

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے احمد بن یونس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ابن ابی ذئب نے بیان کیا ان سے سعید مرقی نے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابیرہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے کہا کہ میں نے اسے طہر کرنے کے لیے دیکھا اور اسے دیکھا کہ وہ (روزوں کی حالت میں) جھوٹ بات کرتا اور فریب کرتا اور جہالت کی باتوں کو چھوڑنے کا اللہ کو اس کی کوئی ضرورت نہیں کہ وہ اپنا کمال لیتا چھوڑے۔
(بخاری ص 657)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Entire Pakistani nation stands united on Palestine issue: Solangi

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine. "There is no division on this (Palestine) issue. From Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, we all are united. (Details on Page 8)



Embassy celebrates 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of Republic of Türkiye

A graceful event was held by the Embassy of Türkiye on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye. Türkiye Ambassador in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Paçacı and his spouse have warmly welcomed guests. Guest of honor Federal Minister of Interior Sarfraz Bugti, Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Diplomats, businessmen, and media persons attended the occasion. (Report on Page 5)

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Alamgiri Gate in China

BEIJING, China: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H. E. Moin ul Haq speaking at inaugurating ceremony of the newly constructed Replica of Alamgiri Gate at World Park.



Photo: Online

Replica of Alamgiri Gate unveiled at World Park, Beijing

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haq on Tuesday unveiled a newly constructed replica of the Alamgiri Gate at World Park in Fengtai District, Beijing. The Alamgiri Gate – entrance of UNESCO world heritage Lahore Fort – was built by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the 17th century in Lahore, Pakistan.

In the recent months, this is the second replica of a Pakistani monument, unveiled in the Chinese Capital as part of the efforts to further strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Ambassador Haque highlighted the historical significance of Alamgiri Gate and hoped that the replica would serve as a symbol of exemplary China-Pakistan friendship. "This replica will be standing tall in the years and decades from now on, and encourage and inspire Chinese friends, brothers and sisters and the travelers to Pakistan," he added.

Ambassador Haque said

that Pakistan and China were celebrating 2023 as a year of tourism and added this replica would attract Chinese tourists to visit historical and cultural sites in Pakistan. Highlighting the time-tested relationship between the two countries, Ambassador Haque emphasized the key role of cultural cooperation in promoting mutual trust and strengthening strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan. The relationship and friendship between the two countries was historic, unique, and very special and had been nurtured over the years by successive generations of people.

This was very important that the two countries passed on the sentiments of this friendship and goodwill to the future generations, he added. Ambassador Haque also thanked the Fengtai district administration for providing support in implementing and completing this project. A large number of Chinese scholars, media persons and members of the Pakistani community attended the inauguration ceremony.

PM calls CPEC 'a century's opportunity' for Pakistan with rapid economic growth in focus

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as 'once in a century-time opportunity' and said that Pakistan is focusing on the project's second phase to attain rapid economic and industrial growth. In an interview with China's Phoenix TV aired on Tuesday, the prime minister said the CPEC initiated under China's Belt and Road Initiative had helped Pakistan witness significant development in diverse sectors.

The prime minister mentioned that China's Urum-

qi and Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan had huge prospects for cooperation, particularly in trade and tourism. He said Pakistan was expecting big economic activity and an influx of tourists between the two countries, which he said would bring an improvement to the social and economic lives of the people. "Urumqi could become an opening gateway for us to the mainland China. It is a win-win situation for both Pakistan and China," he said.

Also, he mentioned the progress in Balochistan after the underdeveloped province was integrated through the CPEC projects. On the signif-



icance of BRI, Kakar said the unique opportunity and transformation would not be restricted to Pakistan but would spread to the region with the development of north-south roads and rail and road networks. This, he said, would lead to the enhance-

ment of China's economic and political influence in the world. PM Kakar said during his visit to China, he was "utterly and completely mesmerized" by the impressive journey of progress made by China. "This impression would transform me as the biggest ambassador of Pakistan-China friendship," he said. Asked to describe China in three words, he said, "Dignified, huge, and self-confident". Of the Pak-China ties, he termed them as "closest, most valuable and most desired as valued deeply by both sides". "Pakistan and China are intertwined. Though two different countries, but one nation moving in the same

direction," he said.

On cooperation with China in green energy to combat climate change, he highlighted that Pakistan was one of the worst victims of natural disasters and would take it to various multilateral forums of the world and China. "Climate change will determine our policies being an exponential threat to the country and the region.

He said Pakistan would not miss if there was any opportunity for improvement in relations with India, however, stressed that without the resolution of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, a dialogue or a normal trade activity was "unthinkable".

Interior Minister orders official to be respectful with undocumented immigrants

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday directed officials and agencies to be respectful with undocumented immigrants while detaining them in holding centers after the deadline. Talking to media persons here, he said strict action would be taken against officials found involved in manhandling of the immigrants and including Afghans while transporting them to the holding centers.

He said, the ministry had established a complaint cell with hotline number to immediately address the complaints of mistreatment or manhandling with any illegal immigrant. "We have given clear instructions to all agencies and officials to treat women, children and elders with special care and respect" the minister said, adding that the arrangements for food and medical facilities were made in the holding centers. The deadline for



undocumented immigrants including Afghan refugees for voluntary return ended on October 31 after which the government's crackdown against them had started in full swing, he added.

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has collected entire data of undocumented immigrants in the country through geo-fencing, the minister said, adding that those who still tried to escape government's amnesty would be caught from their hideouts. Bugti also warned of strict action against locals helping the immigrants and providing them shelter. "Any Pakistani who will rent his house to illegal immigrant will be considered as partner in crime and treated equally according to the law," he added.

NAB amendments: SC bars courts from final decisions until next hearing

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday barred the accountability courts from making final decisions in corruption cases till the next hearing of the review plea in the NAB amendments case.

On September 15, the Supreme Court of Pakistan struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea.

A five-member bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, comprising Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi heard the federal government's intra-court appeal against the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) law amendments verdict.

Punjab completes preparations for repatriation of illegal immigrants

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab caretaker government has completed preparations for the repatriation of illegal immigrants as the deadline is going to expire tonight.

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Mohsin Naqvi said that preparations have been completed to send back the illegally residing immigrants from the province.

He said that instructions have been issued to the chief secretary and inspector general (IG) in view of the October 31 deadline given to the illegally residing foreigners. CM Naqvi warned of action against those who provided refuge to the illegally residing foreigners and no tolerance would be shown.

He reiterated that the illegally residing foreigners should leave the country by themselves, otherwise, the government completed arrangements for their repatriation starting from November 1.

CM Mohsin Naqvi said that temporary camps and holding areas have been established in different districts for the illegal immigrants.

"Immediate deportation after arrest" The caretaker federal government decided to immediately deport illegal immigrants after their arrests and special instructions have been given to the local administrations and police forces of all provinces.

Pakistan pulled up socks for deportation of illegal immigrants

and decided direct deportation after their arrests. Following the cabinet's approval, the interior ministry issued instructions to the police forces, law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and local administrations across the country.

The authorities granted special powers to the local administrations, police forces and LEAs for completing the repatriation process across the country.

The concerned police departments will prosecute the illegal immigrant cases during trials. Additionally, the prosecution powers were also granted to the police through chief secretaries.

The law was taken into effect after the formal approval of the federal cabinet and the interior ministry.

Asif Zardari lambasts previous govt for 'not working for people'



Correspondent

NAWABSHAH: Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday lambasted the PML-N-led previous government for 'not working for the people of Pakistan'.

The Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarians chief made these remarks during a meeting with notables of his tribe from Nawabshah at Zardari House.

Faiz Hamid pressurized PEMRA during Faizabad sit-in, Absar Alam tells SC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ex-chairman of the media regulatory body said that former ISI chief Faiz Hamid pressurized Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) during Faizabad sit-in.

As per details, former chairman of PEMRA Absar Alam submitted his statement to Supreme Court in Faizabad sit-in case.

Absar Alam stated that Ex-ISI chief General retired Faiz Hamid pressurized him to take action against senior journalist Najam Sethi and ban the former ISI ambassador Husain Haqqani however his demands were not met.

In his statement, the former chairman of the media regulatory body said that a letter was also written to ex-prime



minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan in April 2017 regarding the pressure on the TV channels by Faiz Hamid and officers working under his command.

Absar Alam stated that he held a press conference to expose the threatening calls he was receiving and the harassment of PEMRA officials.

He added that one channel was banned for violating the PEMRA rules during the Faizabad sit-in but the ex-ISI chief demanded to ban more channels meanwhile on November 25, 2017 Marriyum Aurangzeb asked the media regulatory body to ban all TV channels.

SECP's five-year plan to use technology to increase insurance penetration: Aamir Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The SECP's Commissioner for Insurance and Information Technology, Aamir Khan stated that the SECP's five-year strategy plan for the insurance sector targeted at utilising technology to exploit Pakistan's enormous untapped potential in insurance.

He was speaking to Insurtech Conference 2023, organised by Pakistan Fintech Network to deliberate upon the critical theme of innovation through use of technology in Pakistan's Insurance sector. All the insurance CEO's, members of boards and experts attended the conference.

Khan said that Pakistan's insurtech is still in its infancy. He pointed out the share of Insurtech sector is less than 1 percent of the overall premium written. This is an undesirable statistic but a reality nonetheless. Globally, as of 2023, there are over 3,400 insurtech companies, up from 1,500 companies in 2018. There are at least 30 unicorns

in the insurtech space, he added.

In view of the above, the primary goal of SECP's insurtech policy is to enhance the customer experience via customization, increase operational efficiency, reduce risk, use data-driven decision-making, and, as a result, increase insurance penetration. SECP, in line with these key goals, has been facilitating the merging of technology and insurance, Khan said.

According to Grand View Research, the global insurtech industry was valued at \$5.4 billion in 2022. The revenue forecast for 2030 is \$152 billion. Can Pakistan contribute \$1 billion to this expected \$152 billion in the next 7 years? The answer to this question is an emphatic "Yes" for me. Pakistan has a huge potential to be a new star of fintech in general and insurtech in particular. There are 190 million mobile users in the country. This coupled with the presence of 130 million internet users allows insurtech to explore endless possibilities, Aamir Khan explained.

In Pakistan today, only 3% of vehicles are insured against 30 million registered vehicles. Similarly, against a population of 220 million, there are only 8 million individual life policies. According to an estimate, the total number of farmers in the country stands above 8 million. However, less than 1 million farmers are covered under any sort of insurance policy. Among the 32 million recorded properties, only 0.3 million are insured. This is the story of every sector, every sphere, and every insurance class. The 40 companies registered in Pakistan can double in number and there will still be market opportunity for new players. So, the market potential that exists in the Pakistani insurance market is clear and present.

He said that there are some challenges and the major one is limited financial literacy. As per State Banks' recent research, 100 million adults in Pakistan are not aware of regulated services provided in the country and only 23% of the population has some basic financial literacy. A closely related subject



is limited digital literacy as people do not fully understand the power of the smartphones they are carrying. Khan recognised that fact that there is inadequate funding and investment opportunities; it is not easy in the current environment for insurtech and fintech startups to attract funding, investments, or

talent. However, there is also inadequate interest by insurance companies in leveraging technology and exploring insurtech. The case has either not been sold effectively to, or not accepted openly by the C-suite and the boards of insurance companies.

The above gaps warrant a concerted and energized national-level thrust, by moving beyond basic insurance coverage and harnessing the role of technology in the development of an efficient insurance ecosystem.

Aamir Khan said that the SECP's regulatory sandbox have allowed testing of innovative products and services and the regulations on digital insurers were a result of the same. He encouraged insurance industry to explore the sandbox and discuss their ideas with SECP's insurance policy team. He insisted that the broader Insurance industry needs to invest in technology; the recent growth spurts in the digital lending space, can be replicated for the insurance sector too. Insurtech products and solutions, related to pure protection, health insurance, parametric insurance, robo-advisory, etc., can similarly reach out to the financially excluded.

He assured participants SECP support as a regulator and also as a facilitator for innovation and insurtech.

Return for homeland

KARACHI: Afghan refugees wait to board buses to depart for their homeland, as Pakistan launched a crackdown on people living in the country illegally. Pakistan earlier this month said it will arrest and deport undocumented or unregistered foreigners.

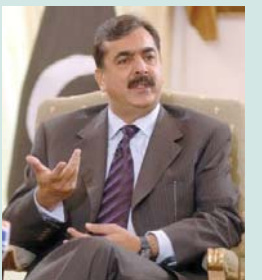


Photo: Online

Yousaf Raza Gillani condemns four Saraiki workers killed in Turbat Balochistan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has condemned the recent incident of terrorism in Turbat and demanded the immediate arrest of the terrorists. Yusuf Raza Gilani said that it was only two weeks ago that 6 Saraiki workers of Shujaabad were martyred in Turbat and today's incident happened at the police station in which four workers of Muzaffargarh and a constable were also martyred. He said that these incidents are cause for concern, apart from the provincial government, the federal government should also take immediate action. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that we have sympathy with the heirs of the martyred workers, we pray for the forgiveness of the deceased and the patience of the bereaved.



Crackdown starts against illegally residents of afghan and other nationals: Amir Khattak

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Crackdown Start Against illegally Residents Of Afghan and Other Nationals Stay in Multan Division. The deadline for the evacuation of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan will expire.

On the instructions of the Punjab government, the Multan divisional administration has prepared an action plan for illegal Afghan residents. While presiding over the early level meeting, Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said that

Camps for Afghans have been set up in all four districts. 656 Afghans from across the division will be transferred from Pakistan in a phased manner. Provision of temporary accommodation for illegal Afghans has been completed in Sports Hostel Multan.

In the first phase, illegal resident Afghans will be transferred. In the second phase, Afghans with over-expired documents will be transferred from Pakistan. 4 points have been made for the temporary stay of Afghans across the division, including men and women. A separate temporary residence has been built. The record of all Afghan residents will be compiled using a dashboard and manual method. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that security is tight in all temporary residences and rescue 1122 doctors have been appointed. Evacuation of legal Afghan residents will be in accordance with SOPs, rules

Human rights, self-respect, women, children and the elderly will be taken care of. RPO Multan Region Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry said that more than 250 people have been appointed in temporary shelters. Police and administrative officers have been designated as focal persons. Kya Fiya Hai, will accompany you till the check post. Deputy Commissioner Multan Captain Rizwan Qadir, DC Lodhran Rauf Ahmed and heads of law enforcement agencies were also present.

Multan Traders protest against caretaker government due to increase Sui gas rate



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: By increasing the gas prices, the caretaker government has killed the people alive. To become a permanent ruler, the caretaker government is slaughtering 25 crore people of Pakistan with the sword of the IMF. The business community rejects this increase. The views were expressed by Sultan Mehmoood Malik, the central president of the National Traders Union, while addressing the protest demonstration against the increase in gas prices of Anjuman Tajran Nawabpur Road. Sheikh Muhammad Salim Syed Akbar Ali, Fahad Ali Waseem Raja Farooq Khan and other businessmen participated on this occasion. Central President Sultan Mahmood Malik, Malik Khalid Bhutta, Malik Maqbool Khokhar, Zafar Iqbal addressed and said that the caretaker government should take decisions keeping the economic situation of the country in front. should.

Today, the salary of the employee is the same and the inflation is reaching sky high due to this inflation, dogs are barking in the markets. and are unable to pay the employee's salary. In these circumstances, it has become difficult for us small businessmen to continue their business. At least 100 rupees per liter should be reduced. The caretaker government has completely failed to provide relief to the businessmen and the people.

Otherwise, the business people will be forced to come to the streets and protest against the caretaker government together with the peoples

Officers and employees active all the time to ensure safe train operation

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent Railway Multan Mahmood Rehman Lakho has said that the officers and employees should be active all the time to ensure safe train operation, it is our first duty to provide all the facilities to the passengers. Giving instructions to all the officers of Multan Division to work hard and dedicated, he said that all the officers must tell all the problems of their respective departments so that they can be solved immediately, while handing over railway land and trace passing. The officers concerned should also continue the crackdown

He expressed these views while presiding over the monthly meeting of divisional officers in the committee room of Railway DS office while addressing the officers. Railway officers of all departments participated in the monthly meeting organized in the committee room. On the occasion, DS Railway Mahmood Rehman Lakho



asked questions to all the officers about the problems faced by their departments and issued necessary instructions while issuing instructions to the officers to work harder and more dedicated. On this occasion, he further said that all the legitimate problems of the employees are understood, but in this difficult time, all the officers and employees of the railways can face this problem together.

DS Railway Multan Division

Mahmood Rehman Lakho congratulated SP Railway Multan Division Shahid Nawaz for recovering about 5 tonnes of railway material from junkyard in Khanewal. The passenger was stopped and fined 2,000 on the spot and directed to speed up such operations and speed up the crackdown against those crossing the railway tracks illegally.

While the divisional engineers have also been asked to continue the action to get the railway land from the illegal occupants, DPO Shahid Raza, SP Shahid Nawaz and other divisional officers including Divisional Engineer Abid Razak were also present in the meeting. DS Railways has further improved the performance of all departments, giving priority to the safety and provision of facilities to passengers, taking strict action against illegal occupants of railway land

Instructions have been issued to take strict action against illegal occupants of railway lands and to prevent occupation of railway lands in future.

Two camps set up in Attock for Afghan refugees

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The provincial government has established two repatriation camps in Attock where as deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country sets in. These camps were established in Government College of Technology Attock and Degree College Hazro where the illegal and undocumented immigrants would be kept before reinterpretation or deportation. Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chattha visited these temporary camps on Tuesday. Deputy commissioner Rao Atif Raza along with SP Investigation Javeria Muhammad Jamil separately briefed them about the boarding, lodging and security arrangements at these camps. On this occasion, RPO Syed Khurram Ali checked the security arrangements of the campus and issued appropriate orders to the concerned officers in this regard.

Awareness seminar in Wana on the use of iodine conducted

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A seminar and walk was organized in connection with the awareness campaign on the use of iodine in the office of the District Health Officer, Wana, South Waziristan Lower.

In which the participants expressed their views.

Deputy DHO South Waziristan Lower Dr Hidayat Ullah said, that the use of iodized salt is very important for human health, development and mental well-being.

Seminar and Walk for iodine Awareness Campaign were organized in collaboration with the Department of Health and Nutrition Program Center South Waziristan Lower.

Waris Khan, district nutrition manager, said that due to iodine deficiency,



children may develop glitter disease due to physical weakness and lack of iodine for a long time.

He said that due to lack of iodine, pregnancy loss of women, disturbance in the development of children in the womb, birth defects such as

muteness, physical and mental weakness are included.

Waris Khan while addressing the participants of the seminar and walk said, to conduct an awareness campaign for their children to use iodized salt in schools and madras-

as.

He said, this message should be conveyed to homes and markets, that iodine should be used for the development of human health and mental health, so that a healthy and energetic society can be formed.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:01 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:39 pm
Maghrib 5:17 pm
Isha 6:41 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 114
Bomb Disposal 114
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 92766044
Motorway Police 9276601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9276601-20

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
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Sastaticket.pk Celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Embracing the spirit of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sastaticket.pk joins the global initiative to raise awareness about breast health throughout October. Sastaticket.pk celebrates this important month by promoting awareness, education, and self-care in support of breast health. While not in formal collaboration with specific organizations, the company is enthusiastic about using its platform to contribute to the global conversation surrounding breast cancer. "As we commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sastaticket.pk underscores the significance of health education and self-awareness," said Shazil Mehkri, CEO at Sastaticket.pk. "While our celebration doesn't involve formal collaborations, we are committed to utilizing our reach to encourage conversations around breast health and wellness." Sastaticket.pk will mark the month with online initiatives, informative content, and encouraging messages across its social media platforms. "We believe in the strength of community and collective action," added CEO-Shazil Mehkri. "Pinktober is an opportunity for all of us to come together, educate ourselves, support those in need, and contribute to the fight against breast cancer. Every action, no matter how small, can make a difference."

US, UNDP & KP Unite to Boost SME Financial Access in KP's Merged Areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, through the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Programme, and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa jointly launched a strategy on improving access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's merged areas. Stakeholders from the banking sector, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and the KP Chambers of Commerce also participated and exchanged ideas.

"SMEs represent the driving force of global economies, and Pakistan is no exception with 90% of its workforce employed by SMEs, contributing 40% to the national GDP," said USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri. "We all know how crucial access to credit is. It's the key for businesses to grow and thrive."

Neelum Sultana Khattak, Additional Secretary Finance said, "Out-of-the box



action-oriented thinking is the need of the day to effectively cope with the challenges. The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has to open itself for greater partnership with the private sector." He emphasized that the strategy would help the private sector grow through result-focused interventions.

Ms. Van Nguyen, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative highlighted, "The

development of this strategy is a great effort at sub-national level to mainstream financial inclusion for SMEs in greater harmony and synchronized with national level efforts." She stated that the strategy reflects the greater commitment of the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP) towards a multi-pronged approach for the sustained economic growth.

Mastercard collaborates with Euronet Pakistan to modernize payment platforms

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mastercard has announced a strategic partnership with Euronet - an industry leader in processing secure electronic financial transactions - to bring Card-as-a-Service (CaaS) and Bank-as-a-Fintech (BaaS) solutions to Pakistan. The emerging CaaS and BaaS models allow banks, non-financial institutions and fintechs to easily create and launch innovative products with scalability and quicker time-to-market.

This partnership will introduce Mastercard products and services to a range of players by building a ready-to-market CaaS and BaaS hub under a fully outsourced and managed services model hosted on Euronet's next-gen payments platform.

The proposition encompasses Mastercard and Euronet's integrated platform and solutions, allowing



businesses to swiftly introduce next-generation customer propositions. The partnership paves the way for issuer banks to roll out customer-focused solutions in record time through off-the-shelf, ready to market use cases, delivered through sandbox portals tailored to banks, fintech companies, and non-financial institutions segments.

"At Mastercard, we have always recognized that modernizing payments is pivotal to providing seam-

less and innovative services to consumers. This partnership is aligned with our commitment to offer market-ready solutions that cater to evolving consumer needs in Pakistan. Together, we will act as a lighthouse, guiding banks, non-financial institutions and fintech companies through a streamlined pathway to access Mastercard assets and products in the country," said J. K Khalil, Cluster General Manager, MENA East, Mastercard.

"As a leading payment processor in Pakistan, we are committed to facilitate the market by offering innovative payment programs and help eliminate the dependencies for market players who are unable to enter the payment services rails due to obstacles and dependencies like BIN sponsorship, infrastructure readiness, operational overheads, time-to-market, and minimum viable product (MVP) build. Aligned with regulatory mandates for a digitized payments ecosystem and infrastructure, our partnership with Mastercard will enable new market segments and demographics to access relevant Mastercard products, services, and benefits. These will be user-friendly, readily accessible propositions, aligning with a pay-as-you-grow model, ensuring expeditious launch times in weeks rather than months" said Kashif Gaya, CEO, Euronet Pakistan.

Italian Ambassador inaugurates Future World School & College in Bahria Phase 8, Rawalpindi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Italian envoy H. E. Andreas Ferrarese and his charming spouse Madame Albana inaugurated the iconic purpose-built Future World School & College at Bahria Town Phase 8, Rawalpindi, followed by the celebration of Pakistan Italy Cultural Fusion Festival last day says a press release.

Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Executive Director Anna Faisal, COO Abid Hussain, Directors and Principal Future World School & College Mr. Kaleem Rajput were present at this auspicious occasion. The Chief Guest Italian Ambassador H. E. Andreas Ferrarese unveiled the Inaugural Plaque.

The Millennium Education, Pakistan is spreading widely nationwide with consistency and academic excellence under the dynamic leadership of Founder and CEO Dr. Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq TI. The Flagship Future World School & College at Bahria Town Phase 8, Rawalpindi is a state-of-the-art purpose-built campus having numerous facilities inside it for the students and teachers. It is equipped with latest technology & world class academic setup to achieve the heights of success in academics and extracurricular activities.

Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese along with his wife were given a tour of the campus by the Founder and CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Executive Director Anna Faisal and Administration, they showed them around the largest private tertiary purpose-built institution in Bahria Town Phase 8, wherein they were shown various departments, classrooms and other facilities including the Library, Gym, Student Lounge, Laboratories, Cafeteria, and world class Auditorium.

Future World School and College, Bahria Town Phase 8, Rawalpindi is dedicated to Pakistan and Italy Friendship, and it symbolizes Pakistan Italy Education and Knowledge Corridor. Through this Campus, the passion and commitment of all school going learners, families, teachers, and communities who have devoted their lives to the noble cause of teaching & learning in both countries, and pledge to make Pakistan's Literacy Landscape an enduring success in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 2030.



The celebrations commenced marking a great day with the recitation followed by detouring of campus by Ambassador Andreas, and then opening remarks of CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He emphasized the significance of education in change while its ubiquitous impact on global citizenship. His statements mark a true depiction of the modern world, where education walks the talk.

Cultural festivities endured a great furtherance in depicting the culture of both countries where Maria Montessori and Dr. Allama Iqbal, The Bella Ciao and Kalash-Gilgit cultural transcendence reverberated through the walls of Bahria Town Phase 8. The Four provinces cultural medley enticed the spectator with its nostalgic and patriotic imbibes. The reenactment of Gladiator Theatrical performances harbored a complete simulation of Italy and its culture. The food and display of Brands like MG and Cultural promotion of vespas, the entire set up annotated another world.

Italian Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese in his speech expressed his pleasure in witnessing the event and stressed that education is the best investment for the future of the country. Moreover, he spoke on the fact that Italy and Pakistan maintain extensive

bilateral, friendly, and economic cooperation since decades and that there is a lot of potential and opportunities for the two countries to further cement their relations.

In his welcome speech Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, thanked the distinguished teachers, parents, students and guests for gracing the occasion while reflecting on The Millennium Education mission and commitment to bring quality education and to developing the right set of skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values within Millennials so that they can confidently meet the global challenges of the 21st century.

With the establishment of Future World School & College at Bahria Town Phase 8 Rawalpindi, The Millennium Education Group has created a unique hub of research, service learning, internship, that infuses experiential and intercultural learning and personally enriching experiences to its students' portfolios and making them become Millennials that give back to their country. The staggeringly amazing event ended with the words of Mr. Andreas on his praise and enticement with the event and its festivities. He cited the efforts and inclusion of people like Dr. Faisal Mushtaq as emblematic to inclusive culture, incubating a common curricula, promoting a change and harboring a mindset of accepting the change for good.

OxfordAQA - Academically rigorous UK curriculum exams, launched in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oxford University Press Pakistan (OUPP) has introduced OxfordAQA examinations in Pakistan. OxfordAQA is a partnership between Oxford University Press (a department of the University of Oxford) and AQA, by far the UK's largest provider of GCSEs and A-levels.

Benchmarked to UK standards, OxfordAQA examinations only ever test subject ability, using accessible language and internationally relevant contexts. The qualifications focus on the higher order critical thinking skills proven to equip students for future success on their educational journey and beyond.

First teaching is scheduled to commence from September 2024. Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan, shared his thoughts at the availability of rigorous British Curriculum examinations in Pakistan. "We are driven by a desire to bring out the very best in every student. OxfordAQA examinations are growing rapidly around the world, and we are now making them available for Pakistani learners. We are here to support students and educators in Pakistan and are confident that these examinations will open a world of possibility for them."

ILO evaluates Balochistan 'Promotion of Decent Work' project



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Labour Organization (ILO) convened a stakeholders workshop to validate the evaluation of the project "Promotion of Decent Work Opportunities for the Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Segments of Society project". The project has been implemented in Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces since 2019. Participants heard that the project has significantly improved the lives of vulnerable populations. One of its key achievements was the support provided for the development of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Social Protection Policy in 2022. This policy was designed to enhance the quality and adequacy of social protection coverage, ultimately fostering a more secure and equitable environment for vulnerable populations.

Hosted at the ILO in Islamabad, the event brought together representatives from the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, and development partners.

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the project played a pivotal role in enabling the registration of the first-ever trade union in Balochistan's brick kiln sector, empowering workers by establishing a vital platform for collective bargaining to address labor-related concerns.

Through the project, the ILO has been able to actively support the Government of Pakistan's commitment to environmental conservation and reduced carbon emissions. The adoption of the so-called zig-zag technique not only improved occupational safety and health for brick kiln workers but also, notably, enhanced their productivity.

"ILO is thankful to the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation for their generous support and also recognizes the dedication of constituents and partners in promoting the cause of decent work," said Geir Tonstol, Director of ILO's Country Office for Pakistan.

Francesco Zatta, Country Director of AICS, welcomed the contribution of the more environmentally friendly technology promoted in brick kilns. "AICS strongly supports Pakistan in ensuring environmental protection and mitigating the effects of climate change."

Speaking at the occasion, Azhar Iqbal Malik, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development noted that the Ministry was committed to promoting decent work and economic empowerment as a means to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of vulnerable segments of society.

Need Citizen Cooperation to clean Rawalpindi: Saqib Rafiq



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President and Chairman Saqib Rafiq has urged citizens to make the cleanliness drive 'Hafta-e-Safai' a success.

During the drive, local representatives and volunteers will be involved in this campaign for effective coordination between the supervisors and secretaries of the union councils of Rawalpindi City.

Speaking at the inauguration of 'Hafta-e-Safai' drive, Saqib Rafiq said that the campaign has been launched for the benefit of the people and it could not be successful without their full participation and cooperation. The Cleanliness week is being observed from October 30 to November 6, he further added. An awareness campaign had also been launched to make the people aware of the importance of cleanliness and encourage them to keep their environment clean.

Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq said that all available resources will be utilized to make the campaign a success. He said workers of the waste management company will clean the city throughly to achieve the target of zero waste. Streets and roads will be cleaned through manual and mechanical sweeping and washing, besides overgrown wild plants on open plots and graveyards will be weeded out.

Earlier, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatta, along with Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq, and CEO RWMC Rana Sajid Saffdar and the operational team inaugurated the weekly cleaning campaign at Chandni Chowk, Sixth Road and Stadium Road.

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Disinformation is dangerous

Haleema Saadia

In all times of great collective excitement, unfounded rumours obtain wide traction. While the conventional battle is raging in Gaza and Israel, a separate unconventional battle is also raging to control the narrative that is being presented to the world. Each side desperately wants the world to believe its point of view. They are even spreading disinformation to manipulate public opinion. A fabricated video, purported to show a BBC report that weapons provided by NATO to Ukraine have been sold to Hamas, was posted on X(Twitter). Moreover, a video game clip and old imagery from the Syrian civil war were portrayed as if they originated from the recent Israel-Hamas conflict. Artificial intelligence(AI) bots are also being used to amplify articles that promote one's narrative. Fake images show soccer stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo holding the Palestinian flag.

Human actions have purposes. Individuals spread disinformation when it flatters their self-esteem or when there are economic incentives for spreading false information. Humans usually give too much importance to their selves and believe those stories which show that their nationality, race, sex, class and creed are superior to others. In addition, some people want to be admired and mentioned constantly in the press so they share false opinions if they generate more clicks.

Governments all over the world are

also disseminating disinformation to legitimise themselves. Governing elites try to convince the masses that they are the most suitable governors and they are not motivated by self-interest. One of the main causes of human misfortune is that it is discovered that humans can be scientifically manipulated. Bertrand Russel, a British philosopher, once said that there is no nonsense so arrant or complete that it cannot be made creed of the vast majority by adequate government action. The power of government to shape men's opinions is very great. Governments are deploying various tools to influence the masses. One such tool is education. The purpose of education is to produce informed and knowledgeable citizens but some governments use it to propagate their private interests at the expense of the public. Teachers lend themselves to dishonest propaganda. Governments justify this policy by saying that nations become strong if all of its inhabitants have similar opinions and by suppression of liberty though this proved to be wrong in Pakistan's case. Besides this, governments are also using cyber troops to conduct disinformation campaigns and for the amplification of favoured narratives. Cyber troops are government actors tasked with the manipulation of public opinions online. Various political parties in Pakistan are using them to increase their supporters.

In the global arena, states want to increase and consolidate their power too. They have harnessed generative AI tools to serve their interests. Russia and China have exploited distrust of the US

by characterising the latter as intent on resource extraction and endorsing economic policies in other countries that protect its economic hegemony. They are offering themselves as alternatives who don't have imperialist ambitions and who are less intrusive. Though the overwhelming evidence says otherwise. More and more poor countries are finding themselves entrapped in the Chinese debt trap.

Generative AI tools have made the production of fake news cheap. The deluge of disinformation is high since the public gained access to Large Language Models(LLMs) and chatbots. The content generated by these is persuasive and usually doesn't contain human errors like poor syntax and mistranslation. These tools have lowered the cost of disinformation campaigns.

It is hard to believe the news provided by traditional media outlets too. Their reporting may not be unbiased. After the Al-Ahli Arab hospital blast, various Western media outlets supported the Israeli account though they found nothing that substantiated their allegation. US news network MSNBC suspended Muslim anchors after Hamas launched an offensive against Israel because their views may differ from those that the bosses endorse.

The offline consequences of pervasive disinformation are harmful. Propaganda and disinformation have produced a polarised and ill-informed society. Governments have succeeded in producing fanatical nationalists who think that the interest of their nation is

necessarily opposed to that of another. The hate against other nations and religions has increased. A six-year-old Palestinian-American child was killed by his landlord while anti-semitic incidents are also rising. Men have become men's worst enemy. The present state of the world shows that scientific progress without corresponding moral and political progress has only increased human suffering.

Individuals, governments and social media companies can do many things to curb disinformation. Governments easily produced a population of fanatical lunatics. They can easily produce reasonable citizens too by giving freedom to teachers and urging them to teach the truth and instil into students the habits of impartial inquiry. It will be hard to manipulate people who have critical thinking skills. European Union promulgated the Digital Service Act(DSA) to penalise those social media platforms that expose users to harmful and false content.

Twitter, Facebook and others can reduce fake news by being transparent. They should disclose details of political advertising and the use of bots on their platforms. Elon Musk's decision to dissolve Twitter's Trust and Safety Council which helped curb fake content was wrong.

Individuals can also tell whether some information is false by arming themselves with facts. The post or article may not be true if it is a promoted post and if there is no genuine engagement on the post. In addition, individuals should be wary of the opinions that flatter their self-esteem.

Israeli-Palestine crisis 'catastrophe of epic proportions'

The deadly retaliatory Israeli assault on the besieged Gaza Strip is a "political and humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions", the UN's human rights expert for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) has said. In an interview with UN News, a news website, the UN Human Rights Council-appointed expert, Francesca Albanese, said that since October 7 the Israelis had been "recklessly bombarded with an average of 6,000 bombs launched per week".

Over 7,700 Palestinians had been killed since the Israeli bombing campaign began, with more than 19,740 injured, said the UN aid coordination office (OCHA) on Saturday, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza. UNICEF, the children's fund, reported earlier in the week that nearly 2,400 children were among the dead in Gaza, with women and children accounting for 66 per cent of the casualties. "All schools have been targeted one way or another," Ms Albanese said. "Schools have been hit by the bombings, hospitals have been hit by the bombings, and there has been a tightening of the blockade. Israeli leaders, one way or another, are blaming and holding all Palestinians in Gaza responsible and are punishing all Palestinians in Gaza for what Hamas and other military groups have done," she added. The human rights expert also criticized Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the mistreatment of Palestinians. "We are talking of an occupying power. Israel is an occupying power vis a vis the Palestinians. There is no independent and sovereign Palestinian state," said Ms. Albanese. "The occupation has been the vehicle to colonize, brutalize, arbitrarily arrest and detain and to carry out summary executions against the Palestinian people." She also criticised the international community for not doing more to end the illegal occupation. "Has the international community ever stopped this protracted illegality? No. This is why I keep on saying the international community has a huge, huge responsibility in the catastrophe that is now unfolding." The rights expert said, "What Israel is doing is considered by some member states legitimate self-defence, which it is not. Because how can it be self-defence, the bombing, the carpet bombing of an entire population under a very opaque and vague objective of eradicating Hamas?" "The right to resist is guaranteed under international law, although this resistance does have limits." The rights expert emphasized that resistance had rules and limits, and they were the same that apply to any warring parties. "So, each actor engaging as part of the resistance becomes responsible for the choice of actions and methods of engagement. And killing civilians is never permitted under international law." Ms Albanese criticized the Israeli government's continued dehumanization of Palestinian civilians. "It manifests in the statements of various Israeli political leaders who have referred to the Palestinians as human animals, as deserving the treatment they are receiving because they are all responsible for what Hamas is doing," she said "[Israeli politician] Naftali Bennett has inferred that there are no civilians in Gaza, that even babies become a legitimate target. How can it be? How can it be? How can you hold a newborn responsible?" The international community had failed to provide adequate support for ending hostilities between Israel and Palestine, argued Ms. Albanese. She also criticized Western countries for their unwavering support of Israel despite its human rights violations. "Western countries have, with a few exceptions, rallied around Israel, basically supporting what Israel is doing, self-defence. What Israel does should be in line with international [law]. But it's not."



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awdat)

Deadline for Undocumented Afghan Refugees - III

Pakistan's claims regarding Afghanistan's support for TTP primarily revolve around several key points. Pakistani authorities assert that TTP militants find refuge in Afghanistan's border regions, particularly in areas not under the control of the Afghan government. These sanctuaries are purportedly used for training, planning, and launching attacks on Pakistani territory. Pakistan contends that elements within the Afghan intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security (NDS), provide intelligence and logistical support to TTP militants, facilitating their cross-border activities. Afghan officials have, at times, issued public statements expressing sympathy for TTP and other militant groups, further stoking suspicions of support from within Afghanistan.

From Pakistan's vantage point, the accusations of Afghanistan's support for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) carry several significant implications. Pakistan has confronted severe security challenges from a range of militant groups, including the TTP. Allegations of support from across the border compound these challenges and directly endanger Pakistan's safety and stability. Such allegations place additional strain on the already delicate trust between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Effective collaboration between the two nations is crucial for addressing shared security concerns, including counterterrorism efforts and border control. Pakistan views these allegations as part of a broader geopolitical competition in the region, believing that Afghanistan, potentially with support from certain international actors, may be attempt-

ing to encircle and strategically weaken Pakistan. Pakistan contends that Afghanistan must exert greater control over its side of the border to prevent cross-border militant movements. These allegations underscore the necessity for bolstered border management mechanisms. Pakistan regards Afghanistan's alleged support for the TTP as a grave concern, amplifying the overall security challenges it faces and intensifying tensions with its neighbor. It is imperative for both countries to engage in constructive dialogue, share intelligence, and collaborate effectively in addressing these allegations. The stability of the South Asian region relies on Pakistan and Afghanistan bridging their trust deficit and cooperating on mutual concerns. While these allegations are deeply troubling, diplomatic channels remain the most effective means of resolving these issues and fostering peace and stability in the region.

Afghanistan's role in the resurgence of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is significant. In 2014, the Pakistan Army launched Operation Zarb-e-Azb to combat terrorism, which significantly weakened the TTP. To escape this crackdown, the terrorists moved to Afghanistan to regroup. In 2021, the Taliban assumed control of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Shortly thereafter, the TTP was the first group to openly celebrate this victory. Noor Wali Mehsud also renewed his allegiance to the Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhوندzada and continued to offer unconditional support to the Taliban. The TTP's most substantial gain from the Taliban's control in Kabul was the release of hundreds of imprisoned terrorists, bolstering its strength, including the founding deputy leader Maulvi Faqir

Muhammad Bajuri and senior figures like former spokesman Mufi Khalid Balti. These individuals have developed personal connections in Pakistan's tribal regions, allowing TTP terrorists golden opportunities to organize securely in the Afghan territory bordering Pakistan. In a video, TTP terrorists can be observed attempting to breach the border fence before being apprehended. There is also evidence of Afghan suicide bombers being involved in the TTP's conflict against Pakistan. Some reports even suggest that some Taliban members have referred to the next phase of jihad as the war against Pakistan.

The issue of smuggling across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is a long-standing problem with far-reaching consequences for both nations. Afghanistan, marked by a turbulent history of conflict and political instability, has given rise to various illicit activities, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and the movement of contraband goods across its borders, particularly into Pakistan.

One of the primary driving forces behind the involvement of Afghans in smuggling activities in Pakistan is the dire socioeconomic conditions in Afghanistan. Decades of conflict have left Afghanistan's economy in ruins, making it exceedingly difficult for many Afghans to secure stable employment and earn a decent living. Smuggling often offers a lucrative alternative, as it promises significant profits. Afghanistan's unstable political environment and feeble governance structures have enabled smuggling networks to thrive. Corruption within government institutions has facilitated the movement of contraband goods, drugs, and weapons across the border into Pakistan. The absence of a robust law enforcement system has further emboldened smugglers.

To be continued

Istekam-i-Pakistan Party, manifesto not new - I

The Istekam i Pakistan Party, Pakistan's new political party, was formed by Jahangir Tareen and several other associates. The announcement of the party's name was made in a news conference after a meeting held in Lahore on June 8, 2023. This meeting was attended by nearly 100 political figures from across the country. On 28 Oct. The Istekam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) leaders were addressing the rally in the Jahanian tehsil of Khanewal district, they announced an ambitious manifesto focusing on economic and social reforms and struck a reconciliatory tone.

The Istekam i Pakistan Party's manifesto, unveiled in July 2023, outlines its commitment to integrating Pakistani society into an Islamic framework, enacting effective legislation on finality of prophethood, bringing Madrasas under a national curriculum, and working on economic reforms. The IPP manifesto also includes provisions for providing free electricity to those holding up to 12 acres of agricultural land, setting a minimum monthly wage of 50,000 rupees for laborers, offering free electricity up to 300 units for urban areas, ensuring property rights for residents of informal settlements, and developing low-cost residential projects for city dwellers. According to the manifesto, the Istekam i Pakistan Party plans to provide motorcycles to riders at half-price on petrol, and this announcement was made during this session.

In the first meeting and rally of the Istekam i Pakistan Party, several negative aspects have come to light. The public was brought to help the administration from various factories with facilitation. In addition, women from rural areas were given 800 rupees each, and videos of these

transactions have also surfaced. The local people of Jahanian showed no interest in this party's meeting, and the incoming people had no knowledge of which party they were with and what the party's name is. The people of Pakistan need to consider that those who have joined this new political party have been saved from the cases filed against them on May 9, and a new platform has also been established. However, it is not necessary that they achieve political success through this platform. Jahangir Tareen is an incompetent person by the SC; how can he give voters his manifesto and ask for their votes? It is true that our voters do not read

the manifesto of any party; they simply vote based on appearances because our people have not been politically educated.

Tareen is known to wield influence over important leaders from Karachi, interior Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. One-time Imran confidant, Tareen, who helped the PTI form government in Punjab in 2018, developed differences with Imran after the latter allowed the FIA to lay hands on him in a sugar scam case in early 2021. Later, Tareen's group of 25 MPAs, including Aleem, was instrumental in toppling the PTI-led Punjab government. These lawmakers had voted in favour of PML-N's Hamza Shehbaz for the chief minister election in April last year.

In December 2017, the Supreme Court disqualified Tareen, who was the PTI secretary general at the time, declaring that he had proven dishonest under Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution and Section 99 of Representation of People Act on one count among the multiple charges brought against him. On September 27, 2018, the same apex court bench rejected a review petition filed by him.

To be continued



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi attends Al Kaabi and Al Ketbi weddings

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has attended a wedding reception hosted by Saeed Khalfan Al Kaabi and Rashid Awadh Al Ketbi, for the marriage of their sons Saeed Al Kaabi to the daughter of Musabbih Saeed Al Kaabi, and Awadh Rashid Al Ketbi to the daughter of Ghanem Salem Al Ketbi.

His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated the newlyweds and their families and wished them a happy and prosperous married life.

His Highness Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Office of Development and Martyrs Families Affairs at the Presidential Court, and several senior officials and family members also attended the reception, which was held today at Majlis Rabdan in Abu Dhabi.



His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan Inaugurates Bank Alfalah Branch in Dubai, UAE

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, one of leading commercial banks in Pakistan, inaugurated its international branch at the Shaikh Zayed Road (in the dynamic city of Dubai relocated from Al-Khaleej Building, Zaabeel Street) to provide tailored wholesale banking solutions to corporate clients in Dubai.

The inauguration of the Dubai branch was presided over by the Chairman of the Bank, His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, signifying the initiation of an exciting new chapter in the journey of Bank Alfalah as it extends banking services to a broader regional audience. The United Arab Emirates is widely recognised as an international financial services center. With Bank Alfalah's presence in the region, its vision is to be the best in its class for the banking industry in Pakistan and other countries to provide excellent customer service.

Inaugurating the branch, the Chairman of the Bank, His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, said "I am delighted to inaugurate the Bank Alfalah Branch in Dubai. This reflects our commitment to providing exceptional banking services in



the dynamic financial landscape of the UAE. The launch of this branch reflects our strong belief that the economic climate in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, in the region, and indeed in the world continues to require banking services tailored to meet customers' growing needs and expectations."

He further added that "The Bank has guaranteed its own stability, and has secured its present and future success, by honouring the ethical means for conducting business. The custodians and employees of the Bank are proud to be associated with a leading institution that stands for quality and excellence in the field. They are

proud of the Bank's fine reputation, and its long traditions of transparency, innovation, service, best practices in banking and financial services, as well as building trust and long relationships with its customers."

Atif Bajwa, President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, said, "We are pleased to bring our comprehensive wholesale banking solutions catering to diverse corporate clients in UAE's flagship branch at the Shaikh Zayed Road. This expansion reflects our dedication to delivering service and support to businesses by offering exceptional banking services."

Bank Alfalah aims to expand its

services beyond Pakistan with a dedicated wholesale branch providing personalised service to corporate clients in the UAE. The branch will utilise technology and digitalisation to broaden client outreach and access a larger market in the UAE. The Bank wants to leverage these advancements and provide internet banking solutions, ensuring convenient access to banking services for corporate clients.

Bank Alfalah has long been committed to the financial well-being of Pakistan and to the country's important place in the global investment community. The inauguration revolved around the intention and resolve of Bank Alfalah to be an active participant in the United Arab Emirates' vigorous growth and prosperity. His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan concluded the event by saying that it is a source of pleasure to be among friends who value and support the exemplary relationships of brotherhood and cooperation between Pakistan and the UAE. The strong confidence that the bond between the two countries will continue to grow and strengthen, and that Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates will move forward together towards a more peaceful and prosperous world.

TIME Hotels to showcase sustainability initiatives, to visiting COP28 delegates



Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: UAE-headquartered hospitality company TIME Hotels will unveil its latest strategic initiatives to drive positive outcomes for climate action to visiting delegates participating in COP28 UAE, between 30 November and 12 December.

So far, more than 50 rooms have been reserved for four groups of delegates coming from the Pacific & Oceania region, Asia, Italy and the UK. The delegates will be participating at COP28 to develop their capacity in environmental governance; policy development; planning, monitoring, and reporting for sustainable environmental outcomes and to keep pace with socio-economic development. In addition to that is to promote the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management through capacity building, within an ecosystem-based approach.

TIME Hotels, which has a very impressive environmental track record going back well over a decade, will also showcase its sustainable operational practices—room set ups, bathroom and guest amenities and sustainable F&B options.

"We will be asking delegates for an interview about their opinion on our initiatives and ask for their advice on what else TIME, as well as other companies operating in the hospitality sector, can do to reduce their impact on the environment," said Mohamed Awadalla, CEO TIME Hotels.

Awareness Raising Session Held on International Human Rights System and Mechanism



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to enhance awareness of international human rights systems and mechanism, AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance jointly organized an event titled "Exploring the Global Framework for Human Rights and Its Operational Mechanisms" in Islamabad.

This event gave participants a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of international human rights systems and mechanism with the context of human rights situation in Pakistan. Speakers and experts in the field guided participants through a series of discussions, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of this important topic whose importance has been increased manifolds in recent times.

Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan welcomed the audience and shared the context of the introductory session on International Human Rights System & Mechanism. He shared that the purpose of such kind of initiative is to bring the civil society back to the human rights based approaches and agendas while imparting their services to the people of Pakistan and across the globe. He highlighted that according to the Pakistan Civic Space Monitor 2022 the civic spaces, freedom of expressions and opinion are critically obstructed and emphasized the CSOs to join hands together for civic rights and freedoms.

Christine Chung, South Asia Team Leader, OHCHR, thanked Awaz CDS for this opportunity of knowledge sharing and engagement. While overviewing human rights and international frameworks, she educated the audience on the terms, procedures and treaty bodies of UN agencies and how they carry out the systems for United Nations countries to ensure the protection of human rights. She highlighted the reporting role of Pakistan and the challenges.

Embassy celebrates 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of Republic of Türkiye

Governor Sindh paid special tribute to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A graceful event was held by the Embassy of Türkiye at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye. Türkiye Ambassador in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Paçacı and his spouse have warmly welcomed guests.

Guest of honor Federal Minister of Interior Sarfraz Bugti, Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Diplomats, businessmen, and media persons attended the occasion.

A cake-cutting ceremony after the national anthem of both countries Pakistan and Türkiye was held during the ceremony.

"This day, a hundred years ago, the great Turkish nation secured the ultimate victory by defeating foreign occupation and imperialism. Unyielding determination, courage and unity exhibited by the Turkish nation laid the foundation of Türkiye's liberation, independence and national sovereignty," Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor Sindh, was talking to Daily Spokesman on the occasion.

He paid special tribute to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who inspired and led his compatriots to one of the most brilliant victories in world history.

The Governor said that in their heroic struggle against the foreign occupation through the war of Independence, the valiant Turkish nation was wholeheartedly supported by the Muslims of South Asia.

Türkiye Ambassador in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Paçacı on the occasion said, "I commemorate Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and express our gratitude to our holy martyrs and our veterans who fought for the same blessed cause and entrusted our beautiful homeland to us at the cost of their lives."

Embassy celebrates 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of Republic of Türkiye

He said, the Republic of Türkiye signified the rebirth of a noble nation from its ashes, one that preferred to die instead of making compromises on its liberty, independence, and honor.

"We are proud of being a member of such a heroic nation that has the "character of independence," he said.



He also mentioned that the Turkish War of Independence was not only the success of the Turkish nation but also a well-documented part of our shared history with Pakistan.

He added, "The sacrifices and selfless support by the South Asian Muslims during the Khilafat Movement, and their political and financial contributions to the Turkish sacred cause, have and will never be forgotten."

He emphasized that the Turkish Independence War had also become a



profound inspiration for subcontinent Muslims in their struggle for freedom. Founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, expressed his appreciation for the Turkish struggle and its exceptional leader, Atatürk, as the builder of Modern Türkiye and an example to the rest of the world, especially to the Muslim states in the Far East.

He also played a video message by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Republic Day congratulated wholeheartedly the Turkish citizens living across the world.

"At this turning point in our glorious history, I commemorate all our heroes who pioneered the establishment of our

new state, first and foremost the founder of the Republic, Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and wish Allah's mercy upon them," the president said.

The president further said, "The journey of our nation from the past to the future continues to this day, from the Seljuks to the Ottomans, and from the Ottomans to the Republic of Türkiye."

He said, "With our growing economy, strengthening democracy, increasing reputation, expanding sphere of influence, and our principled and visionary foreign policy, we continue to be "the protector of those in need" all over the world.

Photos by Raja Farid

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index. Current: 51,920.27, Prev. Close: 51,482.92.

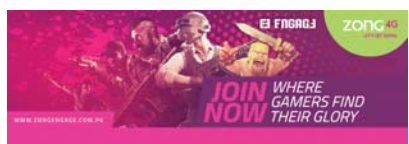
Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Europe: FTSE 100 Index. Current: 7,321.72, Change: -5.67.

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average. Current: 32,969.66, Change: +40.70.

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average. Current: 30,858.85, Change: +161.89.

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Buying, Selling. Open Market Forex Rates. Australian Dollar: 178.25, 180.

Zong 4G's first E-Sports platform, "Zong Engage," provides all gamers with the ultimate digital entertainment



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital network, staying true to its brand promise of "Let's Get Digital," launches its first-ever E-sports platform, "Zong Engage" to elevate the gaming experience of the country's youth.

ICCI slams massive hike in gas prices and terms it a big blow to industry

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the government has made an unprecedented hike of up to 3900 percent in fixed monthly charges and 194 percent in consumers rates of gas that would bring a massive wave of inflation for the common man and prove to be a big blow to the industry leading to closure of many industries across the country.



ment should focus on providing affordable energy tariffs for business and industry to revive the economy. However, instead of promoting ease of doing business, the elec-

tricity and gas tariffs have been increased manifold in Pakistan causing massive hike in cost of doing business and making our exports more uncompetitive in the international market.

Internet Governance Conference Addresses Future of Secure & Resilient Internet Infrastructure

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Internet Governance Conference, a pivotal event focused on addressing pressing issues in Internet governance and resource allocation within the Asia-Pacific region, was held today in Islamabad.



Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, in his address stated, "We are committed to resolving Internet Governance issues through collaborative efforts with stakeholders in Pakistan."

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Fatima Fertilizer signs agreement with Mastercard to digitize farm input payments in agriculture

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD / DUBAI: Fatima Fertilizer, Pakistan's leading fertilizer manufacturing company, and Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, have signed an agreement aimed at modernizing Pakistan's agricultural ecosystem by ensuring financial inclusion of farmers.



payment flows. This agreement with Fatima Fertilizer marks an important step in our efforts to bring 50 million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) worldwide into the digital economy by 2025.

lives in their communities." This collaboration is a critical milestone in advancing the financial well-being of Pakistani farmers and strengthening the nation's agricultural supply chain.

Milad e Mustafa Seminar held at NARC Islamabad



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) Islamabad organized the "Milad e Mustafa Seminar" on 31st October, 2023. The seminar aimed to shed light on the teachings of Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) and their significance in our lives.

Cheezious Partners with Jazz Cash to Offer Exclusive 20% Cashback

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, a renowned and customer-centric food brand in Pakistan, is thrilled to announce its strategic partnership with Jazz Cash, one of the leading mobile wallet providers in the country which has 25 million customer base with 13 million monthly active users.

Pak-Japan Business Forum holds 15th AGM, Annual Dinner

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan-Japan Business Forum (PJBF) held its 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) chaired by its Patron-in-Chief, Ambassador of Japan Mitsuhiro Wada.



residing in Pakistan and spearheading Japanese conglomerates here. The PJBF board also has observer members, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi Odagiri Toshio and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Country Head Kazu-

nori Yamaguchi. The PJBF members comprise business icons from diversified fields of trade and industry sectors such as automotive, pharmaceutical, information technology, textile, engineering, fisheries, petrochemicals, and steel, among others.

Keeping with its tradition, the AGM of PJBF was followed by dinner and entertainment program attended by notable dignitaries, which besides the PJBF members, included several members of the diplomatic community based in

Karachi. The Deputy Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Yasushi Nakagawa, enthralled the attendees by playing saxophone and received great appreciation and applause from the audience.

Saudi Arabia clear to host 2034 FIFA World Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Saudi Arabia was left as a shoo-in to host the 2034 World Cup after Australia confirmed it would not make a bid for soccer's global showpiece on Tuesday's deadline day.

World soccer's governing body FIFA had invited bids from Asia and Oceania for the tournament by Oct. 31.

Football Australia (FA) boss James Johnson had said the country was "exploring the possibility" of 2034, but on Tuesday the domestic governing body said it would instead focus on bids for the 2026 Women's Asian Cup and the 2029 Club World Cup.

Australia's decision not to proceed with 2034 leaves Saudi Arabia as the only confirmed bidder.

Saudi Arabia announced it would bid only minutes after FIFA called for Asia and Oceania bids on Oct 4.

The president of the Asian Football Confederation, the sport's continental governing body to which Australia belongs, said "the entire Asian football



family" would stand united in support of the Saudi bid.

A week after FIFA's invitation, Indonesia said it was in discussions with Australia about a possible joint bid along with Malaysia and Singapore before saying a week later that it backed Saudi Arabia's

bid. Australia hosted a successful Women's World Cup this year but has never hosted a men's World Cup.

"We believe we are in a strong position to host the oldest women's international competition in the world – the AFC

Women's Asian Cup 2026 – and then welcome the greatest teams in world football for the 2029 FIFA Club World Cup," FA said.

"Achieving this ... would represent a truly golden decade for Australian football," FIFA awarded the 2030 World Cup to Morocco, Portugal and Spain, also adding World Cup centenary games in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.

The Sport & Rights Alliance and Amnesty International say FIFA needs to secure clear and binding commitments to improve human rights in countries likely to host the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cup tournaments to prevent serious potential abuses.

"With only a single bid for each tournament on the table, FIFA may have scored an own goal," Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's Head of Economic and Social Justice said in a statement.

"FIFA must now make clear how it expects hosts to comply with its human rights policies. It must also be prepared to halt the bidding process if serious human rights risks are not credibly addressed."

Zone-II White moved into Semi Final of A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to 3rd Consecutive Century by Young Promising Middle Order Batsman Huzaifa Ahsan unbeaten 116 Zone-II Whites moved into Semi Final of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-VI Blues by 158 runs at KCCA Stadium. Huzaifa Ahsan earlier Scored 200 runs against Zone-IV Blues.



The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsored by A. S. Natural Stone.

Scores in brief:

Zone-II Whites 230/3 in 45 overs. Huzaifa Ahsan 116 not out 11x4 1x6 (in 116 Balls) Muhammad Hassan 45 4x5, Aliyan Mehmood 19. Darain Faraz 2/31.

Zone-VI Blues 72 all out in 21.5 overs. Fawad Akbar 13. Muhammad Ahmed (lcm) 3/9, Abdul Rauf (mf) 3/14, S. M.

Mohtashim 3/22. The 1st Semi Final of the Tournament will be played between Zone-VI Whites and Zone-IV Whites on Wednesday at KCCA Stadium at 10.00 am. The Semi Final Live on YouTube Channel.

Messi wins record eighth Ballon d'Or for best player in the world

PARIS: Argentina captain Lionel Messi won a record eighth Ballon d'Or for the best player in the world on Monday, beating Norway's UEFA player of the year and treble winner Erling Haaland of Manchester City to the prestigious prize.



Inter Miami's Messi, who last won the award in 2021, played a pivotal role in guiding Argentina to their first World Cup title in 36 years when they beat defending champions France in the final last year.

The 36-year-old is now three Ballons d'Or clear of rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who won the last of his five trophies in 2017. Messi has now finished among the top three a record 14 times in total, finishing runner-up on five occasions.

"I couldn't imagine having the career that I've had. Everything that I've achieved. The fortune I've had playing for the best team in the world, the best team in history. It's nice to win these individual trophies. To win the Copa America and then the World Cup, to get it done is amazing," Messi said.

"All of them (Ballon d'Or awards) are special for different reasons," he added.

"I'm happy to get that recognition that I'm getting thanks to what we have achieved with the national team," Messi told Reuters.

"This (World Cup) title we had been aiming for so many years makes it even more special."

Asked if he would carry on until the 2026 World Cup, Messi said: "I don't think about it. I'll enjoy (my career) day by day. There will first be the Copa America in the United States (in 2024). (The World Cup), I don't think about it."

Earlier, Messi's World Cup-winning team mate Emiliano Martinez won the Lev Yashin award for the world's best goalkeeper.

Spain's Women's World Cup winner and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati won the women's Ballon d'Or.

"It's an individual trophy but it can't exist without a team," she told reporters.

Messi, who won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009 and claimed four in a row until 2012, finished second to Haaland at the UEFA awards in August.

Haaland, 23, was one of the firm favourites for his first Ballon d'Or after scoring 52 goals in 53 matches in all competitions last season as City won the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

But Argentina's magical run at the World Cup in Qatar, where Messi earned the Golden Ball for best overall player and Silver Boot (seven goals and three assists), helped him pip the Norwegian striker to the award.

The World Cup was the only major trophy missing from Messi's resume as Argentina made amends for losing the 2014 final to Germany while in March he became only the third player in history to score 100 international goals.

Messi also won the Ligue 1 title with Paris St Germain before moving to Inter Miami, where he helped the Major League Soccer side win the Leagues Cup — their first major trophy.

Real Madrid and England midfielder Jude Bellingham won the Kopa Trophy for the best Under-21 player, while club team mate Vinicius Jr. was awarded the Socrates Award for his humanitarian work off the pitch.

Hockey legends offer support for revival of sport in Punjab: DG Tufail

Tahir Amin Malik

Joining the mission of hockey revival in the country, a 5-member delegation of hockey legends gave valuable suggestions and offered their full support during their meeting with DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail at National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

Former Olympians Akhtar Rasool, PHF Secretary Rana Mujahid, Shabbaz Senior, Asif Bajwa and Kh Junaid were the members of the delegation. Head of national Women Hockey Wing Tanzeela Amir Cheema and former captain national women hockey team and Secretary Women Hockey Wing Rahat Khan also joined the meeting where the promotion and revival of hockey was discussed in detail.

Talking to hockey greats, Dr Asif Tufail said that Sports Board Punjab is taking very effective measures for the



promotion of hockey among the younger generation. "Besides holding U-16 hockey tournament, DSOs have been directed to launch hockey academies in 25 cities where astro-turfs are in functional position," he added.

He said that leading performers of U-16 hockey tournament will be given advanced training in a 25-day training camp. "It

is a modern era and we will impart modern techniques of hockey to our young players through qualified coaches and trainers".

The members of delegation, on this occasion said that PHF will provide technical trainers to equip young players with modern hockey techniques during the 25-day training camp.

The hockey legends gave

valuable suggestions for the growth of hockey among the youth.

They appreciated the holding of U-16 Inter-Division Hockey Championship. "Definitely, it is a right step in the right direction. Through this event, Pakistan can get several talented hockey players and eventually Pakistan can regain its lost glory in the game of hockey," they said.

Experts to be consulted for World Cup review: PCB chief

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf said the board will take steps in light of experts' advice after the ICC Men's World Cup 2023, The News reported.

In conversation with a select group of journalists on Monday, the PCB chief underlined the matter of No Objection Certificates (NOC) granted to players for participating in different leagues before the mega tournament, which impacted their fitness and performance in the showpiece event.

Speaking about the Babar Azam-led team's performance in the major sporting event, Ashraf highlighted that even England, the defending champions, is below Pakistan in the points table due to their poor show.

He stressed the importance of not criticising players during the event, as it could affect their morale.

Ashraf mentioned that the experts would evaluate the situation after the World Cup. Zaka expressed his view that players around the world are paid substantial amounts.

He believed that increasing players' pay for representing the national team and allowing them to participate in a couple of leagues, followed by a break from leagues to fulfill national duties, would be a beneficial approach.

Shaheen Afridi becomes fastest pacer to 100 ODI wickets

A Sports

KOLKATA: Pakistan's ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Tuesday, added another feather to his cap as he became the fastest pacer to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket during his side's ICC World Cup 2023 clash against Bangladesh.

Shaheen achieved the milestone in 51 innings and overtook previous record-holder Mitchell Starc, who conceded 52 innings.

The left-arm pacer had 99 wickets before taking the field against Bangladesh and he did not have to wait much to reach the landmark as he dismissed Tanzid Hasan for a five-ball duck in the first over.

Shaheen Afridi then picked up two more wickets including the prized scalp of Mahmudullah to return magnificent figures of 3/23 in his nine overs.

He reminded cricket fans of legendary



pacer Wasim Akram when he disturbed Bangladesh's Mahmudullah's woodwork.

In the 30th over of the Bangladesh innings, the left-arm pacer pitched the ball on good length and between the middle and off stump. The delivery went

through Mahmudullah's defences and hit the middle stump.

The dismissal was similar to that of former England batter Alan Knott by Wasim Akram in the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 1992. The Interna-

tional Cricket Council shared a video of the moment on Instagram.

Notably, Shaheen also became the fastest Pakistan bowler to complete 100 ODI wickets, overtaking legendary spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, who took 53 innings.

Coming back to the match, Pakistan pacers ran through the Bangladesh batting lineup to book them on a paltry 204.

Mahmudullah top-scored for Bangladesh with a 70-ball 56, hitting six boundaries and a six. Litton Das (45) and skipper Shakib Al Hasan (43) also made significant contributions but failed to power their side to a big total.

Fastest pacers 100 ODI wickets (matches)

- 51 - Shaheen Shah Afridi
- 52 - Mitchell Starc
- 54 - Shane Bond
- 54 - Mustafizur Rahman
- 55 - Brett Lee

Pakistan crush Bangladesh to keep ICC World Cup 2023 hopes alive

A Sports

KOLKATA: Fakhar Zaman's brisk 81-run knock after a combined bowling effort propelled Pakistan to a thumping seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the ICC World Cup 2023.

Set to chase a modest 205, Pakistan comfortably amassed the total for the loss of just three wickets and 105 balls to spare.

Pakistan openers Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique gave their side a head start with a dominating 128-run partnership with both scoring half-centuries.

Abdullah, who reached the milestone first, could not stretch his knock into a big total as he fell victim to Mehidy Hasan Miraz in the 22nd over.

He scored 68 in 69 deliveries, hitting nine boundaries and

two sixes.

Babar Azam then joined Fakhar for a brief 32-run partnership before he too, fell victim to Miraz after scoring a mere nine.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz struck again in his next over to claim the prized wicket of Fakhar Zaman, who fell shy of his well-deserved century.

He smashed three boundaries and seven sixes on his way to top score for Pakistan with a 74-ball 81.

Following his departure, Mohammad Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed put together a 35-run partnership to make sure there were no further hiccups in the pursuit.

Mohammad Rizwan remained unbeaten on 26 off 21 balls while Iftikhar scored a 15-ball 17.

A comfortable seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh lifted Pakistan to fifth in the ICC World Cup 2023 standings with six points in seven matches.

Opting to bat first, Bangladesh's batting lineup failed completely and could only raise 204 before bundling out in the 46th over despite Mahmudullah's half-century.

Pakistan ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, alongside Haris Rauf, ran through Bangladesh's top-order to reduce them to 23/3 in six overs.

Litton Das and Mahmudullah then anchored the innings with a gutsy partnership for the fourth wicket.

The pair added 79 runs to the total before Iftikhar Ahmed got rid of Das in the 21st over to halt Bangladesh's progress.

Das fell shy of his well-de-

served half-century, scoring 45 in 64 deliveries with the help of six boundaries.

Mahmudullah then put together a brief partnership with captain Shakib Al Hasan before falling victim to a stunning delivery by Shaheen Shah Afridi.

He remained the top-scorer for Bangladesh with a 70-ball 56, laced up with six boundaries and a six.

Skipper Shakib then took charge of Bangladesh's batting expedition with a cautious 43. His 64-ball featured four boundaries.

All-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz then added valuable runs at the backend with a 30-ball 25 before perishing in the 44th over off Mohammad Wasim Jr.

The right-arm pacer struck again in the same over, casting Taskin Ahmed, to book Bangla-



desh on a paltry total. Shaheen Shah Afridi and

Wasim Jr led the bowling attack for Pakistan, taking three wickets each while Haris Rauf bagged two.

White Cane Safety Day

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo with visually impaired persons at an event in connection with White Cane Safety Day, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

President for mainstreaming visually impaired persons through specialized skill-sets, jobs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said it was the collective responsibility of the society to mainstream the visually impaired persons by providing them with vocational skill sets and specialized jobs. Addressing an event held in connection with the White Cane Safety Day, the president stressed sensitizing the society towards blind and the visually impaired by identifying their special needs and accommodating them.

Begum Samina Alvi,

members of the diplomatic community, and visually impaired children attended the event meant to raise awareness about the ways to address the challenges faced by persons with such disabilities, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president said career education and vocational skills for visually impaired students should be started as early as possible in the mainstream school system. This will provide fellow students an opportunity to deal first-hand with persons with disabilities and learn to accommodate them in society,

he said.

President Alvi also emphasized improving the accessibility of visually impaired persons through assistive technological gadgets including the personal digital assistants that guide them as the sensory camera sees objects and describes them aloud. He said the white cane was the tool for the visually impaired person to be identified in public, thus easing their mobility outdoors. He said ending discrimination and helping such people to become self-reliant and useful members of society needed to

be the goal of the State.

Dr Alvi said the country's first visually impaired diplomat Saima Saleem made history by making a speech at the platform of the United Nations. He also mentioned Yousaf Saleem who became the country's first visually impaired judge and set a courageous example for other people with such disabilities. He lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Human Rights for providing educational opportunities to children with disabilities and addressing their specific needs.

Interim Minister for Human Rights Khalil George said the ministry was raising awareness about physically challenged persons through various activities and advocacy programmes. He said the special needs school under the ministry was providing education through Braille and other modern assistive gadgets. The visually impaired children presented a tableau on the national song 'Dil Dil Pakistan'. The president distributed white canes among the visually impaired children and later along with Begum Alvi had a group photograph with them.

Entire Pakistani nation stands united on Palestine issue: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine. "There is no division on this (Palestine) issue. From Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, we all are united. Let me reiterate here that the winding up speech will be made by the foreign minister or any other minister assigned by the prime

minister," he said while taking part in the debate on Palestine issue in the Senate.

The minister said the Upper House of Parliament, with its honourable members including Senator Raza Rabbani who had drafted the landmark 18th Constitutional Amendment, had raised its voice in favour of Palestine and its people. Since the establishment of Pakistan, its every head of state and government – from Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to the incumbent Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-



Haq Kakar – had expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, he added. Solangi recalled that at the age of 22, he was for the first time arrest-

ed for standing up and collecting donations for Palestinian brethren after the massacre of Palestinian women and children in Lebanon by Israel.

The minister said the Pakistani nation had unshakable faith that the struggle and voice of the Palestinian people could never be suppressed. He said PM Kakar had telephoned Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. He said the speech of Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mumir Akram, had perturbed the Zionists. Pakistan had always raised its voice for the right of self-determination of the people of Palestine and would continue to do so, he vowed. Pakistan firmly stood by its principled stance regarding the independence of Palestine, he said. Solangi said Pakistan was among few countries which did not have diplomatic relations with Israel. "Even we have diplomatic relations with the countries, we fought wars with but not with Israel."

ECP hasn't placed any restrictions on PTI, says PM Kakar



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday asserted that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has not placed any restrictions on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), rejecting the notion of dismantling it as a political party.

During an interaction with journalists in a visit to Mayo Hospital, the prime minister said neither the ECP had placed any restrictions on PTI nor there was any move to dismantle it as a political party.

PM Kakar clarified that the caretaker set up would not commit any illegal and unconstitutional acts. He added that they did not see any hindrance to the political activities in the country.

The caretaker PM further elabo-

rated that it was the government's policy that all the big and small registered political parties had the equal rights and opportunities to contest the upcoming polls.

"Those who were raising apprehensions over provision of level playing field also have the freedom to make such claims", he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that ECP – in its verdict in PTI prohibited funding case – ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals.

Responding to a question regarding Palestine issue, PM Kakar said that Pakistan was persistently raising the Palestine issue at the global fora and the recent horrible, condemnable and inappropriate aggression by Israel was leading to human catastrophe in Gaza.

Telephone call between Foreign Minister and USAID Administrator



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani today held a telephone conversation with USAID Administrator Samantha Power.

The USAID Administrator briefed the Foreign Minister on USAID's work in Pakistan, with particular reference to climate related issues.

They also discussed the situation in Gaza. The Foreign Minister underscored the urgency of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and safe passage for humanitarian assistance to those in need.

The USAID Administrator thanked the Foreign Minister for the support extended by the Government of Pakistan to U. S. bound Afghans.

Bad news for gas consumers after hike in prices

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: After the substantial hike in the prices of gas, there is another bad news for gas consumers in Pakistan.

As per details, the gas consumers have to pay gas tariff hike from the last four months (July till October).

The federal government has decided that consumers will have to pay the hiked gas prices from July this year as the total loss of the last four months is Rs 65 billion.

The hike in gas tariff will be effective from November but it will also include the hiked prices from July to October.

Yesterday, the caretaker federal government notified a massive hike in prices of gas which would be taken into effect on November 1.

The Petroleum Division issued a notification regarding the massive



hike in prices for domestic, export, non-export units, CNG, cement, and other sectors.

However, the prices of gas were not hiked for protected consumers using 25 to 90 cubic meters in a month, however, the fixed charges for this category of consumers were increased from Rs10 to Rs400.

The notification stated that the prices for non-protected domestic consumers were hiked by over 172%.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had approved various summaries including revision of natural gas pricing.

Day after dropping 'gas bomb', govt decides not to increase petrol, diesel prices

ISLAMABAD: Providing relief to the inflation-hit people a day after dropping a 'gas bomb', the caretaker government Tuesday maintained the price of petrol at Rs283.38 per litre.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, the price of petrol is Rs283.38 per litre and Rs303.18 per litre for HSD. The rates will remain in place till November 15.

The government, however, also cut the prices of light diesel by Rs3.40 per litre and kerosene oil by Rs3.82 per litre for the next fortnight. After the reduction in the prices of petroleum products, the rate of kerosene oil has dropped to Rs211.03 per litre and light diesel oil to Rs189.46 per litre.

The interim government is charging zero general sales tax (GST) on all petroleum products while the rate of petroleum levy (PL) on petrol is Rs60 per litre.

In the last fortnight, the government had dropped the petrol price by Rs40 per litre and HSD by Rs15 per litre.

China conducts 2,000 foreign aid projects via BRI cooperation: Luo Zhaohui

BEIJING: China promoted Belt and Road cooperation through foreign aid over the past 10 years and conducted 2,000 projects across the world, Luo Zhaohui, head of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), said on Tuesday.

The past decade has seen more than 2,000 aid projects in more than 120 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, where more than 80 economic and trade cooperation zones had been established, nearly \$1 trillion invested, more than 100,000 talents trained, and nearly 40 million people lifted out of poverty, Luo told media.

China had led and helped shape the landscape of international development, cooperation and aid, and engaged itself in global governance actively and effectively, with its biggest yet contribution over the past 10 years in the new era, he said.

"Thanks to the coordination of the CIDCA, the Global Development Project Pool and Project Pool Financing the two pools under the Global Development Initiative have been running smoothly, with more than 200 'small yet smart' projects completed," said Luo.

The CIDCA has also helped implement a series of seemingly small projects that solve urgent problems for local people and improve their lives in countries including Cambodia, Myanmar, Zimbabwe and Djibouti, according to the head.

Luo said the agency had also engaged



in humanitarian relief efforts, providing emergency assistance more than a thousand times to more than 70 countries.

Following the breakout of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, China delivered humanitarian aid and more supplies were already on the way, he said.

Responding to a question asked by APP, Deng Boqing, vice chairman of CIDCA said that China and Pakistan were all-weather comprehensive strategic cooperative partners and both countries shared a number of touching stories and may firsts in their cooperation.

Sharing details, he said, the first cooperation program for the livelihood was set up in Pakistan and we carried out efficient cooperation in six major areas.

The very first memorandum of understanding implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI) was signed with Pakistan and it had charted a course for our development cooperation, he added.

The vice chairman said, with China's help, Pakistan built the first subway line which helped local residents in Lahore in their transportation and helped alleviate

traffic congestion.

Spelling out the cooperation with Pakistan during COVID-19 pandemic, he said the Chinese side immediately sent supplies, vaccines and medical teams and helped the country in building isolation hospitals.

He said, in August last year, Pakistan suffered from heavy floods and China sent immediately emergency humanitarian assistance to Pakistan through various means.

Over the past two years, we carried out a lot of cooperation to improve people's livelihood and achieved fruitful results, he added.

He informed that after COVID-19 pandemic struck, China sent masks, ventilators and other anti-epidemic supplies to the neighboring countries immediately and added, "We sent a total of over 600 million doses of vaccines to ASEAN countries." He said, the Luban workshop was set up to share experience in agriculture and technology with neighboring countries.

In terms of inclusiveness, we have had cooperation with the World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNICEF and the United Nations Refugee Agency delivering benefits to millions of people.

"Going forward, we continue to enhance our cooperation in infrastructure and connectivity, help in poverty reduction efforts and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future," he added.