



Pakistan on track with its IMF program, says Finance Minister

Caretaker Minister for Finance Shamshad Akhtar says that Pakistan is on track with its International Monetary Fund (IMF) program. Talking to the media in Karachi, she said the economic situation of the country is improving rapidly due to prudent economic policies. (Details on Page 8)

DAYS REMAINING
2

Only 2 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 2 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

Israeli bombardments

GAZA: Smoke billows following an Israeli air strike on Gaza City



Hamas vows 'full force' after Israel steps up Gaza ground operations

Reuters

GAZA: Hamas said on Saturday it is ready to confront Israeli attacks with "full force" after Israel's military widened its air and ground attacks on the Palestinian enclave.

The Palestinian group that rules Gaza had said its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in areas near the border with Israel after Israel reported intensified attacks in Gaza.

By early Saturday morning, a cutoff in internet and phone services - which telecoms firms and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said was a result of Israeli bombardments - had been continuing for more than 10 hours.

"In addition to the attacks carried out in the last few days, ground forces are expanding their operations tonight," Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said at a televised news briefing on Friday evening, raising the question whether a long-anticipated ground invasion of Gaza might be starting.

Site of an Israeli air strike on a house in Khan Younis

He said Israel's air force was conducting extensive strikes on tunnels dug by Hamas and on other infrastructure.

The armed wing of Hamas said late on Friday its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in Gaza's northeastern town of Beit Hanoun and in the central area of Al-Bureij.

"The Al-Qassam brigades and all the Palestinian resistance forces are completely ready to confront (Israel's) aggression with full force and frustrate its incursions," Hamas said in a statement early on Saturday.

Heavy bombardment seen on Israel-Gaza border at night "Netanyahu and his defeated army will not be able to achieve any military victory," referring to the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli ground forces had massed outside Gaza, where Israel has been conducting an intense campaign of aerial bombardment since an Oct. 7 attack by hundreds of Hamas gunmen on Israeli communities near the strip. Israel says 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed and more than 200 taken hostage, some of them foreign nationals or with dual Israeli nationality.

Since then, Palestinian health authorities say, Israeli bombing has killed more than 7,000 Palestinians.

Caretaker gov't, COAS trying to bring investment under joint-ventures to improve economy: President

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday said that the incumbent caretaker federal government and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir were trying to bring foreign investment under joint-ventures to improve the economy of the country.

He said that the decision-making played a vital role in putting the country on the path to economic stability.

While addressing the 15th Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP)'s Recognition Ceremony, also attended by the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, at a local hotel here, the President said that the business community could make Pakistan economically strong. Caretaker gov't, COAS trying to bring investment under joint-ventures to improve economy: President

Alvi said that Pakistan had tremendous potential, which



could be tapped by taking responsibility.

He congratulated REAP for its journey from the exports of \$300 million to \$3 billion.

The President while suggesting REAP members said that they could move to joint-ventures and focus on value-added rice items.

He said that 'Briyani Festival' was a good idea and it was a value addition. He also invited REAP to organize the festival in the President House.

Alvi said that the Rice research institutions should be revived to further grab the international market.

He on the demand of REAP, said that market-oriented institutions should be jointly established by the government and REAP.

The President said that woman must be employed in companies to empower them and play their role in the economy of the country.

He said we had to impart education to our children to cope

with the challenges being faced by the country.

On the occasion, he also condemned brutality in Gaza.

Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, addressing the ceremony, said that Rice was the second-best export of the country. He deplored that it had not been recognized as an industry so far.

He said that the COAS was fighting economic terrorism along with the board terrorism. He

said that the value of dollar had come down.

Tessori said that law and order situation in the country would improve as the action against illegal immigrants had started in the country.

Speaking on Palestinians, he said that the world should raise its voice for the Palestinians and against Israeli brutality.

REAP Chairman Chela Ram Kewlani said that REAP was the backbone of the country's economy.

He said that the rice of Pakistan had become a brand at international level. Kewlani said that the country had 9-million-ton crop of rice. The rice were being exported to Europe, Middle East, Russia and rest of the world.

He said that Pakistani rice was famous around the world due to its quality.

Later, the President and Sindh Governor distributed awards and trophies among the best exporters of rice.

Sanjrani visits S. M. Zafar's residence to condole his demise

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday visited the residence of Senator Ali Zafar on Saturday to condole the demise of his father and renowned lawyer, S. M. Zafar, who passed away on October 19 this year.

The Senate Chairman prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved family. Senator Abdul Qadir also accompanied the Senate Chairman.

Sanjrani paid tribute to the services and contributions of the deceased, saying that Zafar was an extraordinary jurist and a very sophisticated person.

UN General Assembly calls for 'humanitarian truce' in Gaza

News Desk

UNITED NATION: The UN General Assembly on Friday called by a large majority for an "immediate humanitarian truce" in Gaza, on the 21st day of the Israel-Hamas conflict as the Israeli army announced it was extending its ground operation into the shattered territory.

The non-binding resolution, criticized by Israel and the United States for failing to mention Hamas, received 120 votes in favor, 14 against and 45 abstentions from UN members.

Israel angrily dismissed the measure, and said the country would use "every means at our disposal" in confronting Hamas.

"Today is a day that will go down as infamy. We have all witnessed that the UN no longer holds even one ounce of legitimacy or relevance," Israeli ambassador Gilad Erdan said, telling the assembly: "Shame on you."

"Israel will continue to defend



itself. We will defend our future, our very existence by ridding the world of Hamas's evil so that it can never threaten anyone else again," he said.

Hamas meanwhile welcomed the call for a break in the conflict.

"We demand its immediate application to allow the entry of fuel and humanitarian aid for civilians," said a Hamas statement.

The rival Palestinian Authority's foreign ministry said that as Israel's campaign "reaches a new peak of brutality," there was "a solid international position rejecting Israel's unhinged aggression."

The text proposed by Jordan in the name of 22 Arab countries called for

"an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities."

An earlier version called for an "immediate ceasefire."

Jordan's Ambassador Mahmoud Hmoud, just before the vote, stressed that: "It is not merely our responsibility, but a profound moral obligation to champion the cause of peace."

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas gunmen stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping over 220 others, according to Israeli officials.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, in an update on Friday, said the Israeli strikes had now killed 7,326 people, mainly civilians and many of them children.

The resolution co-sponsored by nearly 50 other countries centered largely on the dire humanitarian situation in sealed-off Gaza as Israel presses on with its bombardment.

No power on earth can crush Kashmiris struggle for freedom: Solangi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that no power on earth could crush the Kashmiris freedom movement, who were struggling for the right to self-determination promised by none other than the United Nations in its several resolutions. Addressing the participants of a rally organized here marking October 27, the black day to protest against Indian illegal occupation of the then princely state in 1947.

Two soldiers embrace martyrdom, one terrorist killed in KP

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two separate terrorist incidents occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wherein two soldiers embraced martyrdom, while one terrorist was killed and two others were arrested. An intelligence-based operation was conducted in the general area of Tirah, Khyber District and after intense exchange of fire, one terrorist was sent to hell, while two terrorists got injured and were apprehended by security forces, according to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) issued here.

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from these terrorists, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces

and target killing of innocent civilians in the area," the ISPR press release said. The ISPR said that in another incident, an Improvised Explosive Device exploded in the general area of Sarveikai, South Waziristan District and resulted into two brave soldiers; Sepoy Banaras Khan (age: 23 years, resident of District Orakzai) and Sepoy Abdul Karim (age: 23 years, resident of District Khyber), embraced Shahadat. "Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate the terrorists present in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the press release added.

Solidarity with Palestinians

KARACHI: Members of civil society participate in a protest to show solidarity with Palestinians and chanting slogans against Israel's brutalities outside the Karachi Press Club.



Photo: Spokesman

UNGA: Pakistan calls for immediate end to war, killings in Gaza

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan on Friday reiterated in the UN General Assembly its strong condemnation of the collective punishment of Gaza's entire Palestinian population by Israeli Occupation forces, saying it amounts to "war crimes and crimes against humanity" as well as a "veritable genocide."

"Indeed, what we are witnessing on our television screens what the Palestinian people are enduring, may amount to a veritable genocide," Ambassador Munir Akram told the 193-member Assembly's emergency session on the Israel-Palestine conflict following the failure of the Security Council to take any action.

"We are witnessing a human tragedy of epic proportions unfold in front of our eyes," the Pakistani envoy told delegates in the Assembly's iconic hall.

Israel's campaign of bombardment and air strikes, he said, has now continued for 20 days, with seven thousand



helpless Palestinians – half of them children – killed and 17,000 wounded.

Entire families and neighbourhoods have been wiped out, Ambassador Akram said, adding the essential lifelines of Palestinian people – water, food, fuel – have been cut off. Over a million have been internally displaced. And, even those displaced, cannot hide from Israeli bombs, with forty percent of Gaza city destroyed.

The Pakistani envoy spoke ahead of the vote on a resolution submitted by Jordan on behalf of the 40 Arab and Islamic countries, includ-

ing Pakistan. The resolution, which among other elements, calls for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce", all parties comply with international law, and continuous and unhindered aid into the Gaza Strip.

Key issues in the draft include calls for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce", as well as "demands" that all parties comply with international humanitarian law and for "continuous, sufficient and unhindered" provision of essential supplies and services into the Gaza Strip, the state

agency reported.

It also calls "immediate and unconditional release" of all civilians held captive as well as demanding their safety, well-being and humane treatment in compliance with international law.

An amendment has been proposed by Canada that "unequivocally rejects and condemns the attacks by Hamas" in Israel starting 7 October and the taking of hostages.

Ambassador Akram urged the 193-member to vote for "our resolution" and to reject the "one-sided" Canadian amendment.

Noting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' efforts since the outbreak of conflict and his warning about the risk of its spreading, He said, "We are repelled by the crude and disrespectful Israeli response to the Secretary-General's circumspect and valid views," referring to Israeli diplomats attacks on the UN chief.

"The General Assembly should collectively reject these

insulting remarks and reaffirm our full confidence in the Secretary-General," Ambassador Akram added.

"I am sure all of us are also appalled at the vicious and callous way that the Palestinians are being slaughtered – by cowardly aerial bombardment and long-range artillery – they are being crucified not by a militant organization but by the government, which claims to be democratic.

"And, we must be also appalled by those who, by blocking the call for a ceasefire in the Security Council, have enabled the continuation of the Israeli slaughter of innocents," he added.

In the context of this war, he said, consideration should also be given to some form of an accountability mechanism. "The crimes being committed, which cannot go unpunished. We have several precedents to choose from."

"Finally," Ambassador Akram said, "for the future, we need to consider the ways to prevent a recurrence of this slaughter."

Drug dealer held with 1200g hashish, four absconders appear before police

News Desk

TANK: The crackdown against the menace of drugs was continued successfully in Tank as the district police arrested another drug dealer, recover-

ing 1200 grams of hashish within the limits of the city police station.

According to a police spokesman, the city police team led by SHO Mehtab Khan, taking action on a tip-off, arrested an accused

drug dealer named Wajid Ali, son of Usman Ghani, and recovered 1200 grams of hashish from his possession. A case has also been registered against him.

Meanwhile, three absconders appeared before

the city police after getting bail orders from the court and were wanted by police in different cases.

The absconders included Shabbir alias Takar, son of Bashir Ahmad; Amjad, son of Din Muhammad; and

Shehryar, son of Alamgir.

Similarly, another absconder, namely Kameen Shah, son of Sher Zaman, also appeared before the Malazai Police Station after getting bail orders from the court.

Pak Embassy organizes photo exhibition on Kashmir Black Day



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Embassy in Netherlands organized a pictorial exhibition to mark the Kashmir Black Day on October 27. Pak Embassy organizes photo exhibition on Kashmir Black Day

On the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador Suljok Mustansar Tarar briefed the participants about India's atrocities and human rights violations in Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Embassy posted on X on Saturday.

Protest breaks out against prolonged loadshedding in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Protests broke out against prolonged electricity load-shedding in Numaish area of Karachi.

As per details, the residents of Numaish and surrounding areas held a protest against the prolonged load-shedding.

According to police officials, the protesters were baton-charged to disperse them amid the worst traffic jam.

Earlier, K-Electric reportedly extended the duration of load shedding in the wake of an incident where KE employees were assaulted by traders in Timber Market, Karachi.

According to the details, protests broke out against prolonged load-shedding

in several areas of Karachi including Nishtar Road, Bhimpura, Timber Market, and Ranchore Line.

As per the protestor's statement, K-Electric extended the load-shedding duration, after



which the residents of Nishtar Road, Bhimpura, Timber Market, and Ranchore Line are facing load-shedding from 8 am till 7 pm.

However, K-electric stated that following a periodic assessment of the network, 71 percent of Karachi remains exempt from load shedding

under the schedule published by K-Electric (KE).

The schedule, which is publicly available on the company's website and KE Live app, is based on a review of KE's network of 2,000 feeders for electricity theft and non-payment of bills, which form the basis for load-shedding. The last review was conducted in July 2023.

Commenting on the review, Spokesperson KE stated, "Areas with reduced losses benefit from reductions or exemptions in load-shedding, and such areas comprise 71% of our network. The remainder is made up of areas where electricity theft and non-payment of bills impair our ability to provide uninterrupted power."

Jl, police clash in Islamabad amid protest against Israel's brutality



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Islamabad Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief along with other party workers protesting against Israel's brutality in Gaza Strip were picked up amid clashes between police and protesters at capital's Serena Chowk.

According to details, the protest had been organised by the JI whose two prominent leaders was among those detained by the police.

Jl Islamabad chief Nasrullah Randhawa, spokesperson Aamir Baloch, Kashif Chaudhry among others were picked up amid clashes between police and protesters on Serena Chowk where the law enforcers fired into the air and resorted to teargas shelling to disperse the people.

The protestors also pelted stones at the police in response to baton-charged and teargas shelling. The religious party accused the law enforcers of trying to stop the protest, organized against Israel's brutality in Gaza strip.

Jl leader Mian Aslam said that protests were being held all over the

world, including United States (US), to express solidarity with Palestine, but "we are being barred from such demonstrations".

He criticised the Islamabad administration's tactics, asserting that the Gaza March, planned for the following day in front of the US Embassy, would proceed as scheduled.

Jl chief Sirajul Haq had announced a protest outside United States (US) embassy in Islamabad against Israel's siege and relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip.

Sirajul Haq urged the people to attend the Gaza march in connection with showing solidarity with the Palestinians.

"The United States (US) is supporting Israel to subject the people of Palestine to violence. It is up to the international community to play its role to stopping the Israeli atrocities," he said, announcing a protest outside US embassy on Sunday (October 29).

Haq said his party has invited all political parties to attend the march outside US consulate in Islamabad to express solidarity with Palestinians.

Pakistan on track with its IMF program, says Finance Minister

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Finance Shamsad Akhtar says that Pakistan is on track with its International Monetary Fund (IMF) program.

Talking to the media in Karachi, she said the economic situation of the country is improving rapidly due to prudent economic policies.

The finance minister maintained that the caretaker government is taking stringent measures to revive the economy.

She said steps are also being taken to bring improvement in the industrial sector. The Finance Minister said actions were also being taken by the government against smugglers.

The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), dropped by 0.33 per cent during the week ended on October 19, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) report showed Friday.

According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) the Combined Index was at 277.11



compared to 278.04 on October 19, 2023, while the index was recorded at 213.74 a year ago, on October 27, 2022.

Out of 51 items, the average price of 14 items increased, 17 items decreased, and 20 items remained stable.

Major decrease is observed in the prices of Chicken (10.19%), Onions (4.4%), Rice IRRI-6/9 (3.84%), Bananas (3.64%), Gur (3.4%), Pulse Masoor (3.36%), Sugar (2.22%), and Mustard Oil (2.17%).

On the other hand, major increase was observed in the prices of Tomatoes (20.81%), Potatoes (3.33%), Eggs (1.63%), Salt Powdered (0.91%), Garlic (0.77%), Tea Prepared (0.67%), Bread Plain (0.56%) and Mutton (0.28%).

Tareen renews pledge for 'Naya Pakistan' in IPP's debut power show

Bureau Report

JAHANIAN: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen has expressed his commitment to fulfill the 'dream of a Naya Pakistan,' in party's maiden power show on Saturday.

Addressing the IPP's maiden power show in Jehanian, Jahangir Tareen highlighted ideals and ambitions that initially driven the now IPP leaders to join Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"Ten years ago, we came together to make Pakistan better. We devised a comprehensive plan for economic improvement as our vision was to bring about change in every sector of the country," the IPP leader said. "I and my colleagues had put in relentless effort to bring about change for ten years," he said. However, he regretted, these dreams remained unfulfilled.

Without naming PTI chief Imran Khan, Tareen said when came into power, the original team was gradually replaced "one by one", and individuals who were unaware of their vision took the reins.

"Our dream of Naya Pakistan remained unrealised," he said, raising concerns that PTI had fallen into the hands of individuals who lacked a genuine concern for Paki-

stan and its well-being.

Jahangir Tareen further said that they once again came together – forming IPP – to complete the unfinished mission they had set out on a decade ago.

The IPP patron-in-chief maintained that they were not defeated and their goal remained to transform Pakistan into a better state. He stressed that at this point, the focus should be on the people and the country, rather than personalities.

He also expressed concern over the emigration of young people in search of a better future, vowing to provide employment opportunities and ensure a brighter outlook for the youth, making Pakistan an attractive place to stay.

Earlier, IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan addressed the maiden power show and vowed a poor-friendly manifesto for the people of Pakistan.

"If the IPP comes into power, it will provide up to 300 units of free electricity. Those who are having their bikes will be given petrol at half the original price," Aleem Khan announced.

The party's president claimed that the labourers' wage will be fixed at Rs 50,000. Meanwhile, he vowed to provide free electricity to the farmers for up to 12.5 acres.

Kashmiri to protest in world capitals on Black Day over Indian occupation of the region

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Black Day, Kashmiri diaspora community organized massive protest demonstrations all across the world including New York, London, Brussels, Geneva, Paris and other influential world capitals to seek world attention towards the early and amicable settlement of the long running dispute.

Pertinently, the call for holding public rallies was given by president Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry.

Addressing the protesters, the speakers, while stressing the need for early resolution of the lingering dispute said that India's prolonged military occupation poses a serious existential threat to the people of Kashmir. Calling India as a terrorist state, the



speakers said that India under Modi's authoritarian rule was fast emerging as a terrorist state extremist.

Referring to the killing of a Sikh leader by Indian agents in Canada

and involvement of its navy officials spying for Israel in Qatar, they said these incidents amply demonstrate India's dodgy and destructive role in world affairs.

Highlighting the RSS influenced regime's anti-Kashmir agenda and its hostile policies towards minorities, they said that on the one hand, India was killing innocent Kashmiris in the IoK, while on the other it had ruthlessly persecuted religious minorities including Muslims, Sikhs and Dalits in India.

Lauding the Kashmiris' undying spirit and their passion for freedom, they said that now India should realize the fact that it cannot destroy the freedom spirit of the Kashmiri people with its military might.

Terming Kashmir as the oldest unresolved dispute pending on the UN agenda, the speakers said that it was high time that the world community should play its due role to help resolve the long-drawn conflict peacefully in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.



MULTAN: Deputy Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami and PP 215 candidate Mian Asif Ikhwan is addressing a protest press conference on the non-construction of Nawabpur Road and Huzoori Bagh Road Multan

10 terrorists of banned organization arrested: CTD Spokesman

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 10 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 117 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 117 suspected persons were interrogated and 10 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Syed Agha, Muhammad Nouman, Ataur Rehman, Muhammad Osama, Siddique, Shah Nawaz, Muhammad Sufyan Serwer, Muhammad Safdar, Qasim Khan and Abdul Haq, he said and added that they belong to the banned organizations Daesh, Thereek-e-Talban Pakistan, Lashkr-e-Jhangvi, Alqaida and 313 Bragaid. He said that the arrest of these terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Rahim Yar Khan, Sergodha and Bahawalpur. He said that 2 IED's Bomb, one Hand Granade, 3 Detonators, 11 feet of safety fuse wire, 4 banned books, 95 Pamphlets, 114 stickers, one receipt book and 26225 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered 8 cases against the terrorists and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

He said that 359 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 29991 persons were checked, 225 suspects were arrested, 114 FIRs were registered and 46 recoveries were made during these operations

Dacoits storm police post in Khairpur; cop martyred in ensuing fight

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: The lawlessness in district Khairpur is on the rise as dacoits storm a police post established in the limits of the economic zone police station and martyred one police official and injured two others.

According to details, some armed dacoits attacked a police post. They opened fire at the post. As a result, a policeman, Khadim Jamro, was martyred while another police official and a passerby were injured by the intense firing.

The body of the slain cop and the injured were shifted to the Civil Hospital.

Heavy exchange of fire between the police and bandits was going on till the filing of this report.

Extra police force has been called from across the district. During the previous month, there has been an increase in incidents of robbery and murder in the district.

Ten days ago, a police officer was also martyred in Kunbh by the firing of dacoits.

14 doctors, sanitary staff found absent in Hassanabdul hospital

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The tehsil headquarters hospital Hassanabdul was found in complete mess due to poor hygienic conditions while twenty percent staff among them 14 doctors were found absent during surprise visit conducted by assistant commissioner.

As the visit of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was expected in the district, al the provincial government departments were on red alert, but the situation at tehsil headquarters hospital Hassanabdul present different picture when assistant commissioner Dr Sana Ramchand paid surprise visit to the hospital.

"Almost 20 percent staff including as many as 14 doctors were found absent from duty while cleanliness situation was disappointing aimed expectation of VVIP visit", said Dr Sana while talking to newsmen after her visit on Saturday. She further added that 14 doctors as well as two sanitary workers as well as sanitary supervisor was also found absent during the surprise check. She said that indoor patients and patients at emergency also made complaint of serve paucity of medicines at hospital and all the poor state of affairs of the hospital was communicated to district administration and health authorities for further departmental action. It may be recalled here that the medical officer posted at basic health unit (BHU) Kudda in Hassanabdul town was found absent from duty on October 16 this year while on September, 24, 2022, a team of local administration during a surprise visit found the basic health unit (BHU) Kot Sondaki in Hassanabdul closed, doors were locked and all the staff was absent from duty during official working hours.

DRAP recalls substandard cough syrup from market

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Saturday reportedly recalled a batch of cough syrup as it has been revealed that it lacks enough amount of elements to cure the patient.

The regulatory authority has issued a product recall alert for a total of 1068 batches of substandard chemoderal syrup, which is meant for sold to the general public, doctors, and chemists.

According to the DRAP alert, the oral cough remedy consists of three elements and is intended for treating colds and allergies. However, the syrup lacks the required amount of sodium citrate, which could lead to inadequate action by the medicine.

DRAP in its alert warned the consumers that the deficient chemoderal syrup could potentially result in stomach discomfort and disrupted sleep patterns.

The oral cough remedy is manufactured by Aleem Pharmaceuticals, which is located in Hyderabad. Meanwhile, the substandard batches were identified by the Central Drug Laboratory in Karachi.

DRAP strictly instructed the relevant authorities to cease the affected batches and immediately withdraw the already distributed batch in the market, while the chemists were directed to return the cough syrup to the pharmaceutical company.

Protest

HYDERABAD: Members of Primary Teachers Association hold a protest rally against deduction in Pension of Government servants, in City.



Photo: Online

Traders of Nawabpur and Hazoori Bagh Road are being killed economically: Mian Asif

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Economic killing of traders of Nawabpur Road and Huzoori Bagh Road and playing with the lives of citizens should be stopped. Accidents are happening every day. Caretaker Chief Minister Multan is also a part of Punjab. What is the justice to treat Multan as a stepmother? All the families and traders living here are worried about the non-construction of Nawabpur Road

and Huzuri Bagh Road. Businessmen and citizens are now forced to deprive their children of education. Due to closure of business, traders have to burn the hearth of their houses or bear the education expenses of children.

He further said that caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi is inaugurating and visiting projects in Lahore in the morning and evening while the people of Multan are being treat-

ed like a stepmother. The two main roads of the city, Nawabpur Road and Huzuri Bagh Road, have been in ruins for a long time. The caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab is running in the morning and evening for a photo session, but no work is being done.

Zafar Ali Khan, Leader of Anjuman Tajran Sheikh Nadeem, Manzoor Elahi, Nazeem PP 215 Naveed Tareen and others were also present on this occasion.

Mian Asif Ikhwan further said that the administration should not consider the peaceful behavior of the people as a weakness. Slowness in road construction will no longer be tolerated. He further said that people are worried and Jamaat-e-Islami is representing them. We will not remain silent until the construction of this road. Our struggle is a peaceful struggle, but our peaceful struggle should not be considered weakness.

Allama Iftikhar Naqvi strongly condemns Israeli air strikes on Palestinian, Kashmiris

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Prominent religious scholar and former member Islamic ideology council Allama Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi while sharing his views on the prevailing gruesome situation of Palestinian and Kashmiri people has strongly denounced the Israeli air strikes over the more than 7800 martyres including innocent children, women, hospitalized near to death patients of Ghaza, Labenan Palestine genocided by the Israeli forces. Whereas the entire europeon lobby being claimant of human rights protectors are silent leaving the Israeli forces a license to kill. Unfortunately the other Islamic world have also kept mum over the brutalities and barbarian strikes of Israeli due to their vested interests. Even, 21 working journalists during their war coverage were also killed to conceal the real facts from the world. Allama Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi during his special talks with the media here in Attock on Saturday has also said that Quaid Mohammad Ali Jinnah had also opposed the Israeli Jewish who come to occupy the uroshalam Masjid Alquod in 1937. Highlighting the history of Indian occupied jumo Kashmir, he said that India forcibly occupied the Kashmir on October 27, 1947 who are anxiously waiting to become the integral part of Pakistan despite facing atrocities of Indian forces since last 76 years. Allama Iftikhar Naqvi further urged upon the Muslim world to practical join hands with the Palestinian and Kashmiri people failing which the war crime of Israeli forces would engulf the entire world. He expressed his deep concerns over the luke warm and dual standard of UNO Islamic council and human rightists before the pressure of the American led European lobby behind the Israel.

Political leaders demanded to expedited bifurcation process & shift all line depts to SWL

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's previous provincial government cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa formally approved the division of South Waziristan into two districts on 12 April 2022.

one district was named Upper Waziristan while the other district was named Lower Waziristan, but despite the official notification issued on September 13, 2022 the district of Lower South Waziristan is still deprived of its fruits.

Due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, public problems started increasing, the bifurcation process should be expedited, demand of ANP

leader Noorzaman Wazir and tribal elders.

ANP senior leader Ayaz Wazir says that South Waziristan has been divided into two districts, Upper and Lower Waziristan, but unfortunately the line departments offices of Lower South Waziristan district are still in Tank district.

He said that until the offices of all the departments of Lower South Waziristan district are shifted to Wana and the people are not made easily accessible to these offices, then it is of no use.

Informed sources say that the heads of some departments have been appointed in Lower South Waziristan, but on the one hand, they cannot

work due to lack of offices and on the other hand, the staff of the District Account Office are sitting 160 km away in Tank district due to which the official work of Lower South Waziristan district has come to a complete standstill.

In this regarding Pakistan people party local president Aman Ullah Wazir said that new problems are arising for the common people day by day due to which the problems of the people are increasing enormously.

He said that the Deputy Commissioner of Lower South Waziristan has been appointed, but he does not have access to development funds and other resources, as is the case with other depart-

ments.

Political leaders have strongly demanded the Caretaker Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Anwar Ulhaq Kakar, from the provincial government and top military officials.

It should be noted that the credit for dividing South Waziristan into two districts goes to PTT's former MPA Naseer Ullah Wazir and his father, former customs officer Haji Nasr Ullah Wazir.

Before the election, Naseer Ullah Wazir had promised the Wazir Tribe in his constituency PK 114 that I will make every possible effort to give you a separate district. Ultimately, they succeeded in establishing a separate district.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:59 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:41 pm
Maghrib	5:20 pm
Isha	6:44 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

NUST seeks donations for Gaza's emergency relief efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Science and Technology (NUST), maintaining its previous tradition of carrying out relief efforts for those in distress, has started collecting donations for Gaza's emergency relief efforts.

The Student Affairs Directorate of the university is actively engaged in seeking donations for Gaza's emergency relief efforts.

The division has asked the citizens to donate urgently needed items, including cereals, powdered milk, infant formulas, coffee mixture, biscuits, chocolates, cooked rice, cooked chicken or meat, cooked vegetables, fruits and water purification tablets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, hand sanitizers, moisturizers, a box of bandages, shampoos, sanitary napkins, pampers for children (different sizes), washing soap or powder, medicines related to surgery, trauma, orthopaedic, infection, wounds, and general medicine.

The university has urged the public to join its efforts to support this noble cause by extending donations and helping bring relief to those in need. The generous contributions of people can make a significant difference, it stated.

KSrelief embarks winter relief project in flood-affected regions of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has initiated a crucial project to provide winter relief to flood-affected and deserving individuals living in the coldest regions in Pakistan. King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center a Saudi-based relief organization dedicated to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need across the globe said a news release.

Focusing on alleviating suffering and improving the living conditions of those affected by crises, KSrelief conducted various relief and rehabilitation projects, making a meaningful impact on millions during times of adversity. KSrelief's winter relief project extends its reach to 12 districts in Pakistan, specifically targeting areas where communities are most vulnerable. The designated districts encompass Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral, Upper Dir, Upper SWAT, and Upper Kohistan in the KP Province;



Kalat, Sohrab, Killa Saifullah, and Ziarat in Baluchistan; as well as Astor, Ghizer, and Gupis Yasin in Gilgit Baltistan. This winter relief package included 50,000 high-quality Polyester Quilts and 25,000 winter kits, comprising of warm shawls for men and women, as well as cozy clothing for children and adults. The distribution of King Salman's relief package will be carried out transparently and efficiently, with the collaboration of the provincial government, ultimately benefiting more than 175,000 individuals across the 12 districts.

Armed Forces Day

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, of Pakistan Air Force, the Chargé d'Affaires of Romania Eduard PREDA and The Defence Attache Col Cristian RADUCU and others cutting cake to celebrate the Armed Forces Day of Romania at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Wasi Shah, Highlights the Potential of Pakistani Cuisine in Tourism Promotion

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan - State Minister for Tourism, Wasi Shah, delivered a compelling address at the International Chef Day celebration organized by the Chef Association of Pakistan. The esteemed Minister emphasized the significant role that Pakistani cuisine can play in the promotion of tourism, provided it is marketed effectively.

Wasi Shah expressed his delight in witnessing the increasing participation of women in the food sector, noting the potential for job creation and economic empowerment. State Minister for Tourism, Wasi Shah further said, he believes that alongside Pakistan's stunning natural landscapes, its high-quality cuisine can serve as a major attraction for both domestic and international tourists.



raising the expertise of Pakistani chefs, the Minister highlighted their presence in leading hotels and restaurants worldwide, underscoring their contribution to the country's pride. He expressed a personal interest in all sectors of the tourism industry, believing that their development is integral to the nation's progress.

Participants at the event commended Minister Wasi Shah's commitment to every facet of the tourism sector, anticipating a bright future for tourism in Pakistan if such dedication continues.

At the end of the event, State Minister Wasi Shah also presented prizes to the best chefs, reinforcing the government's appreciation for their contribution to the culinary landscape and tourism industry.

13th Fire Safety & Security Convention to Promote Awareness and Recognize Excellence

City Desk

KARACHI: The National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH), in collaboration with the Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan (FPIP), is set to host the 13th Fire Safety & Security Convention on November 2, 2023. The event aims to raise awareness about fire safety and security and recognize companies for their outstanding contributions in this field.

The convention will be graced by the presence of distinguished guests, with Sindh Minister for Local Government, Mubeen Jumani, and Industries & Revenue Minister, Yunus Dagha, serving as the chief guests for the occasion.

Engr. Nadeem Ashraf, the project head of the event, shared the primary objectives of the convention with the media. The event's core mission is to promote fire safety and security awareness among various stakeholders, including industries, the corporate sector, builders, owners of commercial buildings, NGOs, and fire safety and security professionals.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the presentation of awards to 50 deserving companies. These awards are being presented based on a stringent evaluation criterion developed by professionals. The objective of the Fire Safety Awards is to acknowledge companies that have shown exceptional dedication to fire safety, investing in training, promoting awareness, and utilizing modern technology to prevent fire accidents and save lives during such incidents.

Prominent experts and professionals from various industries will address the convention, including Dr. Imran Taj, President of the Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan (FPIP), Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, President of the National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Ms. Zulekha Soorma, HSE Lead Auditor, Mr. Saeed Jadoon, Fire Expert, Mr. Naeem Yusuf, Disaster Management Expert, Mr. Anas Hammad, HSE Head at EBM, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, Quality and Facility Management and Fire Expert, and Mr. Salman Rasheed, Fire Safety Expert at Hub Power Company, among others.

The 13th Fire Safety & Security Convention promises to be a significant event in Karachi, fostering a culture of safety and security while honoring those who have made significant contributions to these critical fields.

Zafar assumed charge of DG Rahmatul lil Aalameen authority

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zafar Mahmood Malik, has assumed the charge as Director General, Rahmatul lil Aalameen and Khatamun Nabiyin Authority, NRKNA, Government of Pakistan w.e.f October 18, 2023. In this regard, formal orders have been issued. According to official orders, the officer shall be the Principal Accounting officer and Secretary of NRKNA, as well. According to the Act of Parliament, under which, the NRKNA stands established, a man of integrity and Noble Fame having contribution in administrative matters with utmost perfection is eligible for posting as DG cum Principal Accounting officer and Secretary NRKNA. The former Superordinate officers of Mr. Zafar gave their opinion that he is a very fair, sincere Officer and very gentle person, who undoubtedly, a brilliant officer on the executive side. Religiously, very sound man with firm faith as a Muslim. He is basically a Faqeer Munish person, always found ready to help the needy people, without personal liking disliking. Officers of such nature are rare, they added. The contribution of the officer towards public services has always been ranked at top with utmost perfection. The posting of the officer is a worthwhile and appreciable decision of the Federal Government. The civil society, as well as, the people of native town of the officer too recognised him as a very gentle person, who is also found lovely to elders of his locality with a respectful reputation. His former Superordinate officers, colleagues, friends and tribal personalities are hoping that Mr Malik will maintain his worth as per usual and serve the NRKNA, as a True Servant of Holy Prophet PBUH. This is an honour for all of them in the area, region and national level to have a person of gentle reput among them, they admitted. All have prayed for the officer for his success in career, life as well as, in serving the Holy cause of National Rahmatul lil Aalameen and Khatamun Nabiyin Authority, NRKNA, with full devotion and zeal.



PTI chief seeks permission for weekly contacts with sons

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has moved the special court hearing the cipher case, seeking permission to have telephonic conversations weekly with his sons from Adiala Jail.

According to details, the PTI chief through advocate Shiraz Ahmed Ranjha filed an application in the special court, seeking permission to engage in weekly conversations with his sons - Sulaiman Isa Khan and Qasim Khan.

In the petition, Imran Khan mentioned his WhatsApp conversation with his sons on October 21, arranged by a jail superintendent complying with the court's initial order.

However, owing to Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain's unavailability, no action has yet been taken on Imran's plea.

The conversation, held via WhatsApp, lasted for 30 minutes and was arranged by the jail superintendent.

Khan's lawyer noted that while Imran's sons, residing in the United Kingdom (UK), became emotional during the interaction, their father remained composed and reassuring.

'Future UN Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes is doomed to success'

Ernest Chernukhin

The objective transition of humankind to the virtual environment is accompanied by a breakdown of many existing stereotypes about the functioning of the mechanisms of interaction between states, society and business. This, in turn, requires adjustment and creation of new contours for ensuring the security of states.

Paradoxically, even in the current political realities, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, due to the cross-border nature of ICT crimes, has become even more relevant and in demand for most states of the world. The sessions were attended by subject matter

experts from more than 160 states and 200 non-governmental organizations representing political and law enforcement agencies, as well as academic, scientific and business communities.

Since the very establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, Russia has been and is still in favour of elaborating such a comprehensive treaty that would lay the foundations for effective and transparent international cooperation to combat this threat. The Convention to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, drafted under the auspices of the UN, should give consideration to the interests of all states without exception and be based on the principles of state sovereignty protection, equality of parties and non-interference in the

internal affairs of states. It should also provide for a broad scope and criminalization.

At the same time, the United States, the EU and their allies, at all stages of the discussions, strongly opposed the establishment of such a specialized UN body in general and the development of a convention in particular, and voted against the establishment of an ad hoc committee at the UN General Assembly. One of the formal arguments of the West countries was that "the world is not yet ready for such a convention."

The hidden informal reason for rejecting the very idea of a UN treaty was the 2001 Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, developed at the instigation of the United States, known

as the Budapest Convention, whereby Washington undermines state sovereignty and controls the Member States information space. After all, the future universal UN treaty becomes a direct competitor to the Budapest Convention and can put an end to the "chosenness" and ambitions of technologically developed states.

Giving the ICC broad powers to conduct ICT investigations and create an attribution mechanism, Washington plans to use it to deliver verdicts and assign responsibility. That is why the West is trying to bracket out extensive criminalization in the future UN treaty, assuming that all these "complex" acts, including ICT terrorism, will not be considered in the UN, but in the US-controlled ICC. The



responsibility of finding traces and providing evidence, on the other hand, will fall to American IT giants. Bypassing the mechanisms of mutual legal cooperation between states, citizens of any state suspected of committing crimes in the information space will be

"hunted". Thus, the mechanisms of international cooperation of the UN in decision-making will be substituted.

Based on this, we can conclude that there is no alternative to a future comprehensive convention under the auspices of the UN.

Russia, for its part, will continue to provide technical assistance to countries in need based on the principle of protecting State sovereignty and to debunk any manifestations of neo-colonial practices in the global information space.

The Ad Hoc Committee is to submit the final text of the convention to the UN General Assembly at its 78th session (in 2024).

Article by the Deputy Head of the Russian Delegation to the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes, head of section of DIIS of Russia's MFA, Mr. Ernest Chernukhin, "International Affairs", October 19, 2023

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 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

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

The information presented above underscores the challenges within our civilian judicial system and the relatively more efficient performance of military courts. It's crucial to bear in mind that Pakistan continues to grapple with the war against terrorism and anti-state elements. Our civil judiciary is already overwhelmed by a significant caseload, making military courts an expedient option for dealing promptly with cases involving terrorists and anti-state elements. Importantly, accused individuals have the opportunity to appeal their cases in higher civilian courts, effectively eliminating the risk of miscarriages of justice.

The nation has witnessed the destructive consequences of riots and anti-state elements, which have targeted various military and civilian installations, including the GHQ, Lahore Corps Commander House, and numerous army and civilian properties. The rest of the world has observed the terrorist attacks on military and civilian installations in Pakistan following the arrest of an individual on charges of corruption. In response, it was decided that these terrorists and anti-state elements would be tried under the Military Act and before military courts.

What the PTI done on May 9 is some-

thing that not even our enemies could do in 75 years. According to the Pakistan Army's Public Relations Department (ISPR), General Asim Muneer, the Army Chief, visited Lahore after the attack and was briefed on the events of the May 9 Black Day. ISPR reported that the Army Chief paid his respects to the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for the nation by laying flowers at the martyrs' memorial. General Asim Muneer also visited Jinnah House and a military installation.

During this visit, General Asim Muneer emphasized that legal proceedings have been initiated under the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act against those responsible for the tragic events of May 9. He stressed that the strength of the Pakistan Army lies in its people, and any attempt to create a division between the army and the people is an act against the state, which will not be tolerated under any circumstances. General Asim Muneer further noted that enemy forces and their supporters are attempting to spread chaos through false news and propaganda. However, with the support of the nation, such nefarious ambitions of the enemy will be thwarted.

The decision to address these elements through Military Courts is a commendable initiative and has been warmly welcomed by the nation. It is essential to ensure that the culprits face severe consequences so that no one ever dares to contemplate such malicious actions in the future.

It is worth noting that after the September 11 attacks, the United States established military courts for alleged perpetrators and facilitators (with no media access and non-appealable decisions) in Guantanamo Bay. The U.S. also resorted to controversial methods during its investigations, including waterboarding. This was accompanied by military actions in Afghanistan. Consequently, the world does not have a moral high ground to criticize Pakistan's actions against those responsible for the events of May 9.

In September 2001, President Bush signed a joint resolution authorizing the use of force against those responsible for the September 11 attacks. This resolution served as the legal basis for various measures taken by the Bush administration in the name of combating terrorism, including the invasion of Afghanistan, domestic surveillance without court orders, and the

establishment of Guantanamo Bay detention camp. The war effort against the Taliban in Afghanistan also involved the support of several other countries.

Just as the world was pushed into the Afghan war following the events of September 11 and all resources were used to target the terrorist so Pakistan also has the right to address terrorists and anti-state elements through Military Courts. It's important to highlight that decisions made by our military courts allow culprits the right to appeal in higher courts, thus ensuring that justice prevails without the risk of injustice.

Readers, the recent decision by the Supreme Court has raised concerns that it may be giving undue freedom to terrorists and anti-state elements. People on the streets are expressing apprehensions about the alleged connections between Imran Khan, the TTP, and other anti-state elements within our judiciary, which they fear might hinder the application of the rule of law. These concerns are unsettling for a fair and impartial judicial system and are deeply distressing to the families of our martyrs. We can hope that the relevant authorities will consider a review appeal. This matter should prompt reflection within our judiciary to ensure that it aligns with the principles of justice and the realities on the ground.

Concluded

Promotion of Pakistani jewellery culture

In a bid to give full play to the spillover effect of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) to promote Pakistani jewellery culture, Aqeel Chaudhry, founder of Pakistani jewellery brand WINZA, who has been residing in China for the past 22 years, organized a grand Pakistani jewellery brand preview of the CIIE at New World DAIMARU, one of the first class shopping malls in Shanghai. The preview drew attendees including potential buyers, industry professionals, and enthusiasts. Aqeel Chaudhry showcased a stunning collection of traditional and contemporary Pakistani jewellery, highlighting the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the country. Guests were captivated by the display of exquisite necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings, all reflecting the diversity and beauty of Pakistani jewellery, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The sixth CIIE will be held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) from November 5 to 10, which is the fifth time for Li Long to participate in the CIIE. Recognizing the immense potential of the Chinese market, Aqeel has seized the opportunity to introduce Pakistani jewellery to a wider audience. He sees the CIIE as a platform to keep abreast of the latest trends, urge his product progress and learn from peers. This year, he will display rubies, sapphires from the world's major producing regions as well as peridots and most famous emeralds from Pakistan at his 36-square-meter booth at CIIE. With the success of this preview, Aqeel believes that Pakistani jewellery is poised to make a lasting impression at the upcoming CIIE, further strengthening the cultural and economic ties between Pakistan and China. In 2019, WINZA established its first boutique in Shanghai, won the honorary title of "Jewelry Star" of the 3rd CIIE, and the second boutique was set up in Shenyang in March this year. Aqeel collects data on the behaviour of Chinese jewellery consumers by attending major exhibitions in China, which gives him confidence in the prospects of the Chinese market. "We are also considering opening a branch in Beijing according to the actual market situation," he added.



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

Global food security and management!

Over the last century, the global population has quadrupled. In 1915, there were 1.8 billion people in the world. Today, according to the most recent estimate by the UN, there are 7.3 billion people — and we may reach 9.7 billion by 2050. This growth, along with rising incomes in developing countries (which cause dietary changes such as eating more protein and meat) are driving up global food demand. Food demand is expected to increase anywhere between 59% to 98% by 2050. This will shape agricultural markets in ways we have not seen before. Farmers worldwide will need to increase crop production, either by increasing the amount of agricultural land to grow crops or by enhancing productivity on existing agricultural lands through fertilizer and irrigation and adopting new methods like precision farming.

However, the ecological and social trade-offs of clearing more land for agriculture are often high, particularly in the tropics. And right now, crop yields — the amount of crops harvested per unit of land cultivated — are growing too slowly to meet the forecasted demand for food. Many other factors, from climate change to urbanization to a lack of investment, will also make it challenging to produce enough food.

There is strong academic consensus that climate change—driven water scarcity, rising global temperatures, and extreme weather will have severe long-term effects on crop yields. These are expected to impact many major agricultural regions, especially those close to the Equator. For example, the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, one of the most important agricultural regions worldwide, may face an 18% to 23% reduction in soy and corn output by 2050, due to climate change. The Midwestern U.S.

and Eastern Australia — two other globally important regions — may also see a substantial decline in agricultural output due to extreme heat. Yet some places are expected to (initially) benefit from climate change. Countries stretching over northern latitudes — mainly China, Canada, and Russia — are forecasted to experience longer and warmer growing seasons in certain areas. While Big Food companies such as General Mills or Unilever have tremendous global influence on what people eat, trading companies have a much greater impact on food security, because they source and distribute our staple foods and the ingredients used by Big Food, from rice, wheat, corn, and sugar to soybean and oil palm.

They also store periodically produced grains and oilseeds so that they can be consumed all year, and they process soft commodities so that they can be used further down the value chain. For example, wheat needs to be milled into flour to produce bread or noodles, and soybeans must be crushed to produce oil or feed for livestock. First and foremost, farmers, trading companies, and other processing groups (Big Food in particular) need to commit to deforestation-free supply chains. Deforestation causes rapid and irreversible losses of biodiversity, is the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions after fossil fuels, and has contributed greatly to global warming—adding to the negative pressure on agriculture production for which these forests were cleared in the first place.

Farmers must also grow more on the land they currently operate through what is called "sustainable intensification." This means using precision farming tools, such as GPS fertilizer dispensation, advanced irrigation systems, and environmentally optimized crop rotations. These methods can help produce more crops, especially in parts of Africa, Latin America,

and Eastern Europe with large yield gaps. They can also reduce the negative environmental impacts from over-stressing resources—preventing groundwater depletion and the destruction of fertile lands through over-use of fertilizer.

The agricultural sector also needs significant long-term private investment and public spending. Many large institutional investors, including pension funds and sovereign wealth funds, have already made major commitments to support global agricultural production and trading in recent years—not least because agricultural (land) investments have historically delivered strong returns, increased diversification, and outpaced inflation. Still, investment in agriculture in most developing countries has declined over the last 30 years and much less is spent on R&D compared to developed countries—resulting in low productivity and stagnant production. And because banking sectors in developing countries give fewer loans to farmers (compared to the share of agriculture in GDP), investments by both farmers and large corporations are still limited.

To attract more financing and investment in agriculture, the risks need to be reduced by governments. Regulators need to overhaul policies that limit inclusion of small, rural farmers into the financial system—for example, soft loans (i.e., lending that is more generous than market lending) and interest rate caps discourage bank lending. More supportive policies, laws, and public spending on infrastructure would help create a favorable investment climate for agriculture. Global policymakers, businesses and consumers must make global food balance a higher priority. International business leaders involved in this supply chain need to be able to better communicate the need for policy changes and encourage developed countries to invest in areas where the greatest growth potential exists. Our food security depends on it.

Writer is analyst and researchers.

Alizy Don't cry, that's what happens in such things - I

The TikToker hailing from the town of Hasilpur in Punjab is now facing a crucial moment of reflection and regret. It's become evident that she should take a step back and reconsider her online activities, particularly on platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

In a shocking incident, just yesterday, she removed her blouse and exposed her breasts to a friend, an act that she now deeply regrets. The repercussions of this impulsive decision have left her overwhelmed with shame and remorse.

Aliza's actions have stirred a range of reactions from the public, and not all of them have been positive. Her actions have caused concern and criticism from the community, making her realize the gravity of her mistake.

When so called tik toker uploaded videos are watched, she predominantly feature a strong display of the physique rather than culture. The



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

tightly clad body is equipped with the allure of a man. When I saw such a body, it reminded me of Manto's story "Thanda Gosht," where Klonat Kor played a role. Manto had depicted the outline of that body in such a way. Klonat Kor was a woman with robust hands and feet. Broad, sturdy shoulders, full of very meaty, upper-chest area, sharp eyes, silvery veil of hair on the upper lip, and from the structure of her chin, it was evident that she was a well-built woman.

Nodoubt, Alizay is a woman with a strong and robust physique. Her hands and feet are substantial, showcasing her physical strength. Her hips and shoulders are broad and sturdy, giving her a powerful and imposing presence. The upper-chest area of her body is notably well-developed, characterized by a substantial amount of muscle and mass. Alizay's physical appearance exudes strength and vitality, making her a formidable presence. In addition to her well-built physique, there is no allure in her voice.

In Dubai and the Gulf, there is a significant demand for this TikToker, with many sending him phone sets worth millions. Overseas, sitting away from their home country, these perverts only produce content to satisfy their lust. The recent leaked video features a resident of Okara who is currently employed in Qatar. Alizay has shown all of this to her admirers for years. Manto's story was limited to words, but Alizay has exposed his body parts in a full display to attract men's attention. According to our information, Alizay has even more explicit and obscene clips, as such by a TV anchor that she possesses five such explicit clips.

To be Continued



Aliza Sehar World
 India Se Fan Ne Bejha Love Letter Or iPhone 14 Pro Max
 #photochallenge#millechallengestoday
 #BestPhotographyChallenge... See more

ISSI holds Seminar titled 'October 27, 1947: A Black Day for Humanity'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a seminar today, titled "October 27, 1947: A Black Day for Humanity." Dr. Khurram 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. Last but not the least, he said, the government of Pakistan should appropriately recognize the extensive work of eminent scholar Alastair Lamb on the Kashmir dispute.

Other discussants highlighted the historical background and the current dynamics of the Kashmir dispute. Dr. Effendi stated that the human rights aspect of the issue did not start from 1947; rather the Kashmiris have been under suppression since 1846 when the Treaty of Amritsar was signed. First under the Dogra Raj and now

under India's illegal occupation, IOJK was facing atrocities being perpetrated by the occupying forces. The Indian government aimed to 'Hinduize' Kashmir, which placed heavy responsibility on the international community to raise its voice against such illegal actions. She proposed highlighting the Kashmir cause within three frameworks: UN Genocide Convention, structural violence, and right of self-determination.

Advocate Imran Shafiq drew parallel between India's illegal actions and violation of international law by Indian forces. He called upon the international community to ensure implementation of the UNSC resolutions providing for as plebiscite, and particularly Resolution 122 of 1957 that nullified any action taken by the so-called constituent assembly in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and forbade any demographic change.

Ambassador Andrabi extensively discussed about the historical dynamics of 'instrument of accession.' He addressed how India had maliciously indulged in Jammu and Kashmir at the time of the partition and had contacted all the stakeholders who were experienced in forcefully controlling the princely states.

Acknowledging the historical struggle of Kashmiris, Mr. Saghar highlighted the most-neglected Jammu Massacre in 1947 in which 250,000 Muslims were killed by Dogra Raj. He stressed



the importance of forceful advocacy of the Kashmir cause, with the fullest backing of the entire political spectrum.

Mr. Nizami also shed light on the human rights, international law, and peace and security aspect of the Kashmir dispute. He stated that while UN affirms self-determination of Kash-

miris, there is an imperative need to implement UNSC resolutions. He noted Pakistan's continuous efforts to advocate the rights of the Kashmiris and added that peace in the region must be the topmost priority for all. Pakistan should work along with the UN to pressure India to release all political prisoners, repeal all draconian

laws, allow the safe access of International Organizations to the valley, and implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood made concluding remarks, affirming Pakistan's all-out support to the Kashmiris until the dispute is justly resolved.

Martyrdom

GAZA: Bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes lie on the floor at a tent at Shifa hospital in Gaza City.



Photo: Web

Festival presents 'Little Nicholas' and hosts the director of 'Malmo Film Festival'

PPA

SHARJAH: The Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth has drawn over 3,100 students, along with their supervisors, representing 34 schools in Sharjah, Dubai, and Ajman. This achievement unfolded just four days into the festival's tenth edition, which runs until October 28. These attendees have actively participated in various engaging activities, workshops, and screenings held at VOX Cinemas in City Center Al Zahia, City Center Mirdif, and City Center Ajman.

Notably, the festival's third day boasted a rich agenda filled with workshops, events, and discussion sessions. Among these, the "Film Financing: A Guide to Securing Funds" session stood out, featuring Mohamed Keblawi, the Director of the Malmo Film Festival.

During his insightful presentation, Keblawi shed light on the origins of the Arab film festival in Malmo, emphasizing its evolution from initial experiments in Paris, Sydney, Berlin, and the

United States to its present status as the largest and most renowned Arab festival outside the Arab region. He attributed the festival's success to its strategic location in the culturally diverse city of Malmo, Sweden, which is home to 165 nationalities. A distinctive aspect of the festival is its expansion beyond film screenings, evolving in 2015 to include a market and festival forum. Keblawi shared, "In the festival's early years, we showcased 70 to 80 Arab films, but after four years, we expanded our horizons to engage in film production and have since supported over 60 short, feature, and documentary films. We introduced the 'Cultural Excellence' award in 2020 and, this year, launched a new award related to financing and the festival market."

The creative aspects of filmmaking were explored in a separate session, "The Filmmaker Within: Overcoming Fears to Realize Your Creative Potential", where Saudi film researcher Abdul Rahman Al-Ghannam emphasized the significance of adapting to different directorial visions and storytelling approaches across

generations. He stressed the importance of collaboration within the filmmaking team, as well as the value of sharing films with the public to gather feedback and advice for future projects.

In parallel, the "Green Carpet" activities featured a screening of "Little Nicholas," directed by Benjamin Masoper and Amondine Evrodon. The film centers around the adventures of "Little Nicholas," a spirited and mischievous boy who embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovery.

The tenth edition of the festival, which continues until October 28, showcases 81 films from 37 countries worldwide. Notably, it includes cinematic works from first-time participating countries such as the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republics of Montenegro, Malta, Togo, and Vietnam. The festival also introduces three world premieres and 43 films making their Middle East debut. Furthermore, it hosts the "Green Carpet" platform, featuring four feature films: "Nezouh," "Little Nicholas," "She's From Another Planet," and "Valley Road."

India's Plunder of Jammu and Kashmir has never been accepted by the people of IOJK

Sheikh Abdul Mateen

Every year the people of Jammu and Kashmir across the world observe 27th October as black day. Same day on 27th October 1947, Indian occupying forces landed in Jammu and Kashmir and started the chapter of illegal occupation, subjugation, suppression and oppression against the innocent and unarmed people of Jammu and Kashmir. This was the most atrocious incident that threw the region into the throes of instability and perpetual violence. This day is being commemorated as black day, the people of Jammu and Kashmir protest against the India's illegal occupation and remind the international community especially UN to resolve the long standing international dispute according to the resolutions of the UNSC.

Since the invasion of Indian occupying forces on 27th October 1947, the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are struggling against the forceful occupation and are struggling for the right of self-determination but in reply the Indian occupying forces have been carrying on a ruthless campaign of terror against the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) who are resisting against the illegal occupation and are demanding "Right of self-determination."

The total number of Indian occupying forces deployed in

Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) were 150,000 till late 80s but now there are more than nine lakh occupying forces and have been given unlimited arbitrary powers to use lethal force. The region is declared as the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute and is one of the largest militarized zone in the world. If we take the Indian army's total strength, half of it is in IOJK. The ratio of army to people is very much high in IOJK, we don't get such type of example in entire world.

Ahead of the India's military invasion a tragic incident "Jammu Massacre" took place which was directed by the army of Dogra ruler Hari Singh, where thousands of Muslims were killed. The exact number of casualties in the killings that continued for two months is not known but estimates range from 20,000 to 237,000 and nearly half a million forced into displacement across the border into the newly created nation of Pakistan. This massacre angered the Pakistani Tribesmen and they crossed border on 22 October 1947 to save Muslim fellows of Jammu and Kashmir. To push Pakistani Tribesmen back, the dominant non-Muslim ruler over Muslim majority state asked Government of India for assistance. In reply Indian government asked him first accede with Indian union.

India claims that "instrument of accession" was signed on 26 October 1947 and next day on 27 October India deployed troops in Jammu and Kashmir. However,



there are serious doubts about the documents of instrument of accession. The instrument of accession was never accepted by the state of Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

India took Kashmir issue to UN under article 35, chapter 6 of United Nations charter in 1948. The chapter 6 of UN charter outlines the means for peaceful settlement of dispute. It's very interesting to note here that India took Kashmir issue to UN and recognized Kashmir issue as dispute and it's also evident that India accepted that instrument of accession is not permanent accession of Kashmir to Indian union. It is also interesting point to note that India didn't take Pakistan to United Nations under chapter 7 which is related to acts of

aggression as India was alleging Pakistan. Both countries accepted UN resolution of 5th January in 1949, as per UN resolution the plebiscite must be held in Jammu and Kashmir and right "right to self-determination" must be exercised through which people of disputed territory must determine their future. Indian acceptance of UN resolutions proved that "instrument of accession" even if genuine, is declared null and void.

Since the Indian invasion on 27th October 1947, nobody in IOJK feels free, fundamental rights, rule of law, freedom, justice and security is nowhere present in IOJK. Everyone is living a fearful life. Everyone in one or other way is suffering. In this ongoing reign of terror, the people of

Kashmir have been facing worst kind of human rights abuses. They have been killed, maimed, dishonored, tortured, humiliated, interrogated and injured by the Indian occupying forces. The atrocities also include extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests and vandalizing of properties. Journalists are not allowed to present right and truthful situation in newspapers and TV channels.

Initially, India showed fake willingness to resolve the dispute but in reality betrayed Kashmiris as well as Pakistan. They have attempted to legalize its illegality rests on a bogus instrument of accession signed by the Maharaja and with the passage of time strengthen their control through atrocities by their occupational forces and implementation of

draconian laws. They have used its all efforts to defame the legitimate resistance movement of Jammu and Kashmir and label them as terrorists.

Moreover, the revocation of semi-autonomous status of IOJK on 5th August 2019 pushed the region into uncertainty, chaos and lawlessness. This was totally an unconstitutional and undemocratic act. It was also done under the shadow of occupying forces. The decision was also inconsistent with the earlier rulings of the supreme court of India. Since the revocation of article 370 and 35A, the Hindu extremist government has executed several controversial policies to alter the demography of Muslim majority state of Jammu and Kashmir. They are establishing exclusive Hindu settlement in the region.

The history of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) from the signing of forceful instrument of Accession to the induction of special status and abrogation of special provisions is marked with India's deception, betrayal, rigged elections and installations of puppet governments, vengeful governor and president rules. The principal goal of India is to crush the pro-resolution movement of Kashmiri people and to establish exclusive Hindu settlement in the region.

In response to forced military occupation and all the atrocities the people of Jammu and Kashmir always show tolerance against brutality and contin-

ue their resistance movement. People of IOJK have never bowed their heads in front of India. Kashmiris are sacrificing their lives and stand in front of brutal forces to face bullets for their sacred cause. Through peaceful means including protests, they want to gain response of international community to end this long standing dispute. The people of IOJK pledged to take the ongoing resistance movement to its logical end.

No doubt occupied Jammu and Kashmir is under forceful occupation of India but from beginning people of IOJK have never ever surrendered to the brutality of Indian forces. India tried very hard to control and depress the voices of people but despite lot of violations failed to change the pro-resistance and anti-India mindset of people.

The India's denial to grant right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir has destabilize the region and are posing serious threat to the perpetual peace in the region. The frantic attempts to show fake normalcy and adoption of imperialistic design in IOJK will not work.

The Modi led BJP government should shun the execution of undemocratic, unconstitutional and brutal policies, dialogue is the only way forward to seek a just and lasting settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

The writer is a General Secretary of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (AJK Chapter)

Pakistan must establish long-term vision for engineering goods exports: Mashood Khan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Mashood Ali Khan Chairman PAAPA Emphasized that the government must take steps to genuinely enhance engineering goods exports, it is imperative to establish a well-defined vision and a strategic roadmap extending over the next 25 years. This extended perspective is vital for effective strategic planning and ensuring sustainable growth.



He pointed out that the direction of technological progress is undeniably moving towards electric vehicles (EVs), and Pakistan has a substantial opportunity to enter the global market by producing EV chargers. With a robust foundation of auto parts manufacturers, the potential is undeniably present, awaiting exploitation.

Mashood highlighted that the government's vision and leadership can play a pivotal role in steering this transition towards export-oriented growth. By encouraging and facilitating initiatives that align with emerging technologies and global market demands, Pakistan can position itself as a strong contender on the international stage.

Fiscal discipline can't be achieved sans initiating structural reforms: FPCCI Presidential candidate

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Presidential Candidate for the upcoming election 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh, stressed the need for implementing structural reforms for good governance, curbing unproductive state expenditures, expanding the tax base, fostering public-private partnerships, and reallocating resources to critical sectors to stimulate sustainable growth, as fiscal discipline cannot be achieved without initiating structural reforms.



Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that we must maintain fiscal discipline and establish controls to create fiscal space to extend relief to the business community.

Quoting the reports, he said that the budget deficit continues to grow, entangling Pakistan in an unrelenting cycle of debt. Even if we exclude the impact of debt servicing, our revenues fall short of covering other expenses, implying that all these are met from borrowed funds. At the close of the fiscal year, Pakistan recorded a budget deficit of Rs 6.52 trillion, equivalent to 7.7% of the GDP, a slight decrease from the previous year's 7.9% of GDP. However, in absolute figures, the budget deficit surged by a substantial 24%, or Rs 1.26 trillion, within just one year.

Due to this bleak scenario, the BMP leader said and added that the primary balance registered a negative Rs 690 billion in FY 2023. Encouragingly, Pakistan achieved a noteworthy reduction of Rs 1.3 trillion or 67% year-on-year in its debt portfolio at the primary balance level during FY 2023. According to the Fiscal Operation report the primary deficit, which stood at 3.1% of GDP in FY 2022, was reduced to a more manageable level of 0.8% of GDP in FY 2023. This improvement has created some fiscal room, and with continued efforts we can attain a primary surplus, representing the fundamental level of financial discipline.

NTMP-1: World Bank not happy with progress

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB) has warned National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) that progress on National Transmission Modernisation Project-1 (NTMP-1) will be declared "Moderately Unsatisfactory" if no development is witnessed on long outstanding Islamabad West Substation (IWS) and disbursements, sources in Economic Affairs Division (EAD) told Business Recorder.

This warning has been issued by the World Bank's Country Director, Najib Benhassine to the Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Dr Kazim Niaz.

World Bank rates implementation progress of NTMP-1 as 'moderately satisfactory'

The mission had wrapped up meetings with the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs on September 21, 2023.

Federal Health Minister assures to address key issues of pharma industry

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Nadeem Jan, Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination said that the pharma industry is playing a crucial role in meeting the growing demand of medicine and promoting exports, therefore, the government is determined to address its key issues to further strengthen it and boost its exports. He said that the government is working to establish a pharma park with public private partnership and incentives would be offered to the pharma industry for local production of pharma raw material as well as local production of new molecules in the country. He said that he was already in contact with friendly nations for the transfer of technology to the pharmaceutical sector. He said this while addressing a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the government plans to digitize the overall health system in the country to meet modern trends. He said that the purpose of technology transfer to the



medical sector is to strengthen the country's health infrastructure. He also informed the ICCI delegation about the forthcoming Global Health Security Summit in Pakistan. He assured that the issues highlighted by the ICCI delegation would be considered for redress.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Federal Minister of National Health Services about the key issues of pharma industry. He said that the pharma industry imports

almost 90 percent of raw material to manufacture medicines but due to fluctuation of currency, the import cost of raw material has increased manifold. He stressed that the government should encourage local production of active pharmaceutical ingredients to reduce production cost of medicines and compete more effectively in the international export market. He said that Pakistan's pharma industry exports were just over US\$ 700 million during the fiscal year 2022-23 and stressed for the collective efforts from the government, industry players and regulatory bodies to enhance pharma exports to over US\$5 billion in the next few years.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that many local and international pharma companies are working in Pakistan and emphasized that the government, industry players and regulatory authorities should work together to position Pakistan as a leading player in the global pharmaceutical market.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, Dr. Joharia Azhar, Faseeh ullah Khan and Zia Khalid Chaudhry were in the ICCI delegation.

National loss

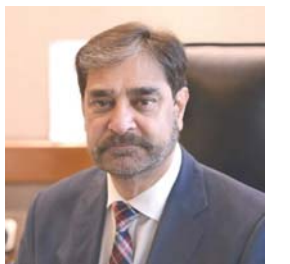
KARACHI: National carrier PIA crafts stationed at Karachi Airport due to suspended operations amid default news.



Proposed Hike in gas tariff will affect 4.3 million consumers: Irfan Sheikh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has forewarned the government that there will be huge repercussions of the looming gas tariff hikes on commercial and industrial consumers – and, the affected number of consumers may be as high as 4.3 million. Sanity should prevail as Pakistan is already railing under historic inflationary pressures, he added.



It is pertinent to note that Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has already approved the raise and cabinet ratification is awaited; and, in all probability, the government is going to implement the new tariffs with effect from 1st November 2023. It is bad economics and the proposed hike must be rationalized like it happens everywhere in the world for the export-oriented industries, he added.

that gas tariff for export-oriented industries has been increased by 86 percent to PKR. 2,050 per MMBtu and, for general industries, it has been raised by 117 percent to PKR. 2,600 per MMBtu. Industries would not be able to absorb this massive, one-go and ill-thought-out hike.

FPCCI Chief pointed out

Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, explained that cumulatively the price of gas for the export-oriented industries will be around PKR, 2,300 per MMBtu as another 10 percent is being added to its price in the form of blended cost of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG).

JS Bank stands with the Global Pinktober campaign, raises awareness about breast cancer

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Reiterating its commitment to social responsibility, JS Bank participated in Global Pinktober Month, dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

The month began with awareness activities designed to communicate essential knowledge about breast cancer, its risk factors, and the role of early diagnosis to internal and external audiences through multiple platforms, including digital and social media channels. "We're not just a bank; we're a community. And in our community, we look out for each other," said Basir Shamsie, President & CEO of JS Bank.

The awareness campaign was followed by an interactive session for all JS Bank's employees. Dr. Zubaida Qazi, Founder & President of Pink Pakistan Trust, conducted the session at the Jahangir Siddiqui auditorium at IBA, Karachi. She shared details about this life-threatening cancer, the importance of regular self-examinations, and clinical screenings, which can significantly improve the chances of survival. The session also gave a chance to the



breast cancer survivors to share their stories of strength and resilience.

Breast cancer affects millions of women worldwide, irrespective of their race, age, or nationality. By coming together to support Pinktober, JS Bank hopes to empower individuals to take charge of their health and encourage them to spread the message of

early detection to their loved ones.

Pinktober is more than just a corporate social responsibility initiative; it's a call to action. It's a reminder that we all have a role to play in creating a better future for ourselves and our communities. By joining hands, we can make a real difference in the lives of those affected by this disease.

Etihad Airways irks passengers with poor services & missing luggage complaints

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: The service standards of Etihad Airways are continuously downgrading for Pakistani air travelers reported to Daily Spokesman by passengers of a flight carrying the Indonesian Embassy staff, Editor Daily Spokesman, and other fellow passengers who were en route to Islamabad International Airport from Abu Dhabi Airport after attending a 38th trade expo in Indonesia.

The passengers complained about missing luggage, poor food quality, and uncomfortable seating space in the aircraft. Reportedly, cases of missing luggage, especially on connecting flights



are very common and passengers are facing difficulty in getting back their missing luggage.

The airline staff deputed at the Islamabad International

Airport simply registered missing luggage complaints and asked the passengers to wait for a call to collect luggage or keep visiting the airport for an

update. When the complaint was reported to the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority, it was learned that such complaints are being received frequently. Etihad Airways management pays no heed to passengers' complaints and extending compromised services to Pakistani air travelers.

Etihad Airways operates big flight operations to various destinations from Pakistan especially for Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages while passengers' complaints are constantly rising about food quality, seating space, and missing luggage. Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority is required to take serious notice of the compromised services of Etihad Airways.

Pakistan apparel industry fully compliant with labour laws: PHMA



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association has observed that the report of NTUF is aimed at damaging the Pakistan's value-added textile industry's strong international reputation following the extension in Pakistan's GSP plus status by the EU countries.

impact of Pakistan's ongoing economic crisis on textile sector workers.

Senior vice chairman Amanullah Khan Amanullah Khan stated that the PHMA along with the whole textile industry and exporters have been at the forefront of advocating for the livelihoods of their workers, as the industry has been faced with challenges such as exorbitant energy costs and rampant inflation leading to a full-blown crisis in the industry.

Expressing the serious concern over the unjustified claims of Labour Behind the Label and the National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) PHMA central chairman Nahid Abbas, north zone chairman Farrukh Iqbal, senior vice chairman Amanullah Khan and vice chairman Khawaja Musharaf Iqbal condemned them, saying their sole objective is hindering local industry's operations and restricting the employment generation in Pakistan through industrialization.

He said that it is always the workers who bear the brunt of such crises, and we continue to advocate for their interests by demanding reform in key economic policies so that factories can get running again and workers can start earning again.

PHMA central chairman Nahid Abbas said that Pakistan apparel industry is fully compliant with all international and national requirements on labour rights given the rising demand for compliance with regulations from global buyers.

Khawaja Musharaf Iqbal said that the textile industry stringently complies with all minimum wage standards as mandated by the government's recent notification on minimum rates of wages. PHMA leaders said that collective bargaining and freedom of association are encouraged at all levels. Compliance on these issues is in fact mandatory for all Pakistani exporters in order for them to sell their products in the international market.

North zone chairman Farrukh Iqbal said that the report highlights the

Pakistan penalized following loss against South Africa

A Sports

DUBAI: Pakistan Men's Cricket Team's dismal campaign in the ICC World Cup 2023 sustained another blow as the team was penalised by the International Cricket Council for keeping a slow over-rate against South Africa.

Pakistan was found to be four overs short during South Africa's batting innings in Chennai and were handed a penalty of 20 percent of their match fee.

The ICC Code of Conduct states that players will be fined five percent of their match fee for every over that is failed to be bowled in the allotted time.

On-field umpires Alex Wharf and Paul Reiffel, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Richard Kettleborough levelled the charge after Pakistan's loss to South Africa.

And Pakistan captain Babar Azam accepted the sanction.

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channel

Pakistan have prevailed in just two matches from six appearances at this year's World Cup and the 1992 cham-

pions need to win their remaining three matches just to have any chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Their next clash comes in Kolkata

on Tuesday, with Pakistan facing Bangladesh in what looms as a must-win encounter.

Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023

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

Travelling reserves: Mohammad Haris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan

Pakistan's remaining ICC World Cup 2023 fixtures
October 31 – vs Bangladesh in Kolkata
November 4 – vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)

November 11 – vs England in Kolkata
The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures, starting at 01:30 pm (PST).

5-day ATU, PTF Courses for Coaches, Managers and Referees Get Underway



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of the Asian Taekwondo Union and in collaboration with the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, 5-day Kyurogi and Poomsae Education Courses started at Islamabad Sports Complex in which more than 250 coaches, managers and referees from departments and provinces affiliated with PTF are participating.

Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, President of the Asian Taekwondo Union, specially graced the occasion with his presence.

On this occasion, Senior Director Ji Young Kim, PTF President Colonel (ret'd) Waseem Janjua, Manager Dong Hyun Kim, ATU Career Education Main Instructor Sang Ho Lee (ret'd), Poomsae Education Main Instructor Jin Ho Lee, Coordinators Kyungrok, Jeong Kang, Juri Min, Assistant Instructors Yoonjoo Lee, Minyoung

Kim, Yunkyeong Hwang and others were also present.

On this occasion, the international instructors informed the participants of the course about the latest techniques and rules related to the sport of Kyurogi and Poomsae.

Addressing the participants, the president of the Asian Taekwondo Union, Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, said that in the sport of Taekwondo, along with physical fitness, presence of mind is

very important, for which it is very important to have talented coaches with players. The purpose of conducting these courses by ATU and PTF is to further improve the skills and performance of the coaches. I am sure that the coaches who have graduated from the training courses will provide the best training and guidance to the Taekwondo players who will be very helpful in developing the best team of Pakistan in the future, he added.

Meekeren takes four as Netherlands stun Bangladesh

A Sports

KOLKATTA: Paul van Meekeren returned splendid figures of 4/23 and propelled the Netherlands to stun Bangladesh in the 28th match of the ICC World Cup 2023 on Saturday.

Chasing a modest 230-run target, the Bangladesh batting lineup failed completely and could only score 142 in response before being bundled out in the 43rd over.

Bangladesh got off to a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost both their openers Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das upfront in the sixth over with just 19 runs on the board.

The back-to-back blows pushed Bangladesh into defensive mode as Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz batted for more than five overs and only added 26 runs before Paul van Meekeren removed the



former on nine.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan failed to pull his side out of trouble and walked back after managing to score a mere five.

Their mainstay Mehidy Hasan Miraz followed Shakib back to the dugout in the next over and Bangladesh's chances shrank.

He waged a lone battle for Bangladesh with a 40-ball 35

that featured five boundaries and a six.

Coming out to bat at number seven, Mahmudullah took the reigns of Bangladesh's run chase and stayed at the crease for almost 16 overs but failed to turn his side's fortune.

He scored 20 in 41 balls with the help of two boundaries before departing in the 33rd over.

Bangladesh's number 10 Mustafizur Rahman also offered brief resistance with his 20-run cameo but it was not enough as the Netherlands ran away with a massive 87-run victory, their second in the ICC World Cup 2023.

Opting to bat first, the Netherlands could only manage to raise a modest 229 on the board.

The Dutch had a shaky start to their innings as both their openers Vikramjit Singh (3) and Max O'Dowd (0) perished cheaply with just four runs on the board in the third over.

Wesley Barresi and Colin Ackermann then anchored the innings with a gutsy 59-run partnership before both fell in successive overs to leave the Netherlands reeling at 64/4.

Dutch captain Scott Edwards then took charge of his side's batting expedition and put together a brief partnership with

Bas de Leede, who could score a 32-ball 17.

Sybrand Engelbrecht and Edwards then knitted an important 78-run partnership for the sixth wicket but Bangladesh once again hit back by removing both set batters in quick succession.

Engelbrecht remained a notable run-getter for the Dutch, scoring a cautious 61-ball 35, laced with three boundaries while Edwards top-scored with 68 off 89 deliveries, which featured six boundaries.

Following their departure, Bangladesh bowlers ran through the Netherlands' batting tail and soon wrapped up the innings by picking up the last wicket on the final delivery of the 50th over.

For Bangladesh, Mahedi Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam bagged two wickets each while Shakib Al Hasan made one scalp.

Neesham's heroics in vain as Australia down New Zealand in high-scoring thriller

A Sports

DHARAMSALA: James Neesham's gutsy fifty after Rachin Ravindra's brisk went in vain as Australia edged New Zealand by five runs in the high-scoring ICC World Cup 2023 thriller on Saturday.

New Zealand, while chasing a daunting total of 389, fell just five runs short of pulling off a historic victory.

New Zealand openers Devon Conway and Will Young gave their side a decent start as they put together 60 runs in the first seven overs before Hazlewood pulled things back for Australia by dismissing both the openers in his successive overs.

Conway scored a 17-ball 28 while Young batted cautiously for his 37-ball 32.

Following the back-to-back blows, Daryl Mitchell joined

Rachin Ravindra in the middle and the duo anchored the run chase with a 96-run partnership with both scoring half-centuries.

Mitchell, however, could not continue his solid knock and fell victim to Adam Zampa in the 24th over. He scored 54 in 51 deliveries, hitting six boundaries and a six.

Ravindra then put together brief partnerships with Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips before finally perishing in the 41st over when New Zealand still needed 96 runs.

He top-scored for the Blackcaps with 116 off 89 deliveries, peppered with nine boundaries and five sixes.

James Neesham then took the reigns of New Zealand's pursuit and got extremely close to pulling it off but his dismissal on the penultimate delivery of the innings

left New Zealand needing a six on the final ball.

He smashed three boundaries and three sixes amid his fighting 39-ball 58.

Mitchell Starc held his nerve and bowled a fuller delivery outside off to Lockie Ferguson, who went hard at it but only managed to drill it straight to the fielder in the ring at cover.

Adam Zampa led the bowling attack for Australia with 3/74, followed by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, taking two each, while Glenn Maxwell picked one.

Travis Head returned to the side after recovering from the hand injury he suffered at Centurion in South Africa last month.

He and David Warner justified their captain's decision to bat first and scripted a flying start for Australia, raising 60 runs in the first five overs.

Both openers played briskly to score 175 runs off 117 balls for the first wicket and set a platform to get a mammoth total.

David Warner (80) was then caught and bowled by Glenn Phillips in the 20th over, ending the blistering opening stand.

Warner's 65-ball 80, featured five boundaries and six sixes.

Meanwhile, Travis Head, after hitting the joint-fastest half-century in the World Cup off 25 balls converted that into a 59-ball century.

However, he also fell prey to Phillips after scoring 109 runs from 67 deliveries with the help of ten boundaries and seven sixes.

Australia then slipped from 200-2 to 274-5, with Glenn Maxwell and Josh Inglis in the middle.

Maxwell then played a brisk cameo of 41 off 24, featuring five



boundaries and two sixes, before being caught by Trent Boult off James Neesham.

Skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Inglis then knitted a 62-run partnership from 22 balls for the seventh wicket to push Australia's total to 387.



KARACHI: M. Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary Regional Cricket Association Karachi inaugurated the All Karachi Future Star U-13 Cricket Tournament at Young Fighter Ground. On this occasion Azam Khan Assistant Secretary RCAK, Ajmal Naseeb President RCAK Zone-I and Naveed Mehboob Azmi Secretary Organising Committee also Present.

Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink 2023



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The thrilling conclusion of the Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink 2023 is just around the corner, with the main and subsidiary finals set to take place on Sunday (October 29, 2023) here at the Lahore Polo Club ground.

Reflecting on a spectacular week of polo, Lahore Polo Club executive committee member Feroze Gulzar expressed his delight, saying, "Throughout the week, international women players showcased exceptional polo matches that captivated a substantial audience, delivering excitement and entertainment."

In the upcoming main final, Lahore Smart City Polo Team will take on Pebble Breaker, while preceding this, the Subsidiary Final will commence at 1 o'clock featuring FG Polo and DS/Sheikhoo Steel teams. Spectators can also look forward to a pre-final extravaganza, featuring javelin, shooting, a sports bike parade, and various other events. Notably, a substantial number of showbiz stars are expected to attend the final.

Under-16 hockey, Matt Wrestling Championship gets underway at Mini National Hockey Stadium



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Under-16 Inter-Division Hockey and Matt Wrestling Championship got underway under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab at Mini National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman and Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail were the guests of honour at the opening ceremony. They were introduced with the players and officials of opening match. The players and officials of opening match also had group photographs both guests of honour.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail announced the opening of Under-16 Inter-Division Hockey and Matt Wrestling Championship. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman and Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail also witnessed the opening match of championship between Gujranwala and Sahiwal divisional hockey teams. Gujranwala won the match by 3-1.

Director Admin Ijaz Munir, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tariq Khanzada, Deputy Directors Zahoor Ahmed, Rauf Bajwa and Chand Perveen, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti, District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Besides them, Olympian Shabana Akhtar, former international women hockey player Razia Malik, Divisional Sports Officers Manzar Shah Farid, Rana Nadeem Anjum, Tehsil Sports Officer Nasir Malik, provincial coach Zarina Waqar and a large number of young players also attended the opening ceremony.

Inglis scored 38 from 28, with the help of four boundaries and one six, while Cummins scored a blistering 37 off 14, featuring four sixes and two boundaries.

Inglis fell in the 49th over, bowled by Trent Boult with the scoreboard reading 387-7. Boult

then took two more wickets in the over and gave away only one run. Matt Henry ended the Australian innings in the final over with the wicket of Mitchell Starc at 388.

Trent Boult attained figures of 3-77, while Glenn Phillips returned with 3-37 for New Zealand.