

Former AJK premier condemns Israeli attacks on Gaza: says the world must wake up

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Former AJK premier and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has vehemently condemned Israeli continues bombardment and said it has been going on for 24 days on Gaza, so far 18 tons of explosives have been dropped on the city, which is more than the US attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. He said that 8306 innocent civilians, including 3457 children, 2136 women, have been martyred in the attacks of the cruel Zionist forces.

Israel has launched ground attacks on Gaza, the city has become a pile of rubble, under which thousands of people have been buried, hospitals and schools in Gaza are being targeted, the saddest aspect of this situation is the Islamic world.

The rulers of the are silent, they are suffering from hesita-



tion and watching the scene of genocide of Palestinians. The world of Islam must wake up and save Gaza. We pay tribute to the Mujahideen of Hamas who are performing their duty on behalf of the entire Muslim Ummah. While talking

Samia Sajid Raja Central Chairperson Muslim Conference Women Wing / Ticket Holder Muslim Conference Valley 6, Kausar Awan Advocate General Secretary Muslim Conference Women Wing, Nasreen Akhtar Raja Central

Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference/ Member Zilla Council Bagh, Farzana Bashir Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference, Fauzia Azam Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference, Sajida Sarfaraz Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference, Nimra Affan Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference, Nabila Siddiqui Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim

Conference, Hamaria Safer Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference, Ghulam Fatima Central Vice Chairperson Women Wing Muslim Conference,

Ameera Khanum President Women Wing Muslim Conference Division Mirpur, Shahnaz Javed Khawaja President Women Wing Muslim Conference Division Rawalkot, Azra Ajaja President Women Wing Muslim Conference Division Faisalabad, Faza Sajid Raja President Muslim Conference Women Wing District Muzaffarabad, Zubia Tahira President Women Wing Muslim Conference District Sialkot, Abed Munir Qureshi President Women Wing Muslim Conference City Muzaffarabad, Kishore Aziz President Women Wing Muslim Conference City Mirpur, Ayesha Munsif Raja President Women Wing Khawra Constituency, Noor Sajid Vice Chairperson Muslim Conference Women Wing

Mirpur.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan added that Israel has besieged Palestine for 16 years, every year Israeli soldiers kill dozens of Palestinian children without any war, Hamas's resistance and struggle against Israel is in accordance with international laws and According to Sharia, their war is a war to save all humanity, so the world should take practical steps now to stop the massacre of the Palestinian people. Strongly condemning the increasing Israeli brutality and aggression against civilians in Gaza, the leaders of the Muslim Conference Women's Wing said that such reprehensible acts can never be forgiven or forgotten, to stop the massacre of the Palestinian people. The world should take practical steps now, yesterday's airstrike on Jabalia camp is a clear example of ongoing Israeli brutality and war crimes in Gaza, where hundreds of people, including women and children, have died.

Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin slates UNCHR for human rights violations by Israel in Gaza

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that the resignation of Craig, the director of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, due to the failure of the United Nations to stop human rights violations and war crimes in Gaza. It is a slap in the face of the United Nations to say that it is a slap in the face of the United Nations to say that it cannot fulfill its duties and to express regret to the United States and the West for encouraging Israel to go to war, he expressed these views while talking to various delegations yesterday. He said that when a person sitting in an important position of the United Nations declares the United Nations to be unable and helpless to stop Israeli atrocities, then what is the usefulness of the United Nations after that? He said that more than eight and a half thousand Palestinians have been martyred, more than 20,000 are injured, the number of martyred innocent children is also in thousands, who do not even know what war is, among these children are children from a few days to a few months. What is the fault of these children? He said that Israel and the United States have become Dracula, whose mouths have the blood of innocent Palestinians, and humanity is ashamed of their actions. It is not a minor incident, but America and the West have blindfolded their prejudices. Those who are taking the sky over their heads over a minor incident in Muslim are silent today because the martyrs are Muslims.



Inauguration of the annual three-day sports gala



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Habibullah Baig, principal of Skans School of Accountancy, has said that sports are very important for the best body and mind, it is the best means of developing the human body and promoting positive activities. He expressed these thoughts yesterday while addressing the opening ceremony of the annual three-day sports gala at the institution.

He further said that the land of Multan has produced many famous players and our wish is that more players come from here. This is also the purpose of holding the sports gala. Yusuf Siddiqui, Hafiz Kashif, Junaid Qureshi, Umar Farooq, Muhammad Sohail, Qaiser Maqbool, Akbar Noor, Sajid Mahmood, Ghulam Qadir and other teachers and players and a large number of students participated.

Mental Health Awareness Symposium Held in Women's University Multan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Health Awareness Month is celebrated every October, encouraging us to think about our mental health and well-being. Department of Applied Psychology and Counselling and Well-being Centre jointly organized a symposium aimed at raising awareness about mental health at Women University Multan. This event featured two prominent guest speakers, Dr. Mehmood Ali Shah, a consultant neuropsychiatrist, and Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Nasir, Assistant Professor from Nishtar Medical University Multan. Dr Mehmood Ali Shah set the tone for the symposium by underlining the pivotal role of mental health in individuals' overall well-being. He stressed the importance of seeking professional help when needed, shedding light on the prevalence of mental health issues in society. Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Nasir then took the stage to provide a comprehensive overview of various aspects of mental health. He discussed stress management strategies and coping mechanisms, emphasizing their relevance in contemporary life. At the symposium's conclusion, Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, the Vice-Chancellor of Women University Multan, delivered a vital message regarding the effective management of time to mitigate stress stemming from daily routines. Dr. Sadia Musharraf, The session ended with a note of thanks by Dr. Sadia Musharraf (HOD) Department of Applied Psychology and Director, Counselling and Well-being Centre for the Vice Chancellor, resource persons, managing team, and the participants.

1209 illegal Afghan refugees return via Angoor Adda border



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The process of repatriating Afghans who have been living illegally in Pakistan for a long time is going on.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir says on Wednesday, from 15 October to 31 October, 1209 Afghans have been sent away honorably through Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda. He said, those who returned included men, women and small children.

DC said that these are the Afghans, who were staying illegally in Pakistan, the state of Pakistan had decided a month ago, that by October 31, Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan will be sent to their homeland, Afghanistan.

The DC said that strict legal action will be taken against the Afghans who stay behind after October 31.

It should be remembered that during the civil war in Afghanistan, a large number of Afghan refugees were living in Pakistan for the last 40 years.

They also include people who were born in Pakistan, with most of the Afghans owning large businesses and properties in Pakistan.

Registration

RAWALPINDI: Afghan refugee are waiting for registration at Shehbaz Sharif Associates College as security forces on rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave.



Photo: Online

Kissan Ittehad demands end of sugar mafia in Balochistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Central Chairman Khalid Hussain Bath has said that the sugar mafia is exploiting the farmers in collaboration with the supervisory governments, the crushing season is being collated due to which the farmers will not be able to cultivate wheat on time. We salute the Army Chief for settling the settled lands and giving 10 maunds of wheat per acre, attracting investors from abroad and promoting agriculture. Go, the crackdown against the farmers in Balochistan should be ended and the electricity

connections of the farmers should be restored, and electricity should be provided to the farmers through tubewell connections for eight hours.

The announced solar should be provided to the farmers immediately and the billing problem should be solved immediately. And it should be forensically audited. And farmers' dues should be taken in easy installments. An immediate relief page should be announced for the rehabilitation of flood affected farmers of Sutlej River, Central Chairman of Kisan Ittehad Khalid Hussain Bath while holding a press conference



along with Central President Kisan Etihad Mian Umair Masood and Media Coordinator Osama Shaukat at the National Press Club Islamabad. It was further said that the

sugarcane crop of all the farmers of Pakistan is ready and yet the rate of sugarcane has not been announced in Punjab while the Sindh government has fixed Rs 425 which is low

and the cost of the farmers is coming to Rs 550.

Mafia is exploiting the farmers in collaboration with the caretaker governments and the crushing season is being collated due to which the farmer will not be able to harvest wheat on time due to which the country may face shortage of wheat and food. And the subsidy given to the fertilizer factories should be given to the farmers, he added that he strongly condemns the genocide and atrocities of the oppressed and innocent Muslims of Palestine, and requests the world of Islam and the international community to stop this cruelty.

Maintaining law & order situation is the top priority of KP police. IGP KP

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan has said here on Wednesday that every attempt to sabotage the peace process will be thwarted, and maintaining law and order is the top priority of the police.

He said, the police will use all possible resources and capabilities to protect the lives and property of the people.

He said, anti-social



elements are trying to spread chaos and instability in the country through terrorism, failing which is the common responsibility of all of us.

He said, we will give Pakistan free from terrorism to future generations.

Terrorism has to be defeated by raising awareness against

anti-social elements among the people.

He expressed these views while addressing a high-level police meeting at Range Office Dera.

Additional IG CTD Shaukat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Dera Nasir Mahmood satti, District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qisrani, SPs Sadar, City Dera, SPCD Region One and Region Two were present on this occasion.

The IGP reviewed the incidents of terrorism in Dera

region individually and directed the police authorities, that the movement of terrorists should be closely monitored and concrete steps should be taken to eliminate the elements that undermine the peace process.

He said, the establishment of sustainable peace in the province is due to the eternal sacrifices of the people and the security forces.

The peace process achieved as a result of sacrifices will not be allowed to be sabotaged



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:02 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:38 pm
Maghrib 5:16 pm
Isha 6:40 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 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

Shell signs agreement to sell majority shareholding in Shell Pakistan Limited



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has agreed to sell its 77.42% majority interest in Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) to Wafi Energy LLC. The sale is part of Shell's strategy to high-grade its mobility network and was first announced on Capital Markets Day in June 2023. The sale is expected to complete by Q4 2024, subject to regulatory approvals. Upon completion, the Shell brand will remain in Pakistan through brand licensing agreements and customers will continue to have access to Shell's premium fuel and lubricant portfolio. SPL remains committed to delivering safe, reliable operations.

Role of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said in the revival of Tibb-i-Unani

Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine holds 14th National Symposium on Tibb-i-Unani

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine (PAEM) in collaboration with Hamdard Pakistan organized 14th National Symposium (two days) yesterday titled: "Role of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said in the revival of Tibb-i-Unani" at Bait-ul-Hikmah Auditorium, Madinat al-Hikmah to pay tribute to Shaheed Hakim Mohammed said, a renowned physician, intellectual and social reformer. The opening session was chaired by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Pakistan. Dr. Ahsan Qavi Siddiqui, Chief Executive Officer of Sindh Healthcare Commission, was invited as the chief guest in the symposium. Pro Vice Chancellor of Sindh University-Larkana Campus, Prof. Dr. Azhar Ali Shah attended the symposium as the guest of honor and delivered the keynote speech. Professor Dr. Azhar Ali Shah stated that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said played a crucial role and provided valuable contributions in reviving Tibb-i-Unani despite challenges. Because of his exceptional contributions, the revival of Tibb-i-Unani, an impor-

tant cultural and historical heritage, became possible. "Recognizing the achievements of remarkable individuals is essential for the progress of society. Through today's insightful session, the younger generations will gain profound insights into Hakim Mohammed Said's academic and practical efforts to promote health and education sectors of the country. I hope that the younger minds will find inspiration to emulate his remarkable work and embrace his qualities and follow his footsteps," he said.

He further said that modern medicine often focuses on specific parts of the body, whereas Tibb-i-Unani offers a comprehensive alternative treatment approach that addresses a person's physical, medical, and spiritual well-being. "Our knowledge of this method comes from the teachings of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. Today, the global recognition of the effectiveness of Unani medicine is a significant achievement. However, this success was not easily attained; it resulted from the tremendous dedication and effort of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. He worked tirelessly and



successfully convinced the World Health Organization of the efficacy of Tibb-i-Unani."

"Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said was a prominent researcher, writer, entrepreneur, and advocate for the rich history of Mehran Valley in the modern era. Unani medicine is part of the cultural heritage of Sindh, and he played a vital role in preserving it. Now, it falls upon future generations to carry on this responsibility. Following the principles of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, we should all contribute to the full development and promotion of Unani medicine," he added.

Dr. Ahsan Qavi Siddiqui mentioned that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said played a significant role in nurturing the mental

and intellectual growth of three generations through his monthly editorials "Jaago Jgao," in the monthly Hamdard Nauchal. A competent physician considers both a patient's complaints and symptoms when prescribing treatment. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said possessed this quality as a physician.

"During his time, Tibb-i-Unani was in decline, and Unani medicine was often seen as a relic of the past in the subcontinent. However, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said introduced Unani medicine to the public and restored people's confidence in it. As a Hakim, he conducted medical examinations of patients with warmth and sincerity. Every morning, thousands of patients eagerly awaited

his attention as he addressed their health issues," he said.

He also said: "Notably, Hakim Mohammed Said did not oppose modern surgery but rather advocated for and promoted the concept of Ittehad-e-Salasa, a revolutionary idea aiming to foster collaboration among ancient wisdom, Unani medicine, allopathy, and surgical expertise. As a physician, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said transformed Hamdard Pakistan into a research institution and pioneered innovation and research in Tibb-i-Unani. The rules and regulations established in Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said's clinic have now become the industry standard for manufacturing Unani medicine.

Ms. Sadia Rashid expressed her appreciation for the esteemed

guest speakers and advised the students to heed the words of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said: "Time is a trust from Allah, and using it wisely is an act of worship." She urged students not to squander their time on mobile devices but to use them only for necessary tasks or gathering information. She mentioned that Hakim Mohammed Said recommended reading books beyond the course materials and encouraged all students to cultivate the habit of reading.

During the first session of the symposium, Prof. Dr. Hakim Abdul Hannan, President of PAEM, and Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hassan, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University, also spoke about the various qualities of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said's character and his remarkable contributions to the field of Tibb-i-Unani.

Hakims (physicians) from different cities, who participated in the symposium, paid heartfelt homage and tribute to Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said and highlighted different aspects of his personality and contributions while presenting their research papers.

Self-Defense Forces Day

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada cutting the cake along with others during the celebrations of the Japan Self-Defense Forces Day 2023 at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Oxford University Press Enters a Strategic Partnership with Nutshell Communications

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oxford University Press (OUP), a global leader in publishing, formally announced a strategic partnership with Nutshell Communications, Pakistan's foremost communications firm specialising in stakeholder engagement, corporate branding, thought leadership, and strategic communications.

The agreement was officiated at the OUP headquarters in Karachi by Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO Nutshell Group, and Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director OUP. Senior representatives from both organisations were present on the occasion.

Arshad Saeed Hussain reit-



erated OUP's commitment to upholding the highest standards in education. "OUP is committed to supporting academics through publications, educational materials, and training programs. We are excited about the launch of AQA Oxford, and our rigorous research methods and outreach demonstrate our dedication to advancing education and learning in Pakistan." He emphasized how Nutshell Group's unique Pakistan-focused perspective aligns seamlessly with its mission to promote excellence

in research, scholarship, and education.

Muhammad Azfar Ahsan thanked OUP for choosing Nutshell as its communications partner and emphasised the need to work together for greater causes. "This collaboration holds the potential to achieve excellence and extend OUP's literary contributions to a broader audience. I look forward to assisting OUP in enhancing its outreach and creating a greater impact on a much larger audience."

In Pakistan, the education sector demands the utmost commitment, by all stakeholders, towards standardisation and comprehensive training to swiftly address the challenging circumstances and bring about positive change.

AIOU holds international conference on Islamic Finance



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "We should replace the interest system with a system of charity and encourage giving soft loans and Qarz e Hasna for Islamic finance", said Chairman Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Amjad Saqib, while addressing the opening session of a three-day international conference on "Advancing Islamic Finance" held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Dr. Saqib further stated that to create a strong society, we must eradicate the interest system and eliminate dishonesty, fraud, bribery, nepotism, adultery, and corruption from our lives. A financial system free from interest can be achieved only when we change ourselves and our attitudes towards these malpractices.

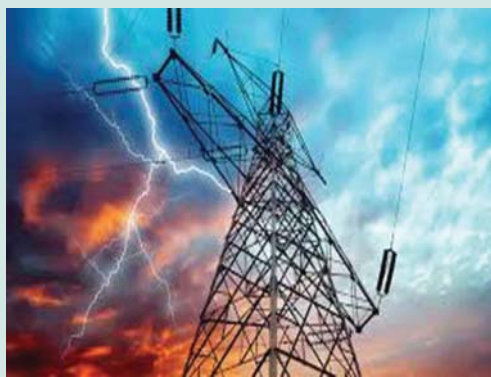
Dr. Saqib revealed that the Akhuwat Foundation initially provided a woman with a loan of 10,000 rupees, which eventually increased to 210 billion rupees and has been distributed as loans to 40 lac families. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood, expressed that despite having sufficient material in the form of books and research, we have not been able to bring about any change in the economic system, either theoretically or practically. Dr. Amjad's success serves as a model for us all. Dr. Nasir added that we can obtain guidance on all matters, including finance, from the Quran and Sunnah. By following the Islamic principles of Zakat, Sadaqat, and Qarz e Hasana, we can create a more beautiful society. Dr. Nasir also emphasized the importance of such conferences.

Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi presented the aims and objectives and said that there will be two parallel sessions and panel discussions every day, in which 125 papers will be presented on different topics. Islamic finance is the driving force for sustainable development and this conference is a ray of hope in this context. Dr. Fawad Khalil of Edinburgh Napier University, UK and Director, Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar, Dr. Usman Ghani were among the other speakers. This conference was jointly organized by the Department of Islamic History and Culture, AIOU, and Center for Excellence in Islamic Finance, Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar in collaboration with Higher Education Commission and Jamia Muhammadiyah Sharif, Chinot.

Stop the Negative propaganda of getting free electricity units to MEPCO employees

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All Pakistan Engineers Association President Engineer Abdul Rauf Singhirah NTDC General Secretary Engineer Tariq Kalro and other officials have clearly and bluntly said that the caretaker government will not pay the employees of MEPCO. Instead of taking away the facility of electricity units given under the end package, give relief to the poor nation in real sense and stop the negative propaganda of getting free electricity to MEPCO employees. He said this during a press conference at the Press Club, in which Engineer Tahir Ali, Engineer Sara Farooq, Naeem Adeel, Jajeeb, Hairan Tareen, Mohsin Jota and others were also present.



Engineer Abdul Rauf Singheda further said that the electricity units given to Mepeco employees under the pay and package are deducted from tax and salary, but unfortunately, negative propaganda is being spread to defame Mepco employees, which is condemned as much as possible. In response to a question, he said that strict action is being taken against electricity thieves, no matter how influential someone is in electricity theft, departmental action is taken against him in the industrial estate. Be ready to resign if anyone is found to be involved in power theft

In response to another question, he said that the sad situation is that the people are facing serious economic problems due to government contracts with IPPs. In order not to burden them more financially, he said that the caretaker government has no power to announce the termination of power units even though the Assembly has decided to provide electricity to MEPCO employees under the end package.

Graphic and text health warnings on tobacco products are pivotal for cessation: experts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Graphic and textual health warnings on all tobacco products are pivotal to counter misleading marketing tactics and reinforce tobacco cessation efforts, said experts at a seminar.

The seminar titled, 'MPOWER - Preparing the Next Generation of Tobacco Control Advocates: WARNING,' was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in collaboration with Vital Strategies here.

In his opening remarks, Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI said that deceptive packaging has long been used by tobacco companies to lure and mislead the youth, therefore, pictorial warnings are effective deterrents to prevent them from initiating smoking.



Dr Minhaj us Siraj from Health Services Academy remarked that the size of the industry and its influence in the policy circles is huge and the key to countering the deceptive efforts of the tobacco industry lies in being innovative.

Dr Aminah Khan, Executive Director of The Initiative, urged the government to conduct comprehensive research to update the graphic health

warnings on packaging of tobacco products and customize the packaging designs accordingly.

Mazhar Arif, Executive Director, CTC/SAMAR, remarked that political will remains a key determinant in the success of any tobacco cessation initiatives. He urged the government to take the lead and aggressively pursue the case of pictorial health warnings.

Dr Waseem Ifikhar Janjua suggest-

ed that warning on tobacco packaging must be placed in multiple languages and must be clear and undistorted. The location of the warning on the packaging must be in an area where it does not get damaged.

Khurram Hashmi, Technical Advisor, Vital Strategies, stressed the need for engaging larger population and leverage media support and evidence-backed research.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Shifting the burden of incompetency - I

Whenever our nation grapples with economic and financial challenges exacerbated by the incompetence, inefficiency, and incapacity of our ruling class, the most vulnerable among us bear the heaviest burden. The individuals who already struggle to secure even two meals a day, who cannot fathom the luxury of a single cup of tea, and who lack the means to send their children to school, are advised to subsist on half a roti instead of a full one, to savor half a cup of tea in place of the comforting warmth of a full cup.

While the ruling class, seemingly impervious to the suffering of their fellow countrymen, continues to live in opulent villas abroad, traverse the skies in private jets, and occupy custom-designed offices adorned with luxuries beyond imagination.

In recent times, the very individuals responsible for our nation's financial management, particularly the former PDM finance minister and later the incumbent caretaker finance minister have issued statements to transfer the burden of their inefficiency, incapacity, and incompetence onto retirees, who have already dedicated over four decades of their lives in service to the government and the public.

This audacious proposition asserts that the weight of pensions has become intolerable for the government and suggested that the only viable solution lies in the formulation of a policy that

would, in essence, strip pensioners of their hard-earned entitlements – the pensions they diligently accrued during their years of dedicated service.

What is truly disconcerting is that these statements emanate from none other than the self-proclaimed economic wizard, Mr. Ishaq Dar, a man whose wealth has grown to such astonishing proportions that he himself may not possess an accurate account of it. If even a fraction of the wealth amassed by individuals like him could be repatriated to our country, it could potentially transform our economic and financial landscape, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future.

This callous narrative reveals a shocking lack of compassion and an outrageously irrational approach. It implies that the government's solution is to either slash pensions, impose a time limit on disbursements, freeze adjustments for inflation, or even strip surviving spouses of their rightful pension benefits after a pensioner's passing.

In this grim scenario, it seems that if these measures fail to miraculously fix the government's financial outlook, the next steps could entail extreme and unthinkable actions. The government might instruct the defense forces to auction their weapons, insist on our soldiers to stop wearing their uniforms, close

down our diplomatic missions abroad, halt government operations, extinguish traffic lights to save electricity, cease fuel purchases for vehicles to cut fuel costs, shut down power and gas production, and ground planes.

In the eyes of our ruling class, the answer to our financial and economic hardship is to strip away the very means of survival from the salaried, working, and middle-class citizens, and now even the pensioners.

Pensioners, in their post-retirement years, often find themselves in the twilight of life. Many have already experienced the erosion of their physical and mental faculties. Despite these personal challenges, they continue to grapple with daunting burdens. They strive to keep the home fires burning, endeavor to fulfill their commitments, such as educating their children, supporting their daughters' marriages, and securing a peaceful place to reside.

Additionally, they must navigate the financial maze, endeavoring to meet essential needs while coping with the weight of utility bills that have grown burdensome. Yet, what keeps them up at night are not their personal struggles, but the distressing and insensitive remarks of government ministers, amplified by the media. These comments label them as a strain on the national economy and

a drain on the government's treasury. In their wildest dreams, these retirees might never have anticipated that, after dedicating four decades of their prime years in service to the government, they would be met with anything other than gratitude. Instead, they now face the heart-wrenching reality of being labeled as burdens on the system, with proposals that threaten to strip them of their only means to make ends meet.

It's become abundantly clear that the path to financial and economic improvement does not hinge on the cruel act of depriving citizens of their right to a dignified life. Instead, it lies in a concerted effort to enhance our systems and invest in vital areas. We should channel resources into education and research and development, promoting innovation and nurturing creativity.

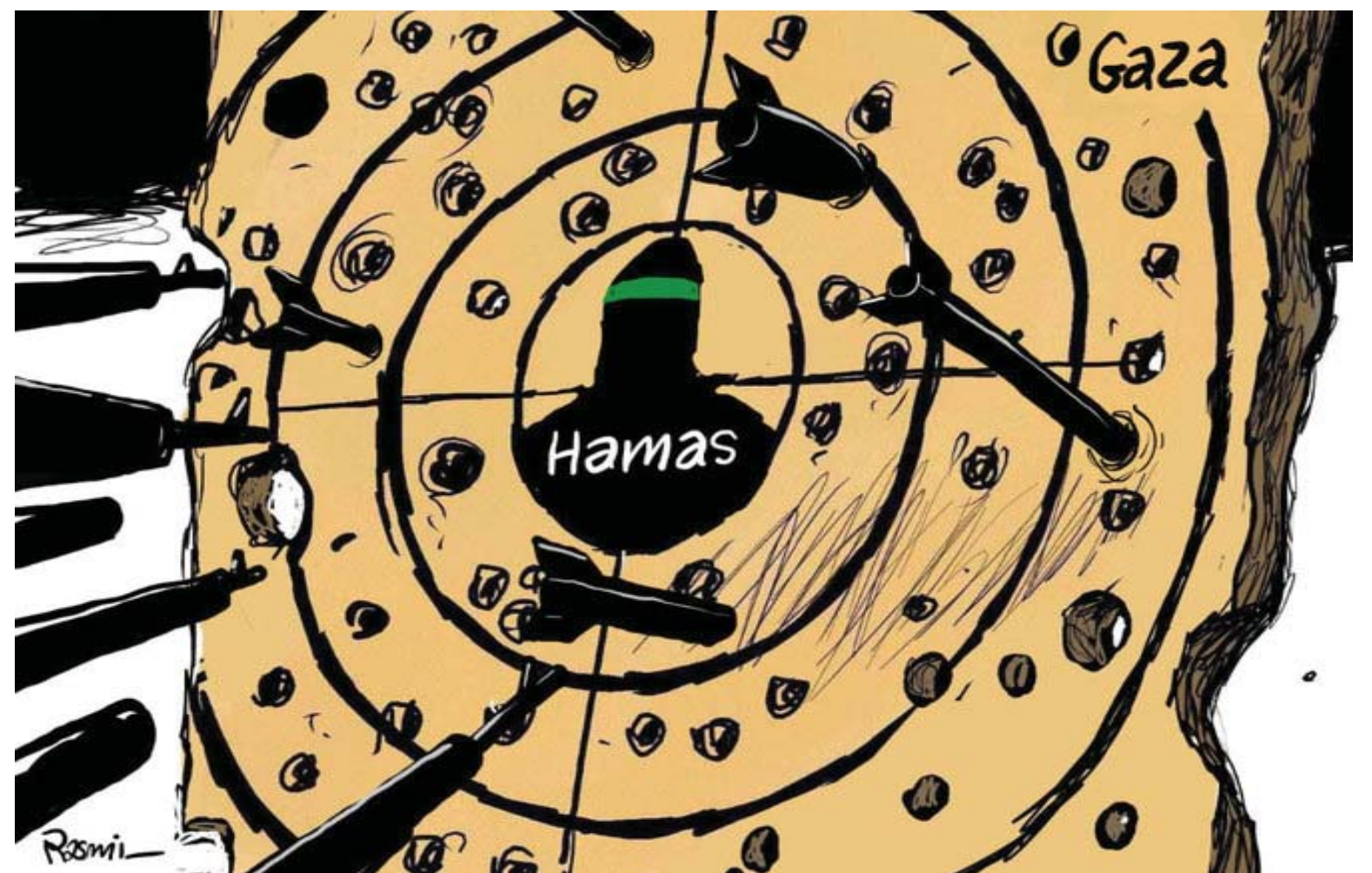
We need to create an environment where people can fully unlock their potential. The solution lies in expanding our exports, enticing foreign investment, fostering entrepreneurial ventures, establishing industrial hubs, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our businesses, and elevating the quality and demand for our products and services, improving the quality and quantity of our products and services. By adding value to our offerings and creating our own brands, we can tap into new markets and boost our competitive edge. Facilitating easy access to loans for startups will nurture fresh business niches, invigorating our entrepreneurial spirit.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Deadline for Undocumented Afghan Refugees - IV

The Afghan-Pakistan border region remains fraught with ongoing conflicts and instability, making it a hotspot for smuggling activities. Militant groups and criminal organizations frequently exploit this chaos to engage in various illegal enterprises. The porous border facilitates the relatively easy movement of smuggled goods and individuals. Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, and drug trafficking represents a major source of income for numerous individuals and groups within the country. Smuggling drugs into Pakistan is a common practice, with devastating consequences for both nations, fueling addiction and destabilizing communities on both sides of the border.

The involvement of Afghan individuals in smuggling activities in Pakistan carries several significant consequences. Pakistan endures economic losses due to revenue evasion and the disruption of legal trade. Smuggling undermines legitimate businesses and hampers government efforts to collect taxes and tariffs. Smuggling networks frequently intertwine with militant and terrorist groups, posing a grave security risk to both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Illicit funds generated from smuggling can potentially finance terrorism and insurgency. Smuggling perpetuates crime, addiction, and social instability in affected areas, resulting in the deterioration of community well-being and public health.

As per a report, in the previous year, Afghanistan's total imports reached \$7.3 billion, while its exports amounted to nearly \$1.5 billion. To offset such a significant trade deficit, there was a rampant operation involving smuggling these same goods into Pakistan and engaging

in illegal dollar trading, constituting a widespread illicit enterprise. Notably, Afghanistan's substantial imports swelled to \$5.6 billion, despite a lack of corresponding demand in its own market. For instance, Afghanistan witnessed a 35% increase in the import of synthetic fabrics, while Pakistan experienced a 40% decrease. Similarly, Afghanistan's import of electrical equipment surged by 72%, while Pakistan's declined by 62%. Plastic goods import saw a remarkable 206% rise in Afghanistan but decreased by 23% in Pakistan. Tire imports increased by 80% in Afghanistan but dropped by 42% in Pakistan. Machinery import shot up by 211% in Afghanistan but receded by 51% in Pakistan.

Recently, the spokesperson for the Taliban government in Afghanistan responded to this announcement, deeming the treatment of Afghan refugees in Pakistan as "unacceptable" and asserting that "Afghan refugees bear no responsibility for Pakistan's security issues." Zabihullah Mujahid has emphasized that Pakistan should reassess its policy in this regard. A day before Zabihullah Mujahid's statement, the Afghan embassy in Islamabad alleged that four Afghan citizens died under mysterious circumstances while in police custody. However, speaking to a BBC correspondent, the Senior Superintendent of Police Operations in Islamabad, refuted these allegations from the Afghan Embassy. He also stated that in the last 10 days, 541 Afghans were arrested who did not possess proof of legal residence in Pakistan.

Subsequently, following the Apex Committee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister recently, the Caretaker Federal Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti, held an impromptu press conference to address the situation. He announced that a deadline of November 1 has been set for foreigners residing in Pakistan without legal authorization. Sarfraz Bugti stressed that the welfare and security of Pakistani citizens are of paramount importance, emphasizing that the well-being of the Pakistani nation takes precedence over any foreign nation or policy. The grace period for compliance will be observed from October 10 to 31, after which the passport and visa policy will be strictly enforced. It is important to note that a significant portion of those living illegally in Pakistan are Afghan nationals.

Readers, the presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan presents a multifaceted issue that calls for a nuanced approach. The concerns regarding the involvement of a substantial number of Afghan refugees in negative activities and terrorism are valid. The Pakistan Army has reinforced border security measures in order to significantly reduce the opportunities for smuggling and the transportation of elements that pose a threat to the state, including terrorists. General Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), has purportedly directed the Frontier Corps (FC), Rangers, and Coast Guards to spare no effort in eliminating smuggling and to collaborate closely with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Customs authorities. Additionally, dedicated Task Forces have been established for this purpose. According to sources, the oversight of the anti-smuggling campaign has been entrusted to Military Intelligence Agencies.

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

The whole world is aware of the entry of Jahangir Tareen and Aleem Khan into the party. The leaders of this party did not include any noteworthy and practical steps in their manifesto regarding education, technology, and IT in their first meeting. Talking about providing free electricity and subsidized petrol is nothing but deceit and fraud to the public. Some time ago, Hamza Shahbaz also made such false promises. Currently, I have come across a report from the Asian Development Bank, which criticizes the progress in the IT sector in Pakistan. Let us read it, it seems we're lagging even further behind as the rest of the world makes the transition to what is increasingly being called "digital education."

A study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revealed that Pakistan is the "least ready country" for digital education among its developing member countries (DMCs). The report, titled "Towards Mature Digital Education Ecosystems, the Digital Education Readiness Framework", says Pakistan's "major areas for improvement" include low internet connectivity – only 34.1 percent of households are connected – low fixed broadband speeds, high fixed line broadband costs, and low rural electricity access.

All these problems have been highlighted numerous times at different forums. Indeed, other countries among ADB's (Asia Development Bank) DMCs (developing member countries) have faced similar challenges. Yet the difference between Pakistan and countries like Uzbekistan and Indonesia – the top-2 "most prepared countries for digital education" – is that they gave them the attention and resources required to overcome them, and we did not.

Relative to the model country, Uzbekistan is the most prepared country for digital education,

followed by Indonesia. The least ready country is Pakistan, followed by Fiji.

Across all five pillars, countries perform relatively the lowest in the providers pillar, with six of the 10 DMCs in the "initial" category of readiness – Cambodia, Bangladesh, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Fiji (ordered from highest to lowest score).

The other four countries are in the "emerging" category of readiness (Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Uzbekistan). The difference between the model country's normalized score and the highest-scoring country's score is almost 45 points.

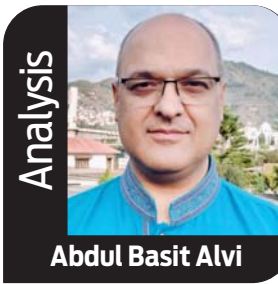
The 10 DMCs fare quite well in keeping their mobile broadband costs to a low percentage of GNI per capita, but fixed broadband costs differ across the board. While Cambodia, Indonesia, and Pakistan are the least affordable in broadband costs, Bangladesh, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan are the most affordable.

Although, we're a nuclear power that cannot stay solvent unless we're on one bailout programme or another. If the education problem gets any worse, we will not have any credible human resource of our own either. At this time, we need a well-established educational system. The political agendas of seasonal political parties do not include uniform educational standards. In the past, the PTI government worked on it, but it faced obstacles from anti-national elements. If we do not standardize our education system, in the future, we will have to seek the leadership of our institutions from abroad, and our competence is already deteriorating. Just yesterday, help was requested from the military to run the management of two major hospitals in Islamabad because the health department lacked capability and competence.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

OICCI urges collaborative efforts to address climate crisis at Pakistan Climate Conference 2023

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: "Climate change is a global issue but in Pakistan's case it is evident that climate change is happening now and not a phenomenon that only our future generations will experience," said Amir Paracha, OICCI President at the 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference on November 01.

This is the second consecutive year that the OICCI has organized the Climate Conference with the aim for a better climate action in the country. Despite being responsible for less than 1% of the world's planet-warming gases, Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis.

Caretaker Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar, while addressing the conference, said that to address climate related challenges, Pakistan would require an investment of approximately \$340 billion dollars, which is 10pc of cumulative GDP. One of the biggest chal-

lenges we have internationally is the issue of trade-off between climate finance and developmental finance.

She said that getting money for Pakistan's climate crisis undercuts other development finance. However, for the first time the Ministry of Finance is partnering with the Ministry of Climate and will attend the COP28 together in November and look towards innovative climate finance mechanisms.

The cost of climate change to Pakistan is substantial and is continuously increasing as the country faces severe economic challenges," said Minister of Energy Muhammad Ali.

Addressing the Conference via a video link, the energy minister said that Pakistan's energy transition requires substantial investments in energy assets infrastructure by 2040.

Ali added that to achieve this, "we must leverage the capabilities of private sector, especially OICCI as it consists of most advanced global organizations



who have the technologies and know how to contribute towards Pakistan's climate future."

"There is no longer a distinction between 'finance' and 'climate finance'. All financial institutions need to have climate considerations embedded in

their decision making processes," said Philip Skinner, MD, GuarantCo.

In his opening address, Amir Paracha said that as a collective of more than 200 multinational corporations in Pakistan, the OICCI launched the Conference

last year with a sense of responsibility and accountability. "Taking responsibility for our footprint, we are working towards minimizing our environmental mark as much as we can by implementing changes within our own operations and also engag-

ing with other key players in the ecosystem," he added.

Speaking on the importance of discourse on climate change impacts, OICCI Secretary General M Abdul Aleem said that the Conference highlighted "initiatives, projects, and campaigns

that show how people from different backgrounds, sectors, and countries are here to work together to address the climate crisis."

The conference was also addressed by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Minister of Finance, Muhammad Ali, Minister of Energy, Adil Najam, WWF Global President, Bill Winters, Global CEO Standard Chartered Bank, Philip Skinner, Managing Director GuarantCo, Sarah Mooney, British Deputy High Commissioner, among other leading business and thought leaders.

A large number of people from the business community, trade bodies, academia, NGOs and social sector organizations attended the conference and congratulated OICCI for bringing the best global talent to one table and discuss the important issue.

OICCI member companies, including Chevron, Dawlance, InfraZamin, Standard Chartered Bank, Unilever, BASF, Toyota Indus Motors, Nestle and Abbott were key sponsors of the event.

World Cities Day honours the role of cities in shaping a sustainable future

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The World Cities Day "WCD" is an initiative by the UN-Habitat which marks the end of Urban October Activities. Shehersaz Celebrated "World Cities Day" with a Focus on "Financing a Sustainable Urban Future for All", a vibrant and thought-provoking event hosted at the Earth Sciences Auditorium, Quaid-e-Azam University, in collaboration with UN-Habitat Pakistan, Adaptation Fund and Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad. The event brought together experts, artists, and individuals passionate about urban living to commemorate and celebrate the importance of cities and their role in shaping the cities' future.

The panel discussion featured notable experts including, Mr Jawed Ali Khan, Country Program Manager UN-Habitat Pakistan, Mr Azhar Ul Islam, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Abbas Moosvi, Research Fellow PIDE, Dr. Beenish Kulsom, Program Manager PUCAR, Shehersaz, Abdul Shakoor Sindhu, Urban Planner and Designer.

During the panel discussion, Mr. Jawed said that the local government assets need to be made vibrant so that



they can be turned from liabilities to resources, adding the crucial need for institutions that can deliver needs of cities. Additionally, he revealed that UN-Habitat has implemented a project on Low Carbon Urban Development in Karachi where they have introduced Green Building Codes in collaboration with NED University and Pakistan Engineering Council. He also mentioned this initiative has been selected for a Global Award in the upcoming COP28.

Mr. Azhar said the private sector has never been allowed to grow and pro-

per, adding that there is no dearth of resources. However, he stated there is a need to adopt a National Policy that assigns the right person to the right task. He also highlighted; no nation can progress without investing in its human resource, adding that our policy makers should seriously reflect on why most of the Pakistanis are not satisfied and want to immigrate.

Mr. Abbas gave a historical overview of urbanization and industrialization in Pakistan, stating that the process of urbanization started in Pakistan with Green Revolution. Further-

more, he affirmed that many people blame Bhutto's Nationalization Policy however, he highlighted that Pakistan's industrial growth peaked during the 70's.

Ms. Almas mentioned a developed and sustainable city is one in which every citizen can relate to their respective city and one which serves the needs of its women, children and youth, the elderly, disabled and trans genders.

Dr. Beenish Kulsum asserted that local governments have never been taken seriously in Pakistan. They have always been resource less entities which remain at the mercy of provincial governments.

Mr. Abdul Shakoor deemed Pakistan highly unlikely to meet its agreed targets for SDG11 that deals with inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities and communities. He shared that there can be no city planning and management in the absence of reliable data. Subsequently, he suggested that Federal and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics should be made administratively and financially autonomous entities so that they are able to generate reliable data.

The final highlight of the event was the conception of 'ideal cities' envisioned by young artists who transformed their ideas into paintings.

Pakistan Applauds ILO's Comprehensive Action Plan on Labor Protection: Zulfiqar Ahmad



City Desk

GENEVA: In a significant address at the 349th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Zulfiqar Ahmad, Secretary, Workers' Welfare Fund, representing the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, expressed Pakistan's commendation for the Office's proactive approach in developing a comprehensive action plan on labor protection for the period 2023-29.

Commencing his statement by extending heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body, Mr. Ahmad conveyed Pakistan's confidence in the Chairperson's leadership abilities, anticipating significant advancements in the global cause of labor protection and social security. He emphasized the vital role played by labor protection and social security as interconnected facets of social welfare, echoing the plan's viewpoint on their mutually supportive relationship.

Mr. Ahmad highlighted Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the well-being and safety of its workforce, aligning with the national goals and objectives.

Acknowledging the evolving nature of employment patterns, he stressed the importance of addressing the needs of workers engaged in non-traditional work arrangements. In particular, he endorsed the plan's focus on preventing the exclusion of workers in platform work, telework, and temporary employment from essential labor protection measures.

Pakistan stands firmly in support of the ILO's efforts to safeguard workers' rights and social security, promoting a sustainable work environment that encapsulates all forms of employment.

The nation looks forward to actively participating in the realization of the action plan's objectives, working collectively towards a future where labor protection is universally accessible and unconditionally assured.

Ghulam Bilal Javed elected as Chairman of All Pakistan Car Dealers Association



City Desk

PESHAWAR: Ghulam Bilal Javed was elected as the Chairman of All Pakistan Car Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while Bakht Mir Jan Durrani was elected as the President of All Pakistan Car Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Peshawar Traders Chamber President Ghulam Bilal Javed was elected as the Chairman of All Pakistan Car Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while Bakht Mir Jan Durrani was elected as the President.

It should be noted that Ghulam Bilal Javed is also the Chairman of the Sarhad Chamber Car Dealers Standing Committee and Bakht Mir Jan Durrani is the Vice Chairman of the Sarhad Chamber Car Dealers Standing Committee.

Ghulam Bilal Javed's services to the business community are not hidden from anyone but also to the people of Peshawar. Ghulam Bilal says that the problems of car deals and importers will be raised to all levels. This industry had faces many problems after Corona but now Insha Allah. With the help of Almighty Allah and the prayers of you people all the problems will be solved soon.

Fly Jinnah marks one year of exceptional air travel service

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, celebrates its first anniversary, honoring a year of extraordinary service and remarkable accomplishments. Over the course of the past 12 months, Fly Jinnah has firmly established itself as a preferred airline for travelers, operating a network of domestic flights and connecting major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta.

Since its inaugural flight took off to the skies on October 31, 2022, Fly Jinnah has consistently prioritized operational excellence and

customer service. In its inaugural year, the airline operated more than 4,370 domestic flights while ensuring hassle-free travel experiences for its customers. The carrier managed to introduce its value-driven product offering to the domestic market across the country in its first year by consistently providing passengers with comfort, reliability, and affordable air travel services.

Fly Jinnah low-cost business model focuses on providing customers with added value at each step of their journey. With a modern fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft, Fly Jinnah offers the most spacious legroom of all economy cabins, guaranteeing



its passengers unparalleled comfort throughout their journeys. The state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system "Sky Time" enables passengers to stream a wide range of entertainment

options, including Urdu and Hollywood movies, TV shows, games, audio, music, and documentaries. Furthermore, Fly Jinnah enhances the travel experience with its delightful "Sky Cafe"

onboard menu, offering a diverse selection of delectable hot meals, sandwiches, snacks, and beverages.

Additionally, the carrier's commitment to operational excellence garnered commendation from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) for its exceptional flight punctuality and consistency, earning the top spot in these categories.

As Fly Jinnah embarks on its second year of operations, the airline remains focused on setting new industry standards, enhancing the overall travel experience, and expanding its reach to benefit an even larger number of passengers.

Careem partners with LUMS to empower working class women of Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a groundbreaking initiative, Careem, pioneer of ride hailing services in Pakistan, has partnered with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) to launch "Asset-based Finance for Microenterprises in Pakistan". The partnership is aimed at uplifting and empowering women in Pakistan by offering them the opportunity to become self-reliant entrepreneurs and contribute to the socio-economic growth of the country.

Through the partnership, initially 35 women registered themselves on

the Careem platform as female rickshaw Captains, taking control of their destinies and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. This is just the beginning, with the potential for further expansion, promising a tangible and transformative impact on the lives of these women and Pakistan's workforce as a whole.

This collaborative project is conducted in partnership with the University of Oxford and prominent microfinance institutions including National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Akhuwat, and Rural Community Development Programs (RCDP). It is funded

through the GEA initiative of Abdul-Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The project aims to address the challenges of gender inequality, limited employment opportunities, and safety concerns faced by women, particularly in the transportation sector.

This project marks a significant step towards empowering women in Pakistan, promoting financial inclusion, and enhancing women's access to safe and reliable transportation. By combining the expertise of academia and industry, this partnership strives to drive positive change

in Pakistan's workforce, also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2023.

Dr Kashif Zaheer Malik, Associate Professor LUMS stated: "The 'Female Rickshaw Project' offers a range of benefits for females, including economic empowerment, financial independence and enhanced mobility. Female rickshaw drivers will make transportation safer for women and serve as inspirational role models for others. This project contributes to cultural shifts, fostering gender equity and women's participation in the workforce and public spaces".

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
52,342.63	51,920.27
Day's High	Day's Low
52,451.20	52,075.16
Index Value	Change
12,240,091,359	+422.36
Percentage	Time
+0.81%	1 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,342.43	+20.71
Percentage	Time
+0.28%	1 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,127.89	+75.02
Percentage	Time
+0.23%	1 Nov, 1:13 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,601.65	+742.80
Percentage	Time
+2.41%	1 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.25	180
Bahrain Dinar	745.81	753.81
Canadian Dollar	204	206.00
China Yuan	38.51	38.91
Danish Krone	39.7	40.1
Euro	296.3	299.2
Hong Kong Dollar	35.85	36.2
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	1.68	1.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.01	913.01
Malaysian Ringgit	58.69	59.29
New Zealand \$	163.07	165.07
Norwegians Krone	25	25.3
Omani Riyal	728.21	736.21
Qatari Riyal	77.04	77.74
Saudi Riyal	75	75.85
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	24.98	25.28
Swiss Franc	310.9	313.4
Thai Bhat	7.76	7.91
U.A.E Dirham	79	79.75
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.4
US Dollar	281	283.5

Inflation greater compared to SBP and IMF estimates, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khaatak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that under the current economic conditions, there was scope for reducing the interest rate, but it was maintained, which is disappointing.

Along with the decrease in the value of the dollar in Pakistan, oil is becoming cheaper in the international market, but the price of petrol and high-speed diesel has not been reduced, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the price of kerosene and light diesel has been reduced

slightly, and if the price of petrol and diesel was reduced, people would get some relief.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that due to the low price of oil in the international market, people expected a reduction in the price of petrol and diesel by almost Rs 18, but the prices were maintained.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that diesel plays a fundamental role in economic activities and the transportation of essential goods, so the reduction in its price leads to a reduction in inflation, which should be considered by the authorities.

The business leader said that the inflation in the country is increasing more than the estimates of the State Bank, which should be stopped. The IMF had estimated infla-



tion to be 25.9 percent during the current

year, while the central bank had predicted inflation to be 20 to 22 percent during the current financial year, but this did not happen, and it reached 31.4 percent in September.

He informed that Pakistan has to pay billions of dollars, for which huge investments are expected from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates under the SIFC, while other countries and international organizations are expected to provide aid and loans after the 2022 floods.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community is hopeful that the review of the IMF in November will be successful, as a result of which Pakistan will not only be able to get the instalment of 710 million dollars of debt but also the rollover of old loans.

Carelessness

KARACHI: A vendor is maneuvering LPG cylinders in loader vehicle without any proper safety arrangements, which may cause any incident any time.



Photo: Online

NTDC completes reconductoring work of 500 kV transmission line K2/K3-NKI

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has successfully completed the reconductoring work of 500 kV transmission line K2/K3-NKI circuit (17.98 km) and K2/K3-Jamshoro circuit-1 (6.37 km) before the set deadline. The transmission line has been energized today.

The reconductoring work has been completed in 50 days, which is 25 days less than the contractual completion period of 75 days.

The key activities performed during the assignment include replacement of old & deteriorated

conductor, reconductoring of new conductor covering the distance/length of 24.35 km, replacement of old & deteriorated hardware & insulators on 71 towers, replacement of shield wire covering the distance/length of 24.51 km and installation / pulling of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) covering the distance/length of 24.94 km. Moreover, foundation and erection work of 06 towers and dismantling of 04 existing towers was also carried out.

Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan applauded the efforts of the concerned NTDC team for completion of the assignment before the target date.

Rwanda wants to increase business and investment ties with Pakistan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and exchanged views with the business community to further enhance business and investment relations with Pakistan. Senator Murangwa Ndaganza Hadidja Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of Rwanda, H. E. James Kimonyo Ambassador of Rwanda, Farooque A. Khawaja Honorary Consul General of Rwanda to Pakistan and others were in the delegation. Senator Zeeshan Khanzada also accompanied the delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda said that bilateral relations between Rwanda and Pakistan are on good track and they want to further strengthen them in various fields including trade, investment, ICT and other sectors. He said that Rwanda is negotiating many MoUs with Pakistan to expand and deepen bilateral relations.

H. E. James Kimonyo Ambassador of Rwanda briefed the business community about the comprehensive reforms in Rwanda for foreign investors including zero import tariffs, tax holidays, one stop shop facility and stressed that the Pakistani business community should invest in Rwanda in mining, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, financial services and other sectors as Rwanda is the best place for doing business.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar



Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the delegation about the role of SIFC, which is providing one window facility to investors. He said that under the guidance of COAS General Asim Munir, SIFC is getting significant investment from China and Arab countries and stressed that investors of Rwanda should also take benefit of its services to make investment in Pakistan.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada said that Rwanda is a good place for business and the private sector of Pakistan should explore it for business and investment activities. He said that ICCI input would be obtained to finalize the PTA with Rwanda.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that ICCI is planning to take a delegation to Rwanda next year to interact with its private sector and explore the potential of Pakistani products in its market.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG stressed for direct air connectivity between Pakistan and Rwanda to improve people-to-people and trade ties. Farooque A. Khawaja Honorary Consul General of Rwanda to Pakistan also highlighted the potential areas of mutual cooperation and some hurdles that should be addressed to improve trade relations. The delegation held B2B meetings with ICCI members.

Xenith PR celebrates 24 years of success and achievements

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Xenith Public Relations (Pvt.) Limited, a full-service communications agency, is thrilled to celebrate its 24th anniversary this month. Founded in 1999 by visionary PR expert Zainab Ansari, Xenith PR has emerged as a trailblazer in the public relations sector, continuously evolving and staying at the forefront of industry trends and evolution.

Although the agency initially opened its doors to local and global clients for public relations services only, it later transformed into a fully functioning communications agency, adding event management to its forte in 2004 and digital engagement by 2012, offering its long-standing clientele comprehensive solutions that cater to their diverse needs.

Zainab Ansari, Founder and Chairperson at Xenith PR, expressed her gratitude and appreciation, stating, "As we celebrate our 24th anniversary, I am filled with immense pride for all the talented individuals who contributed to our success. With all the invaluable expe-

rience we have gained along this journey, we are thrilled to step into a brighter future alongside our clients and our community. I would also like to recognize our clients, who stood with us from Day One of our journey and remained our partners through the years."

An affiliate of the global communications group FleishmanHillard, Xenith PR has consistently delivered unparalleled value to its clients and customers. Through its strategic approach, the agency has effectively elevated the profiles of national and international brands, cementing its reputation as one of the pioneers in the public relations industry. Today, the firm boasts a remarkable portfolio containing clients in the FMCG, healthcare, banking, tourism, as well as other industries, as well as a range of successful partnerships with established PR agencies around the world.

Rahel Nabi, Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Xenith PR, commented: "I am honored to be a part of an agency that has consistently set high standards in the industry."

SECP to establish online dashboard 'ESG Sustain'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed said that the SECP has been actively striving to inculcate a regulatory environment that considers the environmental impact, encourages corporate social responsibilities and stimulates good governance practices.

The Chairman SECP was speaking at the 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference organized by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI). Akif talked about recent developments on ESG framework in Pakistan and SECP's vision of its governance framework.

Akif pointed out that Pakistan is one of 10 most climate-vulnerable

countries in the world and has experienced the most devastating impacts of climate change in the form of catastrophic floods last year that affected 33 million people with loss of approx. PKR 3.3 trillion.

Akif said that one of the main ingredients for achieving long-term value for stakeholders is inclusivity. To address this area, not only has the SECP mandated female representation on companies' boards, we are also actively striving towards creating conducive work environments by encouraging companies to implement gender diversity policies. I am glad to note that major strides

have been made, and currently more than 87% of listed companies have at least one female director on board.

Further, the corporate governance regime requires ownership of ESG policy at board level and disclosure of ESG based initiatives in their annual reports. Most recently, SECP has also issued guidelines (for the public sector and public listed companies) in order to facilitate formulation of Code of Conduct for directors, senior managers and other employees.

Akif said that SECP has entered into an arrangement with a multilateral for establishing an online dash-

board called 'ESG Sustain' that will be the premier national level one stop repository for all sustainability related laws, regulations, capacity building, reports, and data covering all regulated sectors. Considering we lack a centralized platform for climate change related information and sustainability based products, this platform can be valuable for local as well as foreign investors.

He informed participants that the SECP has issued ESG guidelines for voluntary adoption by the listed companies on which public consultation is currently in process. Considering, our listed companies are relatively familiar with the Governance pillar of ESG, the said guidelines have been designed to unequivocally focus

on the other two pillars of E and S reporting using relevant reporting metrics. In the Environmental arena, the companies will be able to report on their performance using the internationally recognized metrics such as Green House Gas emissions, energy and water usage, environmental operations etc. Further, the companies will be disclosing the level of their board and management's involvement to oversee and manage climate related risks.

He said that through collaboration and consolidating our efforts we can foster an environment of accountability and enable stakeholders to make informed decisions, support sustainable initiatives actively and attract investments.

The SBTi approves Pakistan Cables science-based emissions reduction target

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Cables, the pioneer wires and cable manufacturer in Pakistan, has become the country's first building material company to have its science-based emission reduction targets validated and approved by SBTi. The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) drives ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling organizations to set science-based emissions reduction targets.

"We plan to drive sustainability by investing in continuous process improvement and cleaner energy to reach our targets by 2030," said Fahd K. Chinoy, CEO at Pakistan Cables. "By setting science-based targets, Pakistan Cables is accelerating its efforts to align with ongoing global efforts to reduce global warming."

The Company's science-based emission reduction targets are part of its

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

Earlier in 2021, Pakistan Cables became one of the 26 Pakistani companies and the only building materials company that signed the pledge for Business Ambition 1.5oC ahead of COP26. To date, the Company has planted 50,000 trees approximately at the Pakistan Cables Urban Forest situation in Nooriabad factory, which is the country's first and largest Miyawaki based Urban Forest on an industrial estate.

Furthermore, Pakistan Cables has the 14001:2015 certification, which reinforces the Company's commitment to ensure its products meet the highest environmental standards and mitigate environmental impacts.



Australia suffer major setback ahead of World Cup clash against England

A Sports

In-form all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of Australia's ICC World Cup 2023 clash against England, head coach Andrew McDonald said on Wednesday.

According to the details, Maxwell suffered a concussion due to falling off a golf cart this week.

He fell on his back off the buggy after playing a round of golf, ahead of his side's all-important contest against defending champions England on Saturday.

As per Cricket Australia's concussion protocols, Glenn Maxwell's condition will be monitored for a few days.

"He's doing fine, he'll start some light exercises today and we feel as though it will be a reasonably straightforward return to play protocol," McDonald told reporters.

"I suppose the fortunate part was there was no other injury sustained



which could have been a lot worse than it is. I think it rattled everyone to be fair once it came to the conclusion there was a concussion and he was going to miss a game.

"There was nothing untoward in the behaviour throughout the day, it was a clear-cut accident. Unfortunately, it's compromised what we are doing as a team."

For the unversed, Maxwell missed Australia's away series against South Africa before the ICC World Cup 2023 with an ankle issue.

He also broke his leg, last November, in a freak accident at a birthday party in Melbourne.

Meanwhile, Glenn Maxwell has turned up to be a crucial asset for Australia with his hard-hitting ability and as a disciplined off-spinner.

In his side's ICC World Cup 2023 fixture against the Netherlands, Glenn Maxwell stunned the World Cup by smashing the fastest World Cup hundred.

The right-handed batter decimated the Dutch bowlers to bring up a 40-ball hundred.

He finished at a 44-ball 106 that featured nine boundaries and eight sixes.

Glenn Maxwell also became the first batter in ODI history to score a century after having faced the first ball after the 40th over.

Lahore Lahore Aye Festival provides opportunity to young athletes: Sports Board

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival is providing great opportunity to potential athletes of different games. Sports Board Punjab is holding sports events of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

He expressed these views at the closing ceremony of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival Inter-School U-18 Wushu Championship at the NPSC Gymnasium Hall on Wednesday.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail expressed his satisfaction after witnessing great passion among the young athletes especially the female players. "The top performing male and female athletes will be given monthly scholarships under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi".

Director General Sports



Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that Sports Board Punjab organized 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival events of Mini Marathon and Road Cycling were conducted on October 28. "Punjab Stadium will host the Kabaddi event on November 5 and Rustam-

e-Punjab Dandal on November 12, 2023. The taekwondo competitions of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' festival will be conducted at NPSC Gymnasium Hall on November 7" he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further

said that leading athletes are participating in sports events of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' festival. "These sports events will play an important role in promoting sports culture among the younger generation besides providing a great amount of

entertainment to people of Punjab province".

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, President Pakistan Wushu Federation (PWF), Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Assistant Directors M Waseem, M Sajid, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustafa Shah and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail also witnessed exciting competitions, gymnastic and wushu performance on this occasion. He also distributed cash prizes among the top position holder athletes of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival Inter School U-18 Wushu Championship. The gold medal winners were awarded cash prize of Rs 50,000, silver medal winners Rs 30,000 and bronze medal winners Rs 20,000. Around 200 male and female players participated in the competitions of eight weight categories from 26 kg to 60 kg.

Ruthless South Africa set World Cup record

A Sports

LAHORE: South Africa set a World Cup record for the most sixes by a team in a single edition during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against 2019 finalists New Zealand at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

Proteas struck 15 sixes in the fixture against New Zealand to best England's record 76 sixes. The defending champions had hit 75 maximums in the 2019 edition.

South Africa, who are eyeing their first 50-over World Cup title, gave a daunting target of 358 runs in today's game.

Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen's centuries powered South Africa to post a massive total of 357/4 against New Zealand.

The Proteas had a contrasting start to their innings as their captain Temba Bavuma (24)



perished cheaply with just 38 runs on the board.

Following an early blow,

van der Dussen and Quinton de Kock joined forces to dominate New Zealand bowlers and

added 200 runs for the second wicket before experienced pacer Tim Southee finally got rid of

the latter.

De Kock scored 114 in 116 deliveries with the help of 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Meanwhile, van der Dussen stood his ground firm and batted till the 48th before he, too, fell victim to Southee.

The right-handed batter top-scored for South Africa with 133 in 118 balls, smashing nine boundaries and five sixes.

Besides them, hard-hitting batter David Miller scored a quickfire half-century to further boost South Africa's total.

Miller scored 53 in just 30 deliveries, laced up with two boundaries and four sixes.

Later, Heinrich Klaasen (15*) and Aiden Markram (6*) smashed a six each.

New Zealand, in pursuit of a daunting 358-run total, are struggling against South African pacers as they could manage to score 90/4 in 18 overs.

Combaxx Asian Open Taekwondo Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the first day of the 5th COMBAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship, Pakistani players dominated the poomsae discipline here. The national players won a total of 9 gold medals out of 10. One gold medal went to Nepal.

In Poomsae's U-30 mixed pair event, Pakistan's Flower Zaheer and Anas won gold with 7.48 points, Higher Education Commission's Ammar and Fatima won silver with 6.71 points, and Sindh's Shafi & Ulma won bronze with 6.43 and Zain Hasan and Latif of NUCES University won the fourth bronze medal by scoring 6.39 points.

In the mixed pair of over 30 category, Ali and Shafaqat of Pakistan WAPDA were first with 6.59, Ali and Bashir of Pakistan were second with 6.26, Changaizi and Kausar of Punjab were third while Farhan and Hajra of Sindh came fourth.

In the men's under-30 team event, Pakistan's Qadeer, Waheed and Hussain won gold with 7.48 points, Pakistan Army's Shehzad, Didar and Ahmed got silver with 7.36 points, While WAPDA's Khalid, Abbas and Ayub won the bronze and Army's Tariq, Gul and Jameel won the fourth bronze medal.

In the men's over 30 team category, Pakistan's Hussain, Mumtaz and Ali stood first with 6.98, Army's Haq, Mehmood and Waqas stood second with 6.79, WAPDA's Ali, Saleem and Akhtar stood third and Saudi Arabia Albane, Al-Madali and Al-Abbas took the fourth position.

In the women's under-40 individual event, Mehru-Nisa of Pakistan won gold, Aqsa Shafaqat of Pakistan won silver, Mahdih-yeh Oghbaei of Iran won bronze and Hajira Nawab of Sindh won second bronze.

In the Men's Under-40 Individual Event, Pakistan's Shahbaz Ahmed finished first, Saudi Arabia's Muhammad Ali Al-Abbas took second, Pakistan's Mudassar Hussain third and Saudi Arabia's Salman Ali Al-Albane took fourth position.

In the Men's Under-30 Individual Event, Nepal's Ashmin Raut won gold, Pakistan's AqduS Ullah won silver, Sindh's Hasan Alam won bronze and Pakistan's Ahmed Shahzad won fourth to bronze.

In the women's under-30 individual event, Naila of Pakistan won first, Kinza Fatima of Pakistan second, Izaa Rehman of Pakistan third and Yamna Bint Khalid of Pakistan won the fourth bronze medal.

Asian Taekwondo Union President Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, PTF President Col. (Retd) Waseem Janjua, Championship Technical Delegate Kook Hyun Jung, Paramjit Shahi and Sara Mir along with others distributed the medals among the athletes.

Lahore District Gymnastics Association mourns passing of Faisal Fayyaz

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Lahore District Gymnastics Association President Shaheen Butt, Secretary General Nazar Muhammad, Hakeem Hanif Ali Associate Secretary mourns the passing away of Mr. Faisal Fayyaz, a dedicated research scholar and respected organizer of gymnastics. We all extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and the entire gymnastics community. His passion and contributions will be greatly missed.



Quinton de Kock sets unique records with New Zealand ton

A Sports

PUNE: In-form wicket-keeper batter Quinton de Kock on Wednesday, etched his name into the record books with a sensational century against New Zealand in the ICC World Cup 2023.

De Kock, who scored his fourth century in the ongoing mega event, has now scored the most runs (545) by a wicketkeeper batter in a single edition of the World Cup.

He brought up his 21st ODI century in 103 balls and went on to score 114 in 116 deliveries, laced up with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

The left-handed batter surpassed legendary Sri Lankan batter Kumar Sangakkara's tally of 543 runs, which he achieved in the 2015 World Cup.

Furthermore, Quinton de Kock, with four centuries in the ICC World Cup 2023 also joined Sangakkara in the list of most hundreds in a World Cup and is now only behind India's Rohit Sharma, who scored five in the previous edition.

Earlier in the tournament, de Kock scored 100 against Sri Lanka, 109 against Australia and played a marathon 174-run knock against Bangladesh.

Coming back to the match, Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen's centuries powered South Africa to post a massive total of 357/4 against New Zealand.

The Proteas had a contrasting start to their innings as their captain Temba Bavuma (24) perished cheaply with just 38 runs on the board.

Following an early blow, van der Dussen and Quinton de Kock joined forces to dominate New Zealand bowlers and added 200 runs for the second wicket before experienced pacer Tim Southee finally got rid of the latter.



Carlos Alcaraz stunned by qualifier in Paris Masters defeat

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Carlos Alcaraz slipped to a shock defeat on his return from injury on Tuesday at the Paris Masters while Alexander Zverev needed three sets to see off Marton Fucsovics.

Spanish world number two Alcaraz, who was making his return to the court following injuries to his lower back and left foot, had been given a bye in the first round but had no answer to Russian qualifier Roman Safullin who eased through 6-3, 6-4.

"He didn't surprise me at all because I knew that he has been playing a great level these last few months, beating big guys, reaching finals," said a disconsolate Alcaraz.

"I knew that he was going to

play a high level."

Roman Safullin, ranked 45 in the world, cancelled out an early Alcaraz break in the first set and then never looked back as he ran on to claim the opener 6-3.

The same scenario then played out in the second set, with Carlos Alcaraz breaking for an early lead only for his opponent to strike back immediately.

Having only announced he would play in the tournament last Wednesday, Alcaraz looked far from his sharpest.

"I just didn't feel well, you know, on the court," he said. "A lot of things to improve, a lot of things to practice."

"I think I didn't move well. In the shots, I think I had a good quality of shots. But physically, in terms of movement, I have to

improve a lot."

However, much credit must go to Safullin, who was relentless in getting over the line for a career-boosting win in what was his first meeting with Carlos Alcaraz.

The 26-year-old held his nerve under pressure from the Wimbledon champion to serve out for the win, despite facing several deuce points in the final game.

"Even if he's not in the best shape it's tough to beat him," said Safullin. "So, I'm really happy that I made it."

The German 10th seed Alexander Zverev also had his difficulties, having to come back from a set down to beat Hungarian Fucsovics 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the round of 64 at Bercy Arena.

"It was just one or two points (that made the difference)," said Zverev.

"He was playing incredibly well and tactically I think he was unbelievable.

"His slice was effective as I did not know what to do on this surface here. It was a very difficult match, and I am happy to be through. I found my level and I am happy with that."

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

Alexander Zverev is still seeking to secure his place among the top eight who will go on to the ATP Finals in Turin next month.

After this victory, the 2021 champion sits seventh just behind Stefanos Tsitsipas and 430 points ahead of ninth-placed Hubert Hurkacz.



American Taylor Fritz's chances of qualifying for the tour's showpiece event took a hit when he was forced to retire with an abdominal injury.

On Monday, the ninth seed

had comfortably beaten Argentine Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-4.

Hometown favourite Gael Monfils was knocked out in the first round by Argentinian world number 21 Francisco Cerundolo

in three sets on Tuesday.

The battling 37-year-old looked tired after losing the second set in a tie-break but rolled back the years with a break of serve right at the start of the third.

However, it was not enough as Cerundolo struck back in the eighth game of the set, before breaking the Frenchman's serve again to take the decider 7-5.

The 11th-seeded Hurkacz saw off Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 to book his place in the second round alongside Felix Auger-Aliassime, who topped Jan-Lennard Struff in two sets.

Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev completed the day's play with a quickfire 6-4, 6-3 victory over Japanese qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka.

Credentials

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Mr Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Chief of the Naval Staff official visit to Saudi Arabia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called-on top Leadership of Royal Saudi Armed Forces during an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

During meetings with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili at Ministry of Defence and Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Gho-faily at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed. The Naval Chief underscored the contri-



butation of Pakistan Navy towards regional maritime peace and stability through its initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and participation in

Combined Maritime Force. The Commander RSNF appreciated Pakistan Navy role in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and acknowledged significance of strong bilateral defence collaboration.

Earlier upon arrival at RSNF Headquarters, Chief of the Naval Staff was presented Guard of Honour and given a briefing on training setups and ongoing operations of Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia historically enjoy brotherly relations and the visit of Naval Chief will further augment and expand defence ties between the two countries in general and navies in particular.

CM Mohsin Naqvi chairs a marathon meeting to take stock of smog situation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a marathon meeting stretching for many hours at CM office with regard to taking stock of the smog situation.

The government and specialists mulled over various steps to be taken for the eradication of smog. The environment specialists relating to smog apprised during the meeting that it will make no difference by granting leave in schools and closing down a transport. CM chaired a meeting in which a smog emergency has been enforced across Punjab and wearing a mask has been declared mandatory for male and female students in all government and private

schools for one month.

CM while addressing the participants in the meeting said that mask wearing has been declared compulsory for the health of male and female students. We also appeal to the general public to use mask while going out of their houses.

CM directed the Provincial Ministers to visit government and private schools from tomorrow. Mohsin Naqvi stated that a stern action will be taken against those who during the construction of houses fail to sprinkle water on dust, sand and debris. CM issued directions to Commissioner Lahore division, Local Government department and Lahore Waste Management Company in this regard.

CM ordered withdrawal of challans against farmers



during smog. Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) in this regard and urged the farmers not to burn crops stubbles and dispose them in an appropriate manner. Stern action should continue to be taken against smog emitting vehicles and factories without any discrimination.

CM directed that whichever step is humanly possible should be taken for the reduction and elimination of smog. All relevant depart-

ments should perform their duties in a proactive manner for the eradication of smog. The environment specialists and health specialists gave a briefing about precautionary measures to be taken with regard to reduction in smog and saving from its detrimental effects.

Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Dr. Javed Akram, Amir Mir, Mansoor Qadir, Ibrahim Murad, IG Police, ACS (Home), Secretaries of Agriculture, Health, Transport, Environment, Local Government, School Education, Industries, Chairman PITB, Commissioner Lahore, DG PDMA, DG PHA, Deputy Commissioner, CTO, CEO LWMC and Heads of relevant departments attended the meeting.

PML-N invites applications for issuing party tickets

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has invited applications from the interested candidates to contest the general elections.

As per the details, the PML-N has issued a form for both the National and provincial assembly seats for the aspiring candidates. The form can be obtained from Nov 1 to 10.

For the general and reserved seats of National Assembly, the aspirants will have to pay Rs200,000 to get the party ticket.

The aspiring candidates will pay Rs100,000 for the general and reserved seats of provincial assembly.

The candidates would submit the applications to the PML-N secretariat in Lahore with the bank draft.

The aspiring candidates would also submit an affidavit showing complete trust in the leadership of party's supremo Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif.

All the aspirants will have to

follow the party discipline even if they fail to get the ticket.

It has also been made clear in the form that candidates would fulfill the Article 62 and 63 of the constitution of Pakistan. The candidates would also submit their efforts in the restoration of democracy and past performance in their respective constituencies.

Preparation for manifesto in full swing

Moreover, the PML-N has decided to highlight its previous performance during the election campaign.

It was decided in Tuesday's party meeting that the development projects of Nawaz Sharif's tenure would be highlighted in the election campaign. The party would go into the polls on the basis of its past performance.

It was decided in the meeting that the manifesto of PML-N would be prepared soon and then the parliamentary board would be announced.

Party's supremo Nawaz Sharif would address the public rallies across the country once the tickets are announced.

Several BAP leaders decide to join PML-N

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Several members of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) have decided to join the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) after holding a meeting with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

The BAP party members are set to announce their joining of the PML-N upon the arrival of Nawaz Sharif in Quetta.

Former minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Muhammad Khan Lehri, Masood Loni and Noor Muhammad Domar were among the prominent BAP leaders who will join the party.

Ex-ministers including Atmakhil, Dr Rababa, Ghafoor Lahri, Karim Noshirwani, Dostin Domki, Mujeeb Muhammad Hosni, PML-N provincial president Jafar Mandukhel, Nawabzada Jungiz Marri, Raheela Durrani and others also attended the meeting.

ATC orders confiscation of four PTI leaders' properties

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Faisalabad has ordered the confiscation of properties of four 'absconding' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in May 9 riots cases.

The anti-terrorism court (ATC) heard the cases related to the May 9 riots against four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders today. The hearing was conducted by ATC judge Muhammad Hussain.

The court declared four PTI leaders proclaimed offenders in the May 9 riots cases.

The ATC ordered the seizure of the properties of PTI West Punjab President Faizullah Kamoka and his brother Kaleem.

The confiscation orders were also issued against PTI ticket holder Asad Moaz-

zam and former Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Habkook Gill.

The anti-terrorism court directed authorities concerned to present the compliance report in the next hearing.

A few days ago, the anti-terrorism court (ATC) allowed Faisalabad police to conduct an investigation of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in connection with the May 9 violence.

As per details, the court order has been received by the administration of Adiala jail where Chairman PTI Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi are under arrest.

The permission to investigate the PTI chief and Vice Chairman was sought by the civil line police station Faisalabad.

Any kind of seeds not allowed to import; rules & regulation is our priority: Dr Kausar



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik Wednesday said that any kind of seeds will not be permitted to be imported, rules and regulation is our priority and according to our law, no seed can be imported. He said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research will provide all the possible support to the industry, said a press release issued here.

The Minister said that technical and commercial research reports should be submitted in a week regarding Soybean (Glycine max), it is our vision to solve livestock and poultry problems on a priority basis. He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting

of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association regarding reducing the price of chickens and importing soybeans. Secretary, Minister of National Food Security & Research Captain (r) Muhammad Mahmood and Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali were also present. Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said that complete work should be done on soybeans before importing them, it is necessary to check which seeds have more economic benefits in the same season. He said that it is better to grow something for the sake of domestic and national interest on the land where nothing can grow.

Secretary Ministry of National Food Security & Research Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Mahmood advised to form a committee comprising of Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Center, the Director General of the Department of Plant Protection and the Director General Federal Seeds Certification and Registration Department and submit a research report within a week on the SOPs and protocols of soybean import and export in the world. He said that a practical solution should also be presented which is feasible not only for the industry but for the government as well.

Pak-Iran to organize joint cultural week during this month



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam and Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah Wednesday discussed ways to enhance collaboration in field of art and culture and mutually agreed to arrange a Pak-Iran Joint Cultural Week later this month. Cultural Counsellor of Islamic Republic of Iran Ehsan Khazaei and Adviser National Heritage and Culture Division Muhammad Kashif Irshad were also present in the meeting.

The two sides also discussed in detail diverse areas of cooperation in the field of art, culture, film

and calligraphy between the two brotherly countries. The minister welcomed the ambassador and affirmed commitment to further strengthening Pak-Iran cooperation in the field of art, culture, film and literature. He expressed the desire for both countries to learn from each other's experiences in the field of culture.

The ambassador said that there was a huge potential for further bolstering collaboration in the field of culture between the two nations. He also extended an invitation to the minister to visit Iran. The ambassador expressed the desire for cooperation in cultural endeavors, particularly in joint film production between the two fraternal nations.

Jordan recalls ambassador from Israel, tells Israel not to return its ambassador for now

Wafa

AMMAN: Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi, today decided to immediately recall the Jordanian ambassador to Israel in protest over Israel's war on Gaza and in condemnation and rejection of this war which has led to the killing of innocent civilians and an unprecedented severe humanitarian crisis and potentially jeopardizes the security of the entire region and international peace.

Safadi also directed the relevant department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates to notify the Israeli foreign ministry that its ambassador, who had previously departed from Jordan, should not return for the time being, stressing that his return hinges upon Israel ceasing its war in Gaza, halting the resulting humanitarian disaster, and refraining from actions that deny Palestinians their basic rights, including access to food, water, and medicine, as well as a secure and stable life on their national soil.

He stressed that Jordan remains committed to working for an end to the war on Gaza, facilitating the provision of humanitarian aid and protecting civilians.

Balochistan Govt to ink MoU with GIMS for provision of high-quality treatment to people: Domki



Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Wednesday said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be inked with the Gambit Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) soon for the provision of high-quality treatment and liver transplant facilities to the people of province at the cost of the provincial government. Important progress had been made in the discussions in that regard with the GIMS, he said while talking to former Parliamentary Secretary of Health Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi, who called on him at the CM Secretariat.

He said the caretaker government to provide quality healthcare facilities specifically to the underprivileged citizens of the province. Chief Minister Domki acknowledged the suggestions put forth by Dr Rubaba.