79	77.49
Saudi Riyal	74.8	75.8
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	25.17	25.47
Swiss Franc	311.55	314.05
Thai Bhat	7.72	7.87
U.A.E Dirham	78.25	79
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.4
US Dollar	280.5	283

# Fallout of Israeli attacks in Gaza is engulfing world, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Thursday that the global crisis of oil, gas, and capital is arising due to the war between Hamas and Israel.

The human tragedy of Israeli attacks in Gaza is engulfing the world. As a result of this crisis, developing countries will be badly affected, and their central banks will be forced to increase interest rates.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the global economy was not in good shape and that the recent conflict would damage it and cause the world economy to shrink rapidly.

Talking to the business community, the veter-

an business leader said that at present there is a shortage of capital in dozens of countries, while the financial condition of international institutions is also not good, due to which they are not in a position to give more loans.

On the other hand, the prices of oil and gas in the international market have started to increase and if Hezbollah joins the war the situation will become more alarming.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the price of natural gas in Pakistan has increased by 194%, after which OGRA has increased the price of LNG by 3.87% because its price has increased in the global market.

These increases will push up inflation in Pakistan. It is natural for LNG to be expensive in winter, but because of the war, there is a strong possibility that the price will increase more than usual, he observed.

In the current situation, it seems that the



worst inflation will be imposed on the people of many countries, while it will be difficult for the people to live in countries where playing

with the economy, exaggerating about development and politics of non-issues are the norm.

He said that in many countries, businesses will close, unemployment will rise to alarming levels and the economy will suffer.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that as a result of the global crisis, the value of the currencies of many countries will fall. In Pakistan, where the value of the dollar was increased by illegal methods, the situation can also deteriorate.

Smuggling and hoarding were controlled in Pakistan by state determination, but the situation could deteriorate again, taking a toll on the economy and the masses.

Rulers should make a strategy according to the situation and take measures to save the economy because if the economic situation worsens, the people will be affected, and they don't have the strength to bear any more inflation.

## Winter Fruits

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is arranging dry fruits at his pavilion to attract customers at Weekly Friday Market of H-9 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Pakistan should focus on Africa for business promotion: Nigerian Envoy

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) hosted a farewell reception in honor of H. E. Muhammad Bello Abioye High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan at his home. Ambassador of Morocco H. E. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Ethiopia H. E. Jemal Beker Abdulla, Ambassador of Algeria H. E. Ibrahim Romani, Ambassador of Somalia Mrs. Khadija Mohamed Almakhoum, Ambassador of Mauritius H. E. Rashidally Soobadar, Director General Foreign Affairs Shahid Ali Bhutto, Asif Luqman Qazi of Jamaat-e-Islami, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI and many other dignitaries and notables of the city.

Speaking on the occasion, H. E. Muhammad Bello Abioye High Commissioner of Nigeria said that Africa is being termed as the Continent of future by the trade experts and Pakistan should focus on it to promote its trade by developing close cooper-



ation with Nigeria. He said that direct flights between Nigeria and Pakistan have the potential to make significant increases in bilateral trade. He said that Nigeria and Pakistan can cooperate in many sectors including transportation, tourism, trade & commerce, industry. He said that during his tenure in Pakistan, he had taken several steps to facilitate the exchange of information, foster business-to-business meetings, and implement a simplified visa policy to support the entrepreneurs. Visa applications have been processed within 48 hours over the past two years, streamlining the process for business-related travel. He thanked Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President ICCI and Zafar

Pakistan can export many products to Nigeria and other African countries including textiles, rice, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, electrical appliances, processed food, cosmetic & beauty products, leather goods, IT products, financial services. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI said that Pakistan and Nigeria are a combined market of about half a billion people and they can achieve much better results by developing close cooperation. He stressed for regular exchange of business delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan lauded the services of H. E. Muhammad Bello Abioye High Commissioner of Nigeria who remained as an active Ambassador in Pakistan. He said that the direct flights between Pakistan and Nigeria can boost bilateral trade and urged that both countries should make all possible efforts to achieve this goal.

# BankIslami Records Staggering 197% Surge in Profit After Tax for First Nine Months of 2023

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: In the year 2023, BankIslami has marked a momentous chapter in its journey. Notably, it has secured an impressive development in its long-term entity rating by PACRA, now proudly rated as 'AA-' (AA minus). Furthermore, the Bank has posted an astounding after-tax profit of Rs. 8.47 billion for the nine-month period that ended on September 30, 2023. Furthermore, for our valued shareholders, we're thrilled to announce the distribution of dividends during this interim period, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to rewarding the trust and investment of our shareholders.

The Bank's 17.5% interim cash dividend announcement coincides with a record 197% surge in profit after tax, reaching Rs. 8.47 billion. Despite notable growth, the Bank's commitment to financial excellence remains steadfast amidst challenging market

conditions. Notably, the Bank exhibited impressive cost efficiency, evident in the reduced cost-to-income ratio of 38.14% during the period, compared to 52.74% in the same period last year.

The Bank's net assets surged by 23.6% due to a strategic allocation of excess liquidity into secured investments. This move propelled the investment portfolio from Rs. 179.74 billion in December 2022 to Rs. 276.16 billion in September 2023, marking a healthy growth of 53.6%. Simultaneously, the Bank's financing portfolio experienced a modest 1.2% growth, influenced by the current economic climate, high policy rates, and stringent regulatory measures on consumer financing. In the face of ongoing challenges in the country, the Bank prudently established a robust buffer of provision, taking coverage against the delinquent portfolio to 102% by the end of the nine-month period, and acting as a shock absorber.

# National Bank of Pakistan Stands Strong for Breast Cancer Awareness in Pinktober



**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) hosted a special Pinktober event at its head office, reaffirming its commitment to inclusivity and equality. NBP recognizes the importance of breast cancer awareness and stands firmly with those affected by this disease.

The event was graced by Mr. Rehamat Ali Hasnie, President and CEO of NBP, Senior Executives of the Bank, and

Mr. Omer Aftab, CEO and founder of Pink Ribbon. Ms. Mariam Malik, a member of Pink Ribbon highlighted the need to have conversations within families to fight against this disease. Together, they discussed the critical role organizations like Pink Ribbon play in raising awareness and promoting early detection.

During a compelling panel discussion, Mr. Aftab shed light on the challenges faced by Pink Ribbon and the importance of early detection.

# Jazz and Careem Extend Partnership to Enrich Customers' Experience

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Jazz, Pakistan's largest digital operator, and Careem, the pioneer of ride-hailing services in Pakistan, have extended their longstanding partnership to bring unparalleled benefits and innovation to their mutual customers. The collaboration, rooted in a shared commitment to empowering Pakistanis through technology, continues to strengthen, exemplifying the mutual dedication of both organizations.

To reiterate their shared ambition to leverage technology to improve the lives of Pakistanis, the leadership of Jazz and Careem recently

got together at the Jazz headquarters in Islamabad where they pledged to strengthen these ties and explore more avenues to better serve Pakistanis utilizing the best of the available digital experiences.

On this occasion, Kazim Mujtaba, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Jazz, said, "We believe in the power of partnerships for creating innovative solutions that enrich the lives of millions of Pakistanis. Such collaborations are also in line with our DO1440 strategy through which we become relevant to our users all through their digital interactions during the day."

Imran Saleem, General Manager of Ride-Hailing at Careem Paki-



stan, said, "We are always aiming to enhance the experience of our customers. By combining the mutu-

al strength of both brands, we are enabling greater convenience and savings. This is only the beginning of

a long-term partnership and we will continue to bring innovative offers for our mutual customer base."

## Standard Chartered Pakistan delivers a record operating profit

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan delivered a record profit before tax of PKR 63.0 billion for the nine months period ended 30 September 2023, registering an increase of 73 per cent year on year. Profit after tax grew by 121% year on year to PKR 31.4 billion during nine months of the year. The performance was driven by strong income growth, as well as continued cost and risk discipline.

Overall revenue for the Bank grew by 70 per cent to deliver a top-line of PKR 76.9 billion, with positive contribution from all segments. The Net Interest Income for Standard Chartered witnessed a strong growth of 131% year on year, driven by proactive balance sheet management, pricing discipline and higher interest rates. Operating expenses increased 27 per cent from comparative period, in line with inflation. Moreover, lower impairments as a result of prudent risk approach coupled with recoveries of bad debts led to a benign charge of PKR 615 million for the period.

With a diversified product base, the Bank stands well positioned to cater to the needs of its clients. On the liabilities side, the Bank's total deposits stand at PKR 725 billion. Current accounts registered strong growth of PKR 68 billion (up 21 per cent) from start of the year. On assets side, net advances registered a growth of PKR 18 billion (up 9 per cent) since the start of this year.

With a strong Return on Equity (ROE) of 46.3% for the period and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 20.4%, the Bank remains well positioned for future growth. On the back of a strong performance, the Board of Directors were pleased to announce an interim cash dividend of 25.0% (PKR 2.50/- per share) in respect of the nine months period ended September 30, 2023. This is in addition to 40.0% (PKR 4.00/- per share) interim cash dividend announced during half year ended June 30, 2023.

Mr. Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan, said, "I am pleased to share our 3rd quarter results reflecting our resilience, strong foundations, continued transformation and enhanced headway towards achieving our strategic priorities."

# South Africa push struggling Pakistan closer to World Cup exit

With three matches left, Pakistan will want all things to go their way for semis qualification

Spokesman Report

CHENNAI: South Africa hammered Pakistan to secure a 1-wicket victory in the World Cup on Friday in Chennai, pushing Babar Azam's men closer towards an elimination from the mega tournament.

With three matches left and four defeats, Pakistan will want all things to go their way for semis qualification — as the results of other teams and net run rate will be crucial for the Men in Green.

This was also the first time since 1999 that the Proteas defeated the Green Shirts in an ODI World Cup. Proteas now has five wins out of six games whereas Pakistan have only two with three games remaining.

Temba Bavuma and his men had a few hiccups during the chase of 271 but Aiden Markram's impressive knock of 91 pushed them to the finish line.

Earlier, Pakistan were bowled out for 270 in 46.4 overs. Tabraiz Shamsi bagged figures of 4/60 while Marco Jansen



South Africa's Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi celebrate after South Africa win the match by 1 wicket.

finished with figures of 3/49. Emerging pacer Gerald Coetzee took two wickets for 2/42.

Pakistan lost both their openers — Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imamul Haq (12) — for cheap scores as Marco Jansen

struck twice to bring the team under pressure.

Skipper Babar Azam (50) and Mohammad Rizwan tried to build a partnership in order to boost the total but Gerald Coetzee dismissed the latter

for 31. The Pakistan captain was removed for 50 and Iftikhar Ahmed fell for 21 by Tabraiz Shamsi.

Saud Shakeel (52) and Shadab Khan (43) took the aggressive route and put scores on the board with fiery boundaries. After their removal, Mohammad Nawaz tried to keep up the momentum so a reasonable total could be built against the Proteas. However, he pulled poorly on Jansen's delivery and was caught on the off side.

In the chase, Quinton de Kock (28) started aggressively, however, he was caught by Wasim Jr. on the bowling of Shaheen Afridi. Skipper Temba Bavuma (24) also took the charge but Wasim removed him.

Rassie Van der Dussen and Aiden Markram steered along but two quick wickets brought Pakistan back. Markram paired with Miller to post a 70-run stand for the fifth wicket until Shaheen removed Miller (29) while Wasim Jr had the better of Jansen (20) to give some hope to Pakistan.

## Sarfraz in contention to replace Babar as Test captain

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PCB Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf met Sarfraz Ahmed and Shanawaz Dahani on Friday at the Pakistan cricket headquarters in Lahore.

The PCB Chairman congratulated Karachi Whites for winning the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24 and hailed the leadership qualities of their captain Sarfraz Ahmed while also appreciating the performance of fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani.

Zaka Ashraf also reaffirmed PCB's commitment to continue to work for the players' well-being and support of regional cricket.

Sarfraz is also under consideration to step into the role of Test captain for the upcoming Australia tour, potentially taking over from Babar Azam. Potential changes in the team



management are also under consideration.

The future of Babar Azam's captaincy hinges on Pakistan's performance in the ongoing World Cup. Pakistan needs to win all their remaining games in the World Cup, in order to qualify for the semi-finals.

Having recently led Karachi Whites to triumph in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy,

Sarfraz is currently in exceptional form, finishing as the second-highest run-scorer and was also adjudged as the player of the tournament.

During the meeting, Sarfraz Ahmed also provided insights and recommendations to Zaka Ashraf, particularly addressing the challenges prevalent in domestic

cricket.

The three-match Test series against Australia is scheduled post the World Cup, with the first Test set for December 14 in Perth.

It must be noted that Babar Azam led Pakistan to a 2-0 victory over Sri Lanka in July, which was Pakistan's first series in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle from 2023-25.

## Inzamam's stake in players' agent's firm sparks conflict of interest debate

LAHORE: The Chief Selector of Pakistan cricket team, Inzamam-ul-Haq, has found himself entangled in a web of potential conflicts of interest. It turns out that the former captain is a shareholder in "Yazo International Limited," a company owned by players' agent Talha Rehmani. This revelation raises concerns as Rehmani manages some of Pakistan's top cricketers, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Notably, Rizwan is also a co-owner of the same company.

Details of significant differences between Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the players on the central contract had come to light. Before the 2023 World Cup, tensions escalated to the point where players contemplated boycotting commercial activ-

ities during the tournament. Their demands included a share of the money received from the ICC. Inzamam-ul-Haq, sharing the same agent as the top cricketers, stepped in and offered to resolve the dispute within 48 hours. Eventually, the intervention of Inzamam led to the resolution of the issue, and all player demands were met.

The fallout from this dispute resulted in historical changes in player contracts. Three-year contracts, applicable from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026, were introduced, and cricketers will now receive a share of the ICC's revenue. Category A players, including Babar Azam, Rizwan, and Shaheen Afridi, saw a significant increase of 202% in their remuneration, with other players also receiving

substantial raises.

Now it has been revealed that Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Rizwan, and Talha Rehmani are also part of the same company, "Yazo International Limited." According to documents available with Cricket Pakistan, the company's British registration number begins with 1306. It mentions the same address for all three shareholders, which is Colchester, England.

All of them own more than 25% of the shares. Interestingly, Inzamam receives a monthly salary of 2.5 million rupees from PCB as well. In this regard, the spokesman for the players' agent company, "Saya Corporation," clarified that Inzamam, Rizwan, and CEO Talha Rehmani are shareholders in "Yazo" under the investment wing.

The spokesman argued that such collaborations between athletes and trusted individuals for investments are not unusual globally. Examples like LeBron James, Tom Brady, Venus Williams, Serena Williams, and David Beckham working with their agents and management companies are cited.

The company and its accounts have been declared in Pakistan since 2020, and the spokesman emphasized that Inzamam was not the chief selector at the time of Yazo's establishment during the COVID days in 2020. They also clarified that company's total assets amount to only 1,100 pounds and that no current or former cricketer is a shareholder in Saya Corporation or its global partner organizations. Agencies

## M. Alam continues command in Defence Raya Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: After the second round of this four rounds 2nd Defence Raya Open Golf Championship being contested at the fascinating Defence Raya Golf Course, the most dynamic player of the championship till now is Muhammad Alam of Lahore Garrison Golf Course. Currently M. Alam enjoys a golf professional ranking of number 7 in the national golf circuit and is pursuing his golf career with animated vitality and the hard work seems to be paying dividends. Based on his effective array of shot making, he certainly appears as a contender of merit and reckoning. Even though playing against mighty golf professionals like Shabbir Iqbal, Matloob Ahmed and M. Munir who have dominated the national golf scene for over two decades, M. Alam has managed to stay as the front runner for two consecutive golf rounds with a score of gross 66 in the first round and backing it up with a gross 68 in the second round. His aggregate scores for two rounds is 134 and in golfing terms that means ten under par which reflects distinction oriented calibre and golfing expertise.

Competition wise the battle for illustriousness is still on as adversaries like Shabbir Iqbal and Ahmed Baig are still in the hunt for top honors and lucrative cash prizes and have put up performances in the two rounds that can be graded as exceptional in terms of golfing action. Shabbir Iqbal produced two rounds scores of 67 and 69 while Ahmed Baig has two rounds scores of 69 and 70. Undoubtedly Shabbir Iqbal and Ahmed Baig represent the best of the country and with noteworthy experience of competitive golf, they will unravel their skills to unnerve M. Alam and edge past him during the remaining two rounds of this prestigious six million rupees prize money open golf championship.

Out of the other contenders, Matloob Ahmed (Lahore Garrison), another top national golf professional elevated his position to number four with two rounds scores of 71 and 70 and an aggregate of 141, three under par. A golfer of rich experience and golfing mastery, Matloob can always surprise his opponents with superb golfing play.

The young master from Rawalpindi, Minhaj Maqsood is placed at a two rounds score of 142 and following him at 143 is the artistic one from Peshawar, Muhammed Naeem. Other contenders are placed a little unfavorably. That includes Rehmatullah (DHA) at 145 and four competitors bunched together at 146. They are M. Naseer (DRG), M. Zubair (Karachi Golf Club), Kashif Masih (Lahore Garrison) and Muhammed Munir (Rawalpindi). All leading players were extremely satisfied with the golf course conditions at the Defence Raya Golf Course and complimented the efforts of the Club Secretary Brig Ayaz Masood Khan and Muhammed Haroon Shafiq.

## Competitions of SBP-THP U16 Hockey, Matt Wrestling C'ship held

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The exciting competitions of SBP Talent Hunt Programme U-16 Inter-Division Hockey and Matt Wrestling Championship were witnessed on the second day at Mini National Hockey Stadium and Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Friday.

It is worth-mentioning that the 6-day Under-16 Inter-Division Hockey and Matt Wrestling Championship is being organized as part of Sports Board Punjab's 2-year Annual Sports Calendar till October 31, 2023.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that SBP Talent Hunt Programme U-16 Inter-Division Hockey and Matt Wrestling Championship is a 'golden opportunity for young boys and girls to exhibit their talent in their respective games. "This event is being conducted to trace fresh talent at grassroots level from across the province."

The first girls' hockey match was played between Sahiwal and DG Khan Division in which DG Khan emerged victorious by 4-2 on penalty shootouts. Amla Bibi of Sahiwal and Mahnoor Maryam of DG Khan struck one goal each in the regular time.

The second girls' hockey match was played between Gujranwala and Sargodha division teams. Sargodha division girls thrashed Gujranwala by 6-0 due to excellent performance of Mubashra Khan, who netted four beautiful field goals. Saira Asghar also contributed two goals with a nice field effort in her team's huge victory.

On boys' side, the first hockey match was played between Rawalpindi and Sargodha divisions. M Azam of Rawalpindi struck the only goal of the match on penalty corner and won the tense encounter by a thin margin of 1-0.

Badminton

## Foundation School teams win Students Olympic Tournament

Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Foundation School teams won the Students Olympic Tournament in Hyderabad, Badminton under Thirteen and Seventeen competition. Hyderabad Students Olympic Association organized sports competitions among students, 13 sports including cricket, football, netball, table tennis and badminton were organized, in which students participated fully.



While the Badminton Girls Tournament was held at Hyderabad Club, in the under-thirteen team event, the foundation school team defeated the public school team by 8 points. In the under-thirteen singles, Manahil defeated Samia.

While in the under-seventeen team event, the Foundation School Defense team defeated Hayat HM Campus by scoring 18 points. Hayat HM Campus scored 16 points and Khadija won in under seventeen singles, while Nirmala's Hyderabad team won in open team event. Vice President of Hyderabad Badminton Association Girls and Organizer of Badminton Girls Tournament Nirmala Nihal Sharma said to the media that sports are essential for a healthy society, parents should make children participate in sports.

Nirmala Nihal Sharma said that the game of badminton is dead, I want to revive it, my effort is to bring the badminton team of Hyderabad to the top position in the whole of Sindh, because when we used to play, the badminton team of Hyderabad was very active, Nirmala Nihal said that children do not come to badminton because it is an expensive sport, while there is no support from the sports department of the government, these tournaments are held at the private level, so the government is requested to contribute to support sports activities.

Pink Tournament

## Lahore Smart City qualify for main final of LSC Polo

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Lahore Smart City qualified for the main final while FG Polo team earned a place in the subsidiary final of the Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink Tournament 2023 being played here at the Lahore Polo Club. In a thrilling contest, Lahore Smart City clinched their main final berth with a last-minute 4-3½ victory over Remington Pharma. Agha Musa Ali Khan was the star player for Lahore Smart City, showcasing his skills with four spectacular goals. Hamza Mawaz Khan, representing Remington Pharma with a half-goal handicap advantage, displayed an impressive performance by scoring three goals.



The second match of the day saw Rijas Polo defeating Platinum Homes with a score of 5-4½. Ahmed Bilal Riaz contributed significantly with three goals for Rijas Polo, while Maj Adil Sultan Rao added two goals to their tally. On the other side, Malik Atif Yar Tiwana of Platinum Homes, with a one and a half goal handicap, displayed a strong performance by scoring three goals.

In the third match, Guard Group dominated Team Barry's with an impressive 11-2½ victory. Taimur Ali Malik and Chaudhry Hayat Mehmood led the way for Guard Group, each scoring five goals, while Dominique Theones contributed one goal. Ahmad Nawaz Tiwana scored both of Team Barry's goals.

The path to the finals began with two round-robin matches, ultimately granting FG Polo a spot in the subsidiary finals. FG Polo defeated Diamond Paints 3½-2, and Diamond Paints managed to beat ZS Polo 5-4½. In the final round-robin match, ZS Polo secured a 4½-4 draw against FG Polo, but FG Polo advanced to the subsidiary finals due to a better goal average.

A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

## Zone-VII Whites, Zone-VI Whites reach semis

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites and Zone-VI Whites moved in to Semi Finals after beating Zone-I Whites and Zone-III Whites in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

The highlights of the matches deadly bowling by Muhammad Azaan Ali 5/15, Fawad Akbar 5/22 and Danish Khan 5/37 in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at various cricket grounds.

Scores in brief: Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-I Whites by 5 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-VII Whites 148 allout in 38.8 overs. Maaz Khan 45 4x4, Hassan 36, Noor Zaman 26. Danish Khan (mf) 5/37, Muhammad Affan Abbasi (ob) 2/24.

## 'Traitor' Lukaku awaits hostile reception

MILAN: Romelu Lukaku is set for possibly the most hostile reception of his career when he returns to the San Siro to face Serie A leaders Inter Milan on a bumper Sunday in which champions Napoli host AC Milan.

Now at on loan at Roma from Chelsea, Lukaku will be blasted by 50,000 whistles distributed by Inter's hardcore fans who will lead an assault on the ears of a former hero they now consider a traitor.

Lukaku is guilty in the fans' eyes of abandoning Inter not once, but twice, and it was the manner of his second exit in the summer which definitively turned supporters against him.

The Belgium striker was once an idol, winning Serie A in 2021 before being sold to Chelsea that summer for well over 100 million



euros, as a club weighed down by debts tried desperately to get their accounts in order.

It was Inter who extracted him from Chelsea on loan last year after a dreadful season in the Premier League, his time at the Blues over even if they are still technically his club.

Despite a difficult return to Italy dogged by injuries, in which he largely played second fiddle to

Edin Dzeko, Inter then vowed to try and sign him permanently, offloading Andre Onana for 55 million euros in an attempt to raise funds.

However just as Inter were closing in on a deal with Chelsea, Lukaku vanished, not answering calls and even making noises towards Milan and Juventus, Inter fans' fiercest rivals.

It was that manoeuvre which

definitively soured relations between Lukaku and both fans and club — whose hierarchy were livid — with even Lautaro Martinez publicly saying that he was "hurt" by his former striker partner's behaviour.

"After all we've been through over the years, all the things we've experienced, I was disappointed," he said at the time.

Martinez has firmly put the affair behind him however, the Argentina striker netting 12 goals in as many matches in all competitions in a blistering start to the season alongside new attacking ally Marcus Thuram.

Lukaku too is having a positive start to life in Rome after being welcomed to the capital by thousands of fans in August and being reunited with his former coach at

Manchester United, Jose Mourinho.

Seven goals in nine appearances between Serie A and the Europa League have been a bright spot for Roma, who are seventh and only three points off the Champions League spots despite a tricky opening few months which have featured a raft of injuries.

Roma will be missing talisman Paulo Dybala and midfielders Lorenzo Pellegrini and Renato Sanches for the trip north, while Mourinho is also suspended after being sent off at the end of Sunday's last-gasp 1-0 win over Monza. Mourinho could not resist goading Inter fans on Wednesday, telling reporters that "I didn't know he was so important to them". AFP