



Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy: Dr. Kausar

Caretaker Federal Minister Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik presided over a meeting regarding enhancement of productivity of wheat, rice and sugarcane here at Ministry of National Food Security & Research on Thursday. (Details on Page 8)



Japan foreign minister says ready to 'continue providing aid' to Palestinians

Japan's foreign minister announced Thursday that she would meet with her Palestinian counterparts during her visits to Israel and Jordan and convey Japan's willingness to continue to provide aid for the Palestinians. Yoko Kamikawa, the minister, will also be meeting with Eil Cohen, the foreign minister of Israel, during her two-day visit starting on Friday, amid the escalation of the crisis in Gaza... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Good News

Islamabad: President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi speaks during a meeting with the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja in President House, Islamabad



Photo courtesy: President's office

President Alvi, Election Commission agree on holding general polls on Feb 8

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has formally announced the General Elections 2024 date after a consensus was reached between President Dr Arif Alvi and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced to hold General Elections on February 8, 2024, after a key consultative meeting held between President Dr Arif Alvi and CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja. Formal notifications have been issued by both the ECP headquarters and the President's House. The notification read that a CEC-led delegation met the president today and a unanimous deci-

sion was taken to organise general polls on February 8, 2024. The commission would apprise the Supreme Court (SC) regarding the election date tomorrow. 'How consensus reached?' Sources told that both sides had initially failed to reach a consensus on the election date. Prior to the formal announcement, in a letter, CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja formally suggested President Alvi to hold the General Elections 2024 on February 11. After the President-CEC meeting, a consultative session was held under the chair of the Chief Election Commissioner. Alongside ECP members and DG Law, the meeting was also attended by the legal team. Later, the meeting was also joined by Attorney General

Mansoor Usman, said sources, adding that the attorney general came with the president's prescribed election date to the ECP headquarters. President-CEC meeting The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has suggested 'three dates' to President Dr Arif Alvi for the general elections 2024. The meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) led delegation continued for an hour at the President's House. Sources told that the commission suggested three dates to President Alvi for general elections 2024. The president has been suggested January 28, January 4 and February 11 for the general polls, sources added.

The ECP delegation reached the Central Secretariat after concluding the meeting with the president. However, CEC and delegation members refused to comment on their meeting with the president before the media. The development came after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) today informed the Supreme Court that the general elections in the country will be held on February 11, 2024. A three-member bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minalah heard the pleas. The ECP's lawyer, while sharing the schedule with the apex court, said that all arrangements including delimitation will be completed by January 29.

Explaining the delimitation process, the lawyer said it would take them 3 to 5 days to issue the final lists. He added that if 54 days are counted from December 5 then we get January 29 date. The lawyer said that the ECP was looking to hold the polls on Sunday to make it easier for the people to participate in the elections. He added that under this plan the first Sunday would have fallen on February 4 and the second would be on February 11. 'We decided on our own that elections should be held on Sunday, February 11,' said the lawyer. The apex court then directed the election commission to consult the President of Pakistan on the poll date.

PM directs Information Ministry to resolve issue of advertisement dues



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday assured the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) of payment of advertisement dues and directed the Information Ministry to resolve the issue as soon as possible. He was talking to a PBA delegation, which called on him. During the meeting, matters relating to the media, especially electronic media, came under discussion. The delegation informed the prime minister about the issue of outstanding dues on account of government advertisements. Highlighting the importance of the media, the prime minister said that being the fourth pillar of state, the media was of utmost importance for

the development of society, and the mental and intellectual training of people. He said the protection of the rights of the media representatives was also responsibility of the state. PM Kakar said that through effective and coordinated communication between the government and the media, the public could stay informed about government policies and initiatives. Caretaker Minister for Information Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Secretary Information & Broadcasting, and Principal Information Officer were also present in the meeting. The PBA delegation included its Chairperson Shakeel Masood, Secretary General Mian Amir Mehmood, Senior Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rehman and Tahir Khan.

Solangi for collective efforts to protect planet earth from negative impacts of climate change

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday called for collective revolutionary measures to avoid the damages caused climate change. Delivering his speech at the 'Pre COP28: Paris to Dubai' seminar here the minister said that the future of the coming generations must be secured. The minister urged the international community to play its role in the countries being badly affected by climate change.

The planet, he added faced the dangers of climate change and the government, or any department alone could not solve this problem. 'We need a strategic vision to tackle the challenge of climate change,' Murtaza Solangi maintained. The whole society has to realize about climate change issue, Murtaza Solangi said adding: 'We are facing many social problems to deal with climate change'. Solangi said without bringing about change in society, the dangers of climate change could not be addressed.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves drop to \$12.57b

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reached US\$ 12.5766 billion while reserves held by the central bank stood at \$7.5 billion. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves increased by \$ 13 million to \$7.5 billion. The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan dropped by \$ 79 million to US\$ 12.5766 billion. Whereas, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5.06 billion after a decrease of \$92 million. Earlier it was reported that Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will begin their negotiations for the next installment of \$700 million today. Second tranche: Pakistan, IMF talks begin today. An IMF review

mission reached Pakistan on Wednesday night to review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year - from July to September. According to sources, the review mission will be led by the global lender's country chief, Nathan Porter. Pakistan has completed all conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the next review talks under the \$3 billion standby arrangement (SBA), scheduled to take place in November, sources within the finance ministry told. It is pertinent to mention here that after a continued decline of 12 months, Pakistan's total textile exports registered an increase of 5% YoY to \$1.43bn in October 2023 compared to \$1.36bn recorded in the same period of last year.

Minister Akhtar speaks at UNESCAP on disaster aid for developing countries

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs, addressed the "UNESCAP Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction, and Financing for Development," held in Bangkok. Dr. Akhtar stressed the need for reforms of global financial institutions to address the needs of developing countries, especially those most impacted by climate events. She urged on MDBs to suspend debt servicing for countries impacted by climate events and for the IMF to restore the enhanced access limits established during the pandemic.

CAA suspends aircraft refueling at Nawab Shah airport

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has suspended the refueling facility for aircrafts at Nawab Shah airport. According to CAA notification, the aircrafts have been informed to carry extra fuel amid the suspension of the refueling facility at Nawab Shah airport. The direction issued by the CAA stated that the refueling facility would remain suspended for the next three months. Earlier, in a significant development, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Wednesday decided to construct a 'state-of-the-art' air traffic control (ATC) tower at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. During a board meeting convened in Karachi, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) approved crucial decisions



Asif Zardari summoned in Park Lane reference

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in the federal capital on Thursday summoned former president Asif Ali Zardari and others in Park Lane reference. Accountability court judge Muhammad Bashir heard the case where the counsel said that at the time of agreement, Asif Zardari was not the director of Park Lane. At this, the court ordered to summon former president Asif Zardari and others in Park Lane reference and the hearing was adjourned till December 20. Earlier, an accountability court in the federal capital on Wednesday summoned former president Asif Ali Zardari and others in Thatta Water Supply project. Accountability court judge Muhammad Bashir heard the case and issued notices to the former president and others to appear before the Islamabad bureau on December 18.

Afghan diplomat meets Bugti over immigrants' repatriation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Afghan Charge d' Affairs on Thursday called on Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti. Afghan diplomat Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb discussed issues related to repatriation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan to Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest. Interior Minister said that the immigrants illegally staying in Pakistan returning to their countries. 'We have issued instructions for respectable treatment with the people returning back to home,' Bugti said. 'No legal action being taken against those holding Afghan citizen card,' Pakistan's interior minister said. 'The government will not tolerate discourteous or impolite treatment to the immigrants at any cost,' he stressed. He said a control center and helpline have been established in the Ministry of Interior.



Bugti invited Afghan embassy to appoint its representative for liaison over complaints, if any reported. Minister informed the Afghan envoy that the women and children will be exempted from biometric formality at crossing points to facilitate them. Afghanistan's Taliban government on Wednesday urged Pakistan to give undocumented Afghans in the country more time to leave as pressure mounts at border posts swarmed by thousands of returnees fleeing the threat of deportation. The Pakistani government has given 1.7 million Afghans living illegally in the country until November 1 to leave voluntarily or be forcibly removed.

16th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Central Asia-Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the foreign ministers took place in Ashgabat within the framework of the "Central Asia-Republic of Korea" cooperation format.

The current meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian countries and the Republic of Korea was devoted to the topic "Cooperation through the realization of the enormous potential of youth in shaping a sustainable future in Central Asia and the Republic of Korea". This formulation is reflected in the joint efforts of the participating countries of the Forum to develop an agenda that determines the key areas of further partnership for the coming years, where the role of youth and its potential, which are being formed today, will be of decisive importance.

During the meeting, participants spoke out on current

regional issues, issues of implementation of youth policy in each of the countries participating in the Forum, and also presented specific measures and steps taken within the framework of national plans and programs. The parties put forward a number of important ideas and initiatives to join forces in further expanding and strengthening international cooperation, including through youth interaction aimed at achieving sustainable development goals in general.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov, speaking at the meeting, emphasized that 2023 in Turkmenistan has been declared the Year of youth and this is very symbolic from the point of view of the implementation of the concept of Turkmen chairmanship at the current meeting of the "Central Asia-Republic of Korea" Cooperation Forum.

The conviction was expressed that the potential of young people in the process of forming sustainable development should be realized by intensifying their participation both in the implementation of national plans and programs, and by expanding international cooperation in this area. At the same time, the importance of the global initiatives "Youth 2030", "Generation Without Borders", "World Heritage Volunteers", and the Global Youth Community was noted.

In this context, the Turkmen side marked expediency in the near future to focus joint activities on strengthening ties on the youth format and to formulate a Strategy for international cooperation between the youth of the Central Asian states and the Republic of Korea, the main components of which should be concentrated on such key areas



as education and science, sports and culture.

The participants expressed a common opinion on the need and importance of concentrating efforts on promising areas of interaction in the "Central

Asia-Republic of Korea" cooperation format, ensuring synergy and using existing objective advantages and resources. Along with this, emphasis is placed on deep historical and cultural ties, the similarity of basic values and

moral guidelines of the peoples of the region.

As the participants noted, the Ashgabat Forum demonstrated that the consistent strengthening of ties, increasing the economic potential of cooperation, logis-

tics opportunities, the formation of effective cooperation schemes in science, education, medicine, tourism, in the field of environmental protection, joint development of projects in the field of industry, agriculture, textile industry, high-tech industry, digitalization, cultural and humanitarian interaction meets the genuine interests of the peoples of Central Asia and the Republic of Korea, serves the goals of economic and social growth.

Following the results of the 16th Cooperation Forum "Central Asia-Republic of Korea", a Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs was adopted, and the Work Plan of the Secretariat of "the Central Asia-Republic of Korea" Cooperation Forum for 2024 was approved.

The next meeting of the Forum in this format is scheduled for 2024 in the Republic of Korea.

Nishtar Hospital II nearing completion on fast track: Capt (R) Saqib Zafar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In view of the deadline set by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi to activate Nishtar Hospital II by December 31, the project is going toward its completion on a fast track and the authorities are monitoring the pace of work. In this regard, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar, along with Secretary Specialized Healthcare South Punjab Afzal Nasir Khan, visited Nishtar Hospital II. Adnan Rehmat, Project Director IDAP, gave a briefing on this occasion. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab made a detailed inspection of the basement, ground floor and first floor of the hospital. He checked arthro, gynae, pathology block, admin block and radiology department and also inspected pharmacy and operation theatres.

Captain (ret'd) Saqib Zafar instructed IDAP authorities to hand over first floor to hospital administration before December 31 and said the ongoing finishing work in all the departments be completed well on time. Capt. (ret'd) Saqib Zafar said to increase the number of labour on site and to use high quality



tiles for the flooring of the hospital while beautiful signage be installed for all the departments of the hospital for guidance of public. He said the Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab gave much

priority to the health sector and want early completion of Nishtar Hospital II. He further said 26 billion rupees are being spent on the upgradation of 32 hospitals in Punjab and according to this

plan, Rs. 1110 million are being spent on revamping of Nishtar Hospital One. The Additional Chief Secretary said Nishtar Hospital II is the best addition to the hospitals of South Punjab.

Qureshi Family Members condole the death of Maulana's son Asim Jameel

Asim Tanveer/Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: Former Members of National Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, Pir Zahoor Qureshi, Peer Moin Riaz Qureshi and others arrived at the residence of Maulana Tariq Jameel in Tulamba, Condolences on the death of Maulana's son Asim Jameel

Former Members of the National Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, Pir Zahoor Hussain Qureshi, Former Provincial Minister Pir Moin Riaz Qureshi and former Member of the Provincial Assembly Chaudhry Jamshed Shaukat went to Tulamba yesterday where they visited the residence of the famous religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel. Where they expressed their grief over the sudden death of Maulana Tariq Jameel's young son Asim Jameel. They recited Fataha for the advancement of the deceased and



prayed for patience and patience for the bereaved

On this occasion, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi expressed his condolences to Maulana Tariq Jameel and said that he was heartbroken and shocked to hear the death of the deceased. The death of the deceased is a great tragedy for the family. May Allah

raise the ranks of the deceased. And give patience to the family. He said that the Qureshi family has a long-standing relationship with Maulana Tariq Jameel's family. Heard the news of the death of Maulana's son and came to Tulamba to offer condolences and Fatiha. We are with Maulana Tariq Jameel and his family in this hour of sorrow

JUISWL candidates submit papers to get NA42 ticket

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On the instructions of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam President of Merged Districts, KP JUJIF South Waziristan Lower candidates have formally started the collection of papers for getting constituency NA42 National Assembly party ticket.

In the first phase, Maulana Moin Uddin and district president Maulana Mirzajan submitted the papers for getting the National Assembly ticket to Vice President Maulana Abdullah.

On this occasion Tehsil Wana Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh Wazir, Maulana Naik Muhammad, Mufti Faizullah, Maulana Gul Badshah and Maulana Fazal Noor also participated in the submission papers ceremony.

On this occasion, the candidate for the National Assembly Constituency of Lower South Waziristan Maulana Moinuddin said while talking to the media that I was forced by the current situation to submit the paper for the National Assembly ticket, because education, agriculture, forests and health are badly affected in the tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after merger.

He said that in this modern era, it is incomplete to go with the world without the aforementioned departments.

He said, My personal wish is that the voice of this poor and oppressed people should be conveyed to the high authorities. He said if Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam gave a chance this time, so, God willing, we will lay a net for development works in Lower Waziristan and Upper Waziristan districts.

In the end, Maulana Moin Uddin, the candidate of the National Assembly, demanded from all Islamic countries and caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar Ul Haq Kakar, that Palestine raise its voice at the international level regarding the cease-fire.

He also appealed to the United Nations to take concrete measures against Israeli atrocities and to put pressure on Israel to establish a ceasefire.

Modern machinery installed in Faculty of Veterinary in Gomal University



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Vice-Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah's efforts paid off.

The Faculty of Veterinary Animal Sciences has been successful in getting modern machinery free of cost for the experimental center.

Gomal University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah has donated the latest automatic layer cage system to the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Gomal University from Baba Poultry Engineering Givers Turkey.

The said system has a capacity of 500 chickens, the said system was badly needed in the experimental farm of Faculty of Veterinary Animal Sciences, with the help of this system, students of DVM and Poultry Science will get an opportunity to learn modern layer farming.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah said on this occasion, that this success is the result of the hard work and efforts of Dr. Hamza Marath and Dr. Tariq and their team.

God willing, I hope that all teachers and employees of Gomal University will continue to play their positive role in the development, prosperity and success of Gomal University.

First woman in Azad Kashmir to be appointed as Secretary Information

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Ms. Tehzibul-Nisa has elivated and appointed as Secretary Information Azad Kashmir. Earlier she was serving as Director General of Tourism and Archaeology. Tehzib ul-Nisa belongs to the administrative services of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. She also has the honor of being the first woman assistant commissioner, deputy commissioner and first woman commissioner Information the history of Azad Kashmir. She started her service as an assistant commissioner in 2005. In 2013 she was appointed as the first deputy commissioner of Azad Kashmir and in 2020 she was promoted as the first commissioner. Earlier, she has also served as Director General Monitoring and Evaluation of Planning and Development Department, Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Chief Administrator of Zakat. She is the first woman secretary from the Azad Kashmir Administrative Services. Ms. Tehzibul-Nisa is a law graduate and also has expertise in legal matters. She is known as an honest officer in the Azad Kashmir services.



DC says district administration has zero tolerance policy for cheap food items



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadir has said that the district administration is following a zero tolerance policy for the supply of cheap food items. The perpetrators can be held accountable

He expressed these views yesterday morning while inspecting the auction of food items in the vegetable market. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the bid and supply of food items in the market.

Later, Rizwan Qadir also visited various grocery shops and departmental stores of the city. Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadir said that they are trying to bring the fruits of reduction in petroleum products to the people. Rizwan Qadeer said that price control magistrates have been tasked for cheap supply from markets to markets. Cheap DC counters have been set up in all big stores.

The Next Disaster

Are you following the weather?
I am giving an idea of what will happen next along with the war and instability in the whole world.

Because calamity stands with its mouth open

Date 30-10-2023 Oman Urban floods from torrential rains.

Date 29/30-10-2023: Storms and Urban floods in Paraguay

Date 28-10-2023: Urban flooding from torrential rains in Brazil, France and Saudi Arabia

Date 27-10-2023: Brazil and Madina (Saudi Arabia) urban flooding from torrential rains.

Date 26-10-2023 Oman tornado and tornadoes and heavy rains cause urban flooding.

Let me mention here that on the 26th, the city of Mexico was hit by an unusu-

al storm Otis and the advanced equipment was unable to predict this storm. Otis turned into a category 5, the most dangerous category, in just twelve hours, which called Acapulco destroyed the coastal town. October, 26 was an unusual day. In that there were six hurricanes in three oceans on that day.

Date 25-10-2023 Urban flooding from torrential rain and winds in Indonesia.

Date 24-10-2023 Together with Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Italy and Indonesia were hit by torrential rains, hail and stormy winds.

Date 23-10-2023 Brazil urban flooding from torrential rains.

Date 22-10-2023 Heavy rains in China and sandstorms in Morocco killed twenty people in accidents.

Date 21-10-2023 Urban flooding occurred in France, two provinces of China, two cities of England and Mexico due to torrential rains.

Date 20-10-2023 Urban flooding from stormy rains in Scotland

These were the worst weather conditions of its kind in the last ten days. Which can be called unusual. Overall, October saw unexpected, unusual rains, hurricanes, sandstorms, red winds and hail of unusual size all over the world. But on a forum an overview is not presented. If all this seems normal to someone then maybe he/she himself/herself is abnormal. On a larger scale, there are currently outright wars on three continents and natural disasters on seven continents. While there are still two months on this year remaining. If the series of natural calamities and the spread of wars does not stop, then In 2024, the lives of millions of people will be at stake due to hunger, unemployment, inflation and natural disasters.

The people of Pakistan should improve their spending to grow everyday things at home, to achieve partial food self-sufficiency, to keep food grains for the year for any emergency. Ahle-Nazar people are also telling about the trials and tribulations Pakistan can face in the next few years.



Analysis Kiran Asim



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:03 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:37 pm
Maghrib 5:15 pm
Isha 6:39 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
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

Waqar Bakhtawari nominated as member of the Syndicate of Chakwal University



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman Khan has nominated Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the Person of Eminence and Member of the Syndicate of the University of Chakwal for a period of 3 years. The Higher Education Department of the Government of Punjab has issued a formal notification for the nomination of Waqar Bakhtawari as Member of the Syndicate of the University of Chakwal.

Commenting on this development, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari thanked the Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman Khan for reposing confidence in his abilities and nominating him for this prestigious position. He said that as a member of the Syndicate of Chakwal University, he would contribute his best to raise the educational standards of the University of Chakwal to bring it at par with the top-ranking universities of Pakistan.

Waqar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is a country of very young population and by providing the youth with the high-quality education, this great asset can be transformed into a huge dividend for the country to drive it on the fast economic growth. He said that he would specifically focus on promoting entrepreneurship in youth so that they could start their own business and contribute more effectively to the economic development of the country.

Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy: Dr. Kausar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik presided over a meeting regarding enhancement of productivity of wheat, rice and sugarcane here at Ministry of National Food Security & Research on Thursday. Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Project Director (Rice) Dr. Ashiq Rabbani, Project Director (Wheat) Dr. Muhammad Yaqoob and Acting Project Director (Sugar Crops) Dr. Sagheer Ahmed were also present on occasion.

Federal Minister Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy. Obstacles in agriculture projects will be removed on priority basis so that projects of national and public interest can be completed as soon as possible. He said that Obstacles in agriculture projects will be removed on priority basis. Obstacles in agriculture projects will be removed on priority basis. While giving a briefing, the Federal

Minister was apprised that 4 million tons of wheat production capacity has been increased, which has a 400 billion rupees financial benefit, productivity of wheat has increased from 28 to 32 maunds per acre, the project to increase the productivity of wheat and reduce the productivity gap was launched at a cost of 30,455.353 million rupees, in which the federal government has 5,632.774 million rupees, the provincial governments have 12,526.591 rupees, while the farmers and service providers have 12,295.985 rupees shares, 9,800 Germ plasm acquisition, distribution and evaluation have been done, 180 NUWYT/adaptability trials at various locations, 620 quality wheat seed production, 8000 Germ plasm development/evaluation, 2000 elite lines developed and tested, 5000 genotype screening against wheat diseases, 800 germ plasm screening for drought, salt heat tolerance, developed 18 wheat characterization protocols.

The Director further informed that labs/research facilities of Speed Breeding



Glasshouse, Wheat Research Program, NARC, Up-gradation of research facility and glasshouse, CDRI, Karachi, Up-gradation of lab, CDRI, NARC, Strengthening the existing wheat rust research facilities CDRI, Murree, Up-gradation of greenhouse and lab facility, Plant Phys-

iology Program, Up-gradation of lab facility, FSRI, NARC, Purchase of farm machinery, Wheat Research Program, NARC have also completed.

Project Director Dr. Ashiq Rabbani, while giving a briefing to the Federal Minister, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik,

said the project was launched in 2019 at a cost of 15,789,402 million rupees under the Prime Ministerial Agriculture Emergency Program to Develop climate resilient, high yielding, short statured, early maturing rice varieties, Popularize use via subsidy/demonstration, demonstrate mechanized production technology for planting/water saving/harvesting and to improve rice production through farmers awareness/promotional activities.

While giving a briefing pertaining to increase in sugarcane production, Acting Project Director Sugar Crops Dr. Sagheer Ahmed informed the Caretaker Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, that the project regarding productivity enhancement of sugarcane was launched in 2019 at a cost of 4934.225 million rupees, of which the federal government has Rs. 1004 million, the provincial governments have Rs. 2889 million, while farmers and service providers have a share of Rs. 1044 million rupees.

Renovation work

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in paint of a green belt in front of Supreme Court during development program, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Pioneering Pakistan's First Natural, Organic, and Toxin-Free Beauty and Skin Care Brand

City Desk

LAHORE: Mama Organic, Pakistan's first startup in the beauty and skin care industry, is proud to announce its mission to bring the goodness of nature to skincare enthusiasts. Founded by a team passionate about natural and toxin-free products, Mama Organic is revolutionizing the industry with its range of skin, hair, and body care solutions.

Mama Organic offers an extensive selection of natural and organic products across various categories, catering to the diverse needs of its customers. Their product lines include Vitamin C, Ubtan, Tea Tree, Retinol,



Onion & Argan, as well as specialized offerings for moms and babies.

Product categories at Mama Organic encompass Facewash, Serum, Body Wash, Shampoo, Oils, Scrubs, Moisturizer, Cleanser, Lotions,

Hair removal solutions, and Creams. With this wide range, Mama Organic is committed to providing comprehensive, nature-inspired solutions for all your beauty and skin care needs.

Leading this groundbreak-

ing initiative are CEO Asif Ali and COO M Saad ul Hasan. Their vision and dedication to offering natural and toxin-free beauty and skincare products have made Mama Organic a game-changer in the industry.

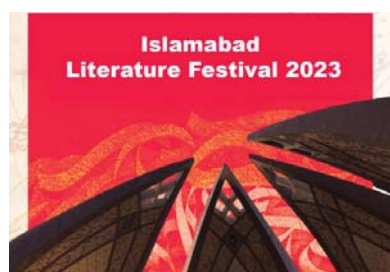
Get Ready to Explore People, Planet & Possibilities in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 9th Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), a three-day literary celebration is set to grace the Gandhara Citizen Club in F-9 Park from November 3 to 5, 2023. The sprawling park grounds will provide a vibrant backdrop for this highly anticipated event helmed by Oxford University Press (OUP).

Under the theme 'People, Planet, Possibilities', ILF guarantees a diverse array of enthralling keynotes, engaging discussions, book launches, exhibitions, and film screenings.

The inaugural day on November 3 will be open to the public, featuring insightful addresses by Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director of OUP; Jane Marriott, the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom; and Khalid Mahmood, Managing Director of Getz Pharma Pvt. Ltd. The day will also feature keynotes by renowned British author and historian Victoria Schofield, along with eminent Urdu poet Iftekhar Arif. A captivating



literary performance will conclude the proceedings.

Adhering to its tradition of celebrating Urdu poetry, the event's program includes a grand Mushaira presided over by Iftekhar Arif, and a Ghazal Night featuring the maestro Ustad Hamid Ali Khan on the second and third evenings, respectively.

Esteemed experts such as Dr. Ishrat Husain, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, and Nasira Zuberi will lead informative and literary discussions, exploring a range of captivating topics over the three days. These discussions will delve into subjects such

as the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence, Contemporary Literature, Changing Business Dynamics, and Foreign Policy, among others. An introduction to the UK's leading Examination Board, 'OxfordAQA', is also on the agenda, offering a globally renowned option for examinations in Pakistan.

Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director of OUP, expressed his enthusiasm for the growing popularity of literature festivals, emphasising how ILF and KLF have become invaluable resources for enriching cultural and ethical perspectives in society.

The 9th Edition of ILF is made possible through collaboration with CDA, Getz Pharma Pakistan, Kaizen Paint Pvt Ltd, British Council, and other supporters. ILF holds a special place in the hearts of literature enthusiasts, attracting attendees from all walks of life in and around Islamabad. It stands as a tribute to literary achievements and acknowledges the significant role of intellectual discourse in the advancement of human civilisation.

Security Papers Limited achieved 74% profit growth

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: After 110% dividend in FY 2022-23, Security Papers Limited (SPL) announced its financial results for the first quarter of financial year 2023-24, ending September 30, 2023, recording a 74% growth in after-tax profit versus the same period last year and a substantial Rs. 2.62 increase in the earnings per share (EPS).

The Company achieved net sales of Rs. 1,729 million in Q1 FY 2023-24, showcasing a considerable increase compared to Rs. 1,183 million in Q1 FY 2022-23. Security Papers Limited's strategic focus on increasing sales volume and diversifying its customer base has yielded significant results. Sales volume for Q1 FY 2023-24 reached 1,128 tonnes, an increase from 961 tonnes in Q1 FY 2022-23. This expansion aligns with our commitment to diversify our client portfolio.

Reflecting on the Company's vision to ensure efficient cost management and to achieve enhanced operational efficiency, SPL reported a gross profit of Rs. 484 million for the quarter, a remarkable 72% increase over the corresponding period, representing an increase of Rs. 203 million.

The Company's profit after tax stood at Rs. 365 million for Q1 FY 2023-24, a remarkable 74% higher than the same period last year when it was Rs. 210 million.

SPL Chairman Aftab Manzoor expressed enthusiasm about the financial results, stating, "Our strategic vision and relentless focus on innovation and diversification have yielded impressive outcomes as SPL achieved a remarkable increase in EPS of Rs. 2.62 in Q1 FY 2023-24 vs Q1 FY 2022-23. The Company's strong performance is a testament to its commitment to progress and strategic initiatives aimed at delivering value to shareholders and customers. Moving forward, SPL will be collaborating with a European security paper company to further enhance its operational capabilities to ensure continued growth and competitiveness."

AIOU organizes seminar on women rights



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "Plant such a tree that shades the neighbor's house. Human development is possible by spreading the message of peace and love as it never decays. A beautiful society can be built by loving one another", said Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mr. Khalil George while addressing an awareness seminar on Women's rights in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). He also stressed the fact that we are all equal before the law and must respect it. If we learn to respect the law and perform our duties, we will not even need human rights institutions.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, emphasized the importance of balancing rights with duties to build a prosperous society. He urged the participants, especially the students, to play their part in the development of the country and protection of rights. Dr. Nasir also highlighted that Allama Iqbal Open University is committed to ensuring education for all, and provides free education to the transgender community, disabled persons, and children of martyrs. He stressed that education is a fundamental right and AIOU does not deprive anyone of it due to financial constraints.

This event was organized by the Department of History, AIOU, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights. Chairperson, Department of History, Dr. Kishwar Sultana said that the purpose of the session was to spread awareness about women's rights and acknowledge their services. Executive Director, Ministry of Human Rights, Shiraz Ahmad Khan, and Deputy Director, Ministry of Human Rights Uzair Iqbal, spoke about the initiatives taken by the ministry for the protection of women's rights. Dr. Malik Hammad from AIOU presented his thesis on human rights.

Shahrukh Khan, The Last of The Stars

Munaza Kazmi

Shahrukh Khan! "NAAMTOU SUNA HO GA", the most popular actor of the world, known as "King Khan" and "Baadshah of Bollywood". Khan has appeared in more than 100 films during his 31 years' careers in the film industry. Received 14 Film-fare Award and countless national and international tributes and unending admiration beyond borders.

Shahrukh Khan is a phenomenon like no other, started his humble beginnings as an outsider in the giant and dynamic industry, where relations and contacts have the most worth. His rise might seem like a miracle however, behind the screen there is many days of hard work and sleepless nights.

An astonishing journey that begins in 1989 with a television series Fauji has sustained to flourish for more than three decades, and today with the God's grace touching the dazzling heights of glamour and stardom, along redefining the industry in its own ways.

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Shifting the burden of incompetency - II

Indeed, the path to financial and economic prosperity also involves a shift in our national focus. Instead of positioning ourselves solely as a security state, we should adopt a stance that seeks peace and cooperation with every nation worldwide. By doing so, we can redirect resources towards building a modern agricultural sector, establishing thriving industrial zones, and enhancing the security and safety of travel to attract global tourism.

Additionally, the creation of a pension fund and investment in saving schemes can not only generate reasonable profits but also serve the nation's broader financial needs.

Furthermore, emulating successful models like France, where pension reforms raised the retirement age and adjusted qualification criteria, can help manage pension costs effectively. Gradual increases in retirement age, changes in contribution rates for employees and employers, and the implementation of partial pensions or delayed benefits for those choosing to work beyond the standard retirement age can all contribute to a sustainable pension system.

Encouraging government employees to participate in voluntary retirement savings plans and streamlining the consolidation of multiple pension plans into a more efficient system will further reduce administrative burdens and enhance fund management.

These insensitive statements disregard the specific provisions of the Civil Service Act of 1973. According to Section 13 of this act, a civil servant's retirement from service occurs after completing twenty years of service, thus qualifying for pension and other retirement benefits. Furthermore, Section 19 outlines the entitlements upon retirement, including the right to receive a prescribed pension or gratuity. In the unfortunate event of a civil servant's passing, whether before or after retirement, their family is entitled to receive a pension, gratuity, or both. These legal provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare and financial security of civil servants who have dedicated their careers to public service. Any attempt to deviate from these established rights would not only be legally questionable but also ethically unjust.

Caring governments prioritize the welfare of not only their retired employees but the entire population, providing unemployment allowances for those temporarily out of work. For instance, in France, every unemployed individual is entitled to receive a consistent amount, such as Euro 900, until they secure gainful employment. Countries like England and France have well-structured pension systems encompassing several key bene-

fits, including the main pension benefit, calculated based on an employee's salary and years of service. Supplementary pensions are provided by employers, varying according to job titles and years of service. Reversion pensions support surviving spouses, usually amounting to 50% of the deceased spouse's pension. In cases of disability, invalidity pensions are provided to government employees unable to work. Additionally, governments offer a range of social welfare programs and allowances, such as Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Winter Fuel Payment, free healthcare services, vision care, dental treatment, travel cost assistance, disability support, free bus passes, and special considerations for those with disabilities, including free passports.

Pensioners, many of whom are at an advanced age, have shouldered responsibilities and contributed their skills and dedication to the nation. They are owed respect, dignity, and honor, not derogatory labels like "burden" or "parasites." The pensions they receive are not hand-outs but were part of a solemn job agreement signed even before their entry into government service.

When government employees embark

on their careers, they willingly accept substantially lower salaries compared to their private sector counterparts, fully aware that these reduced wages are offset by the promise of pension and retirement benefits in the future. It's a mutually agreed-upon arrangement that provides financial security in exchange for their commitment and dedication.

If the government is intent on shifting the burden of its own shortcomings to retired civil servants, it should commence this effort with fresh entrants. The onus is on the government to be transparent, fully disclosing the terms and conditions of employment. It should offer every candidate the opportunity to sign a job contract with a comprehensive understanding of the contract's provisions, including pension and retirement benefits.

This approach should be consistent and applied uniformly to all state employees, including the judiciary, parliaments, and armed forces. No exceptions. We can be certain that without the assurance of pension and retirement benefits, no sane individual would willingly choose government service. It is high time we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our civil servants and afford them the respect and security they have earned and deserve.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan urges boost in funding for refugee-hosting countries

The international development-financing instruments need to be redesigned and implemented in ways that do not worsen the already existing high debt burdens of refugee-hosting countries, as the number of displaced persons continues to surge, Pakistan has told a UN panel. "Instead of concessional loans provided by international financial institutions ... donors should provide timely, predictable and multi-year and sector-specific funding to refugee-hosting countries," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan, said during an interactive debate with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, in the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with Social, Humanitarian and Cultural matters.

As of May 2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide, marking the largest ever single-year increase in forced displacement in UNHCR's history, propelled by deadly conflicts. Noting that the number of refugees and displaced persons continued to surge to record levels, the Pakistani envoy said, that the triple crisis of Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts continued to exacerbate the situation. "The prevailing complex and multi-faceted challenges demand more robust and collective efforts to meet the growing protection needs, and to forge durable solutions through the implementation of all international commitments, including the Global Compact on Refugees," Ambassador Jadoon said. Despite its financial and security challenges, he said Pakistan has demonstrated unparalleled generosity and hospitality in hosting Afghan refugees for over four decades and adhered to the highest standards of protection and facilitation. Pakistan, he said, hosts more than 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees and around 900,000 Afghan Citizenship Card holders, extending to them health and education facilities at par with Pakistani citizens. These refugees also enjoy free enrollment in Government primary schools and access to higher and professional education with generous scholarships as well as ample livelihood opportunities and the permission to open bank accounts. Much more needs to be done to support refugees in developing countries like Pakistan, including through the following measures: — It is critical to reach out to new partners, States and institutions for enhanced humanitarian funding; — UNHCR, while devising its global operations policy, should be sensitive to the local requirements of refugee-hosting countries; — Given that 85 per cent of refugees continue to be hosted by developing countries with limited resources, the burden becomes more difficult and disproportionate. "Experience has demonstrated that voluntary repatriation and reintegration in the countries of origin is the only durable solution for protracted refugee situations," Ambassador Jadoon said, while calling for fully funded programmes for repatriations from refugee-hosting countries and countries of origin; increase ODA (official development assistance) for countries of origin to enable them to receive returnees; invest in creating livelihood opportunities; and lift sanctions for providing humanitarian assistance, as in the case of Afghanistan.



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

Human Right Violation in Palestine

Shehwar Fatima

The ongoing conflict in Palestine has resulted in severe human rights violations, causing immense suffering for the Palestinian people. The situation demands urgent international attention and action to address the violations and ensure accountability for those responsible. This article aims to shed light on the current situation in Palestine, highlighting the need for global solidarity and intervention to protect human rights.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has a long and complex history, rooted in competing national aspirations and territorial claims. However, it is crucial to recognize that regardless of the historical context, human rights must be upheld and protected for all individuals involved. The current situation in Palestine is marked by a series of human rights violations that demand immediate attention.

The Gaza Strip, a densely populated area, has been subjected to a blockade, severely restricting the movement of people and goods. This blockade has resulted in a dire humanitarian crisis, with limited access to essential services such as healthcare, clean water, electricity, fuel, food. The indiscriminate bombings and military operations in Gaza have caused significant civilian casualties, including women and children. Such actions violate the principles of proportionality and distinction under international humanitarian law.

The expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is another major concern. Israel also began ground operations in Gaza. This ground operation is deemed as a precursor to imminent main ground invasion. These settlements are illegal under international law and have led to the displacement of Palestinian families from their homes and lands. The construction of these settlements violates the rights of Palestinians. The international community must condemn and take action

against these illegal activities.

The use of excessive force by Israeli security forces against Palestinian has been widely documented. Peaceful demonstrations have often been met with live ammunition, continuous bombings, airstrikes, tear gas, and rubber-coated bullets, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities and casualties. The right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression must be respected, and the use of force should be proportionate and in line with international human rights standards.

Reports of arbitrary detentions and torture of Palestinian people are deeply concerning. Palestinians, including children, are often subjected to harsh inhumane treatment. These practices



violate the fundamental principles of due process. The international community must hold accountable those responsible for such violations and ensure the rights of detainees are protected.

With no hopes for a ceasefire despite a majority vote in the UN, each passing day reveals Israel terrorism sponsored by the US and lasting airstrikes and a complete blackout in Gaza. They are literally just wiping them out, poor Palestinians.

The international community has a responsibility to address the human rights violations in Palestine and hold accountable those responsible. The United Nations and other relevant international bodies should establish independent investigations into alleged violations and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Sanctions and diplomatic pressure should be considered as means to encourage compliance with international law. While immediate action is necessary to address the ongoing violations, a long-term solution can only be achieved through meaningful dialogue and negotiations between all parties involved. The international community should actively support and facilitate a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the principles of international law, mutual recognition, and respect for human rights.

The human rights violations in Palestine demand an urgent ceasefire. The suffering of the Palestinian people who lose their whole family cannot be ignored or dismissed. It is imperative for the international community to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians, condemn the violations, and work towards a just and lasting solution. By holding accountable the Israelis for human rights abuses, we can strive towards a future where the rights and dignity of all individuals in Palestine are respected and protected.

Israeli terrorism is in full swing in the name of self defense. Despite these grave violations, no genuine domestic investigations or prosecutions of these crimes have ever occurred. In a time marked by extreme tension, the radicalization of discourse and unconditional support to Israel, it is important to call for de-escalation and an immediate ceasefire to protect the civilian populations, who are the main victims.

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) must be deeply concerned about the current hostilities, which have resulted in thousands of civilian casualties and widespread destruction. More than ever, the international community must uphold its moral and legal responsibilities to break this endless cycle of violence.

Writer is currently pursuing my Bachelors in Defense and Diplomatic Studies from Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi Pakistan

Holding Social Media Platforms Accountable

Saba Bibi

In the digital age, social media platforms have become an integral part of our lives. They connect us, inform us, and empower us in countless ways. Yet, beneath the glossy surface of connectivity, a darker reality persists—the unchecked spread of misinformation and hate speech. It's high time we demand greater accountability from these platforms for the sake of our society and democracy.

The power of social media to shape public opinion and influence decision-making is unparalleled. Unfortunately, this influence is not always wielded responsibly. Misinformation, often spread intentionally, can have dire consequences. From false health claims to political conspiracies, the consequences can be far-reaching, leading to real-world harm, from violence to public health crises. Here are some of the main effects of social media on public opinion and decision-making:

Social media can expose people to diverse perspectives and information that they may not encounter otherwise. This can broaden their horizons, challenge their assumptions, and inspire them to learn more about different topics and issues.

The need for greater accountability is clear. Social media companies argue they are merely neutral platforms, but they've evolved into powerful media entities with a moral responsibility. Accountability measures are not an attack on free speech but a defense of it. By curbing misinformation and hate speech, they can ensure a more informed and civil discourse.

ful content. Transparency is key; these platforms must be open about their moderation processes and how decisions are made. User reporting should be taken more seriously, and appeals processes must be fair and accessible.

Social media platforms must face consequences for inaction. Legislation can play a crucial role in this. Governments should create regulations that impose fines or penalties on platforms that fail to curb misinformation or hate speech effectively. This can incentivize companies to take a proactive stance in combating harmful content.

Furthermore, investing in media literacy and digital education is vital. Users need to be equipped with the skills to critically evaluate the information they encounter online. Social media platforms can play a role in this by promoting reliable sources and flagging dubious content. Holding social media companies accountable would send a strong message to other tech firms that develop and design technologies with significant societal impacts. It is more critical than ever that we hold social media companies accountable for hate speech, specifically in the context of conflict and war.

In conclusion, social media platforms are not exempt from responsibility for the spread of misinformation and hate speech. The consequences of their inaction are real and devastating. To preserve the integrity of our digital societies, we must demand accountability, transparency, and stricter regulations. It's time for social media platforms to step up and help curb the misinformation and hate speech monster they've inadvertently created. Our collective future depends on it.

Writer is currently pursuing my Bachelors in Defense and Diplomatic Studies from Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi

PTCL Group and Pink Ribbon Collaborate for Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) in collaboration with Pink Ribbon Pakistan led a month-long campaign dedicated to educating and raising awareness about breast cancer. The campaign, multifaceted in its approach, exemplified the Group's commitment to empowering individuals in their fight against breast cancer, emphasizing its dedication to the cause and support for those impacted by this disease.

The Group kick-started the campaign by converting the official company logos to pink on all digital platforms. This was followed by an internal awareness messaging campaign to educate employees about early detection and breast cancer prevention, accompanied by an awareness session in collaboration with Pink Ribbon. The session featured a panel discussion with Dr. Erum Najeeb,



General Surgeon, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr. Asma Mahfooz from PTCL's Health Team, a breast cancer survivor and a caregiver to a breast cancer patient. This discussion fostered open dialogues, promoted understanding and addressed ques-

tions, effectively breaking down knowledge barriers.

The campaign featured a range of awareness activities, each designed to educate and encourage employees to actively raise awareness about Breast Cancer. A Pink Futsal Match was also

organized between PTCL Group and Eikon 7 in solidarity with the cause.

Throughout October, employees were encouraged to wear pink and share pledges at the Pledge Wall placed at Ufone Tower to publicly commit to supporting the cause. Furthermore, Ufone Tower and PTCL's NEST Office were illuminated pink, demonstrating solidarity and community support for breast cancer survivors.

In addition to this, a donation drive was carried through UPaisa, and donation boxes were placed in office buildings to generate funds for Pakistan's first specialized breast cancer hospital.

Concluding the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an awareness session was also conducted at Edhi Homes Islamabad to educate women and young girls about this disease.

Through this initiative, PTCL Group strives to emphasize the significance of early detection and to create an environment that uplifts survivors and empowers those affected by the disease.

At opening of forum on spiritual and moral values, foreign minister Lavrov calls for unity



PPA

ISLAMABAD: It is indeed a privilege for me to greet you in this room and to declare the opening of this international conference for compatriots living in and outside Russia. It is titled Strengthening Traditional Spiritual and Moral Values to Guarantee Unity among Compatriots.

With your approval, we devoted today's conference to the values underpinning our shared Russian civic identity. It would not be an exaggeration to say that these values form the bedrock of our multi-ethnic and centuries-old statehood. The high profile of participants at today's event demonstrates in all clarity that spiritual and moral values are among the priorities of the Russian compatriots' movement abroad.

We have established a good tradition of holding this gathering in the run-up to National Unity Day. This national holiday celebrates one of the most important and decisive events in our national history when Moscow was liberated from Polish invaders in 1612. On this day, we pay tribute to the glorious past of our homeland, and the courage of our ancestors who came together and stood up for Russia's independence and statehood, and defended its right to independence and its own unique development path. Just like back then, today patriotism, civic duty, serving the Fatherland and assuming responsibility for its future – all these elements provide a solid foundation for driving the development of Russian society.

We face the formidable task of ensuring continuity and bridging generations by teaching our youth our traditions and the love of their homeland. In this context, the role compatriots living abroad play can hardly be underestimated. They have preserved the spiritual bonds linking them to their historical Motherland and have a sense of belonging when it comes to Russia's destiny.

Today, working together has acquired special importance considering that the US-led collective West has unleashed yet another war against our country. Just like Napoleon in 1812 and Hitler in 1941, the United States has now brought together almost all Western countries to make yet another attempt to destroy Russia and inflict a strategic defeat on it so that it ceases to exist as an independent international actor. The level of Russophobia we are witnessing in Western countries is just mind-blowing. We are aware of the fact that many of you have had to work in a very challenging environment. The councils coordinating various associations of Russian compatriots and other structures within the Russian diaspora have been facing the ugly phenomenon of Russophobia in their day-to-day affairs.

Karot Power Company releases 5,000 Mahseer fish into Jehlum River



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards conservation, the Karot Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) successfully achieved a critical milestone with the release of 5,000 Mahseer fish stock at Kanandi, near Hollar Bridge. This initiative is part of an agreement between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Karot Power Company Limited (KPCL) to release 300,000 Mahseer fingerlings into the Jehlum River. The event marked a pivotal moment in safeguarding the endangered Mahseer fish, which faces numerous threats to its survival, including habitat destruction and illegal sand mining.

The release event was graced by the presence of Mr. Wang Yu, Deputy CEO of CSAIL, alongside his team, Karot HPP Employer's Engineer, and government officials from various departments including Fisheries, Wildlife, EPAs, Forest, local administration, along with local community members and students from the environmental clubs.

In a speech delivered by IUCN Pakistan representative, the focus was on the organization's mandate to preserve local biodiversity. This involves controlling illegal fishing, poaching, logging, and sand mining by actively engaging local communities, schools, government departments, and NGOs/CSOs. This approach is fundamental to the success of the BMP, aligning with the conservation and protection of the area's natural diversity.

Representing CSAIL and KPCL, Mr. Zhang Hao emphasized the objectives of BMP implementation and CTGI's commitment to integrate biodiversity management into hydropower projects. He highlighted the ethical and environmental obligation in ensuring the sustainable development of renewable energy resources. Mr. Zhang further emphasized that while CSAIL's operations are crucial for meeting Pakistan's energy needs, they are mindful of their environmental impact. Proactive measures have been taken to minimize harm and actively contribute to the well-being of the surrounding ecosystem.

Pakistani restaurant 'Hungry Buds' inaugurated in Jeddah

Addiya Wahaj

JEDDAH: Pakistani food has a distinct identity all over the world. This is the reason why Pakistanis are always looking for their cultural Pakistani taste even after going abroad. Keeping this in mind, a new restaurant was inaugurated in Jeddah, a very vibrant and beautiful city of Saudi Arabia, for the delicious and unique variety of Pakistani food.

On the occasion of the inauguration of this unique restaurant in Jeddah, an event was held in which the atmosphere was scented with the enchanting fragrances of Pakistani dishes. From mouthwatering Kebabs to scrumptious Karahi and Puries to delightful Kachoris, every delicious and traditional dish was served here in a very attractive way.

The opening ceremony of Hungry Buds Restaurant was hosted by Ms. Taj Bano, a renowned personality and educationist of Jeddah.

On this occasion, she said that we miss the taste of authentic Pakistani cuisine everywhere, which is why today's special feast has been organized in the Pakistani restaurant "Hungry Buds". Pakistani women belonging to different walks of life participated in the ceremony with great enthusiasm.

At the ceremony, the restaurant



management said that we are serving the Pakistani community in Jeddah Saudi Arabia by spreading an aroma of Pakistani cuisine and at the same time contributing to the stability of the Pakistani economy, we have paid special attention to the menu along with quality and fresh ingredients. Along with Pakistanis, our indigenous delicious dishes are being liked

in other communities and the local Arab community here and we have also decorated the restaurant in a very unique way keeping in mind the passion of our community, which is becoming very popular.

At the end of the ceremony, the women including Bint-ul-Hassan, Nikhat Nadeem, Mumtaz Rafique, Tanvir Tariq, Suraiya Khalid, Rubella

Jamil, Rakshanda Puri, Azra Nishat, Noor Almas and others thanked the educationist Taj Bano from the bottom of their heart.

The women attendees also marked that in such a gathering, everyone gets an opportunity to spend time together and spending time together in such a pleasant environment also has a positive effect on mental health.

Japan foreign minister says ready to 'continue providing aid' to Palestinians

Japan's foreign minister announced Thursday that she would meet with her Palestinian counterparts during her visits to Israel and Jordan and convey Japan's willingness to continue to provide aid for the Palestinians.

Yoko Kamikawa, the minister, will also be meeting with Eli Cohen, the foreign minister of Israel, during her two-day visit starting on Friday, amid the escalation of the crisis in Gaza following Israel's dual attacks on the Jabalia refugee camp and as foreigners, including Japanese nationals, began to depart.

"I hope to discuss how to respond to the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza region as well as directly communicate Japan's readiness to continue provid-



ing aid," Kamikawa said of her meeting with her Palestinian counterparts with-

out specifying who she would meet.

Speaking to reporters before her departure, she acknowledged the Israeli strike on the Jabalia refugee camp and that many civilians had been killed in the attack, Reuters reported.

"I understand the Israeli military has said the strike targeted Hamas operatives and relevant infrastructure," she said. She did not comment further.

All 10 Japanese nationals and their eight Palestinian family members wishing to leave Gaza have evacuated to Egypt, Kamikawa said, adding that the evacuees were in good health. She said Japan would remain in touch with one Japanese national living in Gaza who wished to remain there and did not evacuate.

Building Bridges of China-Pakistan Communication through Food

Xinhua

HARBIN: In an inconspicuous street in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, there is an authentic Pakistani restaurant that stands out from the surrounding Chinese eateries.

Upon entering the restaurant, one can see the rich Pakistani-themed decorations. Although the space is not large, it gives a warm and tidy feeling.

"This is the only Pakistani restaurant in Harbin." Muhammad Usama, the manager of the restaurant, spoke fluent Chinese as he introduced dishes to Chinese guests. "You can try the chicken curry and traditional milk tea."

The restaurant was established in 2019. Its founder, Muhammad

Atif, just graduated with a doctorate degree at that time.

"In 2013, I came to Harbin from Pakistan to study for my doctorate. After graduation, I decided to stay in China. At that time, there was no Pakistani restaurant in Harbin, so I decided to open one to let Chinese friends taste authentic Pakistani flavors," said Atif.

For this purpose, Atif hired chefs and a manager from Pakistan, including Usama, who was working as a chef at a five-star hotel in Pakistan at the time.

"We want the dishes to have an authentic Pakistani taste, so the chefs are Pakistani, and most of the ingredients are imported from Pakistan," Usama said.

Currently, the restaurant has two Chinese waitstaff and four

Pakistani employees working in the kitchen. Due to its authentic taste, the majority of the restaurant's customers are Chinese, including many foreign students.

Since 2019, although the restaurant has faced difficult times, Atif and his colleagues have chosen to persevere.

"For the past few years, I have hardly returned to my hometown. I have been in Harbin all this time. Although there are sometimes very few customers in the restaurant, we never give up," Usama said.

From being unknown at the beginning to now, this Pakistani restaurant often has a waiting list on weekends. Atif and Usama also share dishes and customer feedback on short video platforms to attract more attention.

"Some customers come all the way from Daqing, Qiqihar, and other cities to Harbin just to taste Pakistani cuisine," Usama said.

In Atif's view, cuisine is also a medium for communication between China and Pakistan. "I hope to let people from both countries learn more about each other through food," Atif said.

"I have never eaten Pakistani food and wanted to give it a try. The taste is unique and delicious. Watching the promotional videos on the restaurant's TV, I could also see the customs and beautiful scenery of Pakistan, which helped me learn more about the country," said Harbin resident Ai Mingzhe.

Now Atif plans to expand the restaurant's business area, and he is also preparing to open another



Pakistani restaurant in Ningbo, China, so I will continue to work here, using food to build a bridge for communication between China and Pakistan," Atif said.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
52,656.76	52,342.63
Day's High	Day's Low
52,706.00	52,239.58
Index Value	Change
9,984,953,663	+314.13
Percentage	Time
+0.6%	2 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,446.53	+104.10
Percentage	Time
+1.42%	2 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,700.26	+425.68
Percentage	Time
+1.28%	2 Nov, 12:56 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,949.89	+348.24
Percentage	Time
+1.10%	2 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.25	180
Bahrain Dinar	747.87	755.87
Canadian Dollar	205.5	207.75
China Yuan	38.49	38.89
Danish Krone	39.7	40.1
Euro	298	301
Hong Kong Dollar	35.94	36.29
Indian Rupee	3.38	3.49
Japanese Yen	1.68	1.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.07	918.07
Malaysian Ringgit	58.94	59.54
New Zealand \$	163.96	165.96
Norwegians Krone	25.05	25.35
Omani Riyal	730.39	738.39
Qatari Riyal	77.25	77.95
Saudi Riyal	75.25	76
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	25.06	25.36
Swiss Franc	308.9	311.4
Thai Bhat	7.76	7.91
U.A.E Dirham	79.25	80
UK Pound Sterling	346	350
US Dollar	282.25	285

SECP Constitutes Committee to enhance transparency in the conduct of meetings of shareholders

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has constituted a committee of experts to review the manner of conduct of shareholder meetings by companies listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and related matters. The formulation of the committee is aimed at identifying reforms which can increase transparency in the manner of conducting the shareholder meetings and ensuring adequate redressal of concerns, particularly from minority shareholders.

The committee shall be responsible for reviewing the regulatory requirements relating to the conduct of meetings of shareholders, including the manner of election of directors and the use of proxies, identifying areas of concern, and suggesting reforms. The Committee is further tasked with proposing an appropriate monitoring mechanism of meeting proceedings, including the recording of the minutes of meeting, and identifying the role of technology in enhancing efficiency.

ICCI calls for focusing on mining and mineral sector to promote exports

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has huge reserves of mines and minerals including the world's second largest salt mines & coal deposits, fifth largest copper & gold reserves, huge reserves of marble, granite, gemstones, chromite, gypsum, iron ore, lead zinc, bauxite etc. and the government should focus on better development of this sector to fully exploit these natural resources for promotion of trade & exports and economic growth. This was said by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) while addressing a delegation of All Pakistan Mines and Minerals Association that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Meer Behrose Regi Baloch.

ICCI President said that many countries including China, Italy, Turkey, Spain and Brazil have exploited their mineral sector effectively for economic development, but in Pakistan this sector has not been given proper attention



despite its tremendous potential to promote the economy. He said that Pakistan could earn billions of dollars by this sector. He said that promotion of the mineral sector would bring multiple benefits to the economy as it would improve trade & exports, increase employ-

ment & income level, attract more domestic & foreign investment and accelerate economic growth.

Speaking at the occasion, Meer Behrose Regi Baloch, Chairman, All Pakistan Mines and Minerals Association highlighted various issues

being faced by the business community of the mines and mineral sector. He stressed that the government should focus on improving the regulatory framework as procedural delays were creating hurdles for potential investors. He said that the government's support was also needed for infrastructure development, technological upgradation, access to finance, human resource development and marketing to facilitate the better growth of this sector. He said that the government should ensure dedicated and friendly banking products for mining and processing sub sectors.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that outdated technology was still in use in the quarrying and processing sub sectors due to which production of value-added products was an issue. He urged that the government should cooperate in introducing the latest technology and mechanized mining in this sector to enable this sector to produce valued added products and enhance exports.

Press conference

LAHORE: President of P.I.A union Hidayat Ullah Khan addresses a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Capt(R) Saeed Ahmad Nawaz joins CCP as its fourth member

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Capt(R) Saeed Ahmad Nawaz has joined the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) as its fourth member. He brings a wealth of experience to CCP.

Capt(R) Saeed Ahmad Nawaz holds an MBA from the University of the Punjab with a specialization in finance. He earned the highly competitive Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in 2002-03, where he studied finance and economics at Boston University in the USA.

Mr. Nawaz was awarded the World Bank-Government of Pakistan sponsored Professional Development Program Award in 2006-07. He completed his M. Sc. in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics, UK, expanding his academic horizons and engaging with public and private sector organizations in the US and the UK.

Capt(R) Saeed Ahmad Nawaz commenced his



professional journey as a commissioned officer in the Pakistan Army and was inducted into the District Management Group. At the National School of Public Policy, he served as Director Staff, Chief Instructor, and Head of Administration (Director General). During his service in the Federal Secretariat, he successfully handled a spectrum of critical issues, including Covid-19 related relief measures, industrial policy, corporate governance, poverty alleviation, and social security. His last assignment was as the Managing Director of Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO).

Minister Dagha to form committee for resolving Karachi Industrial Challenges

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Muhammad Younus Dagha, Minister of Finance, Planning & Development, and Revenue, has reiterated his commitment to resolving the challenges faced by industrialists in the North Karachi Industrial Area.

During a meeting, he announced the formation of a committee that will specifically focus on addressing priority issues encountered by businesses in Karachi's industrial zones.

The Minister of Industries emphasized the urgency of resolving these concerns and stated that the committee, comprising representatives from all zones, will diligently work to formulate recommendations.

These recommendations will be submitted to both provincial and federal authorities for review and necessary action.

The committee, scheduled to convene at both provincial and federal levels, will collaborate with the regional industrial sectors, ensuring effective communication of their concerns to the relevant governmental bodies. In addition to addressing immediate issues, the committee will also collaborate on



industrial reforms and facilitate the provision of funds from provincial and federal governments.

Faisal Moiz Khan, President of NKATI, welcomed the Minister of Industry and Commerce and highlighted the challenges faced by industrialists in the area. He mentioned that the gas tariff has been increased from 1100 rupees per MMBTU to 2100 rupees per MMBTU, while 2400 rupees have been

set for captive power plants.

President NKATI requested financial assistance for garments and SMEs to reduce their costs and improve their competitiveness. He further stated that the land of the Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) belongs to the jurisdiction of the North Karachi Industrial Area, and it should only be allocated to North Karachi Industrial Area instead of F. B. Area.

10 million employed in cottage industry need to be protected

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized that the government policies should protect, emancipate and enable cottage industry in Pakistan as it employs 10 million people in the country - bridging a massive employment gap left out by other sectors and industries.

It is pertinent to note that FPCCI's Standing Committee on Cottage Industry organized a high-profile meeting on the burning issues of cottage industry; which was well-attended and well-represented from across Sindh province.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that, as matter of fact, there are many developed and quickly developing

economies in the world who built their socioeconomic transformation; import substitution capacities and GDP per Capita growth on the basis of a large number of diverse cottage industries. China, India, Bangladesh and Brazil are some of the glaring examples of the power of the cottage industry, he added.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, elaborated that the share of cottage industry in Pakistan's exports is merely 25 percent; while, in India, it is 42.6 percent. This is telling as it highlights the fact that the cottage industry is neglected in Pakistan; and, FPCCI, being the apex body, is all willing to be the voice of cottage industry in the government and policy-making circles.

Digital Risks: Protecting Yourself Online

Muhammad Farooq

In today's digital age, people of all ages have become heavily reliant on the internet for various purposes, including social interactions, official tasks, online shopping, financial transactions, and branch-banking etc. While we benefit from this technology in our daily lives, it is crucial to remain vigilant against cybercriminals. Unlike traditional criminals, cybercriminals use tactics like phishing scams, fake websites, hacking, exploiting technical vulnerabilities, or impersonating reputable entities such as internet/mobile companies, banks, or law enforcement agencies. Just like traditional crimes, cybercrimes can have a devastating impact on our lives and finances.

Unfortunately, Pakistani online users have been facing various challenges with reference to online crimes that are evolving with technology. For example, there is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for deception by creat-

ing fake audio and video content for purposes like harassment, cyberstalking, and extortion. Additionally, there are fraudulent e-commerce websites and illegal loan apps that exploit needy users by offering easy and instant loans, only to later harass, blackmail, and extort them for repayment. Although the concerned bodies like Government entities for their public support programs, banks for their customers etc. run regular awareness campaigns to warn public not to share any sort of their personal information i.e. CNIC details, OTPs, banking app credentials etc. However, the public sometimes succumbs to digital fraud, fake reward schemes, easy loans and illegal websites/apps.

The safe use of internet is needed in today's digital age which can be easily achieved at individual level by taking basic steps as follows to protect ourselves from digital fraud:

Awareness: Make yourself and others aware of different types of known digital frauds to timely identify and avoid potential scams. For public

guidance, PTA and relevant ministries have launched awareness campaigns. Subscribing to their Social Media accounts/channel can be very helpful in getting instant updated awareness content. PTA's following Social Media accounts/page can be subscribed/ followed for receiving



updated information and related guidance:

- X (formerly known as Twitter), Youtube, Facebook, Tiktok: @PTAofficialpk
- Personal Information: Avoid sharing personal details, passwords, OTPs, PIN etc with anyone at any cost and avoid saving passwords, personal

details on anyone else's device.

Cookies: Be aware of accepting cookies policy offered by websites as it allows disclosing user's private information so it is a best practice to pass and decline so as to keep private information safe from data-mining websites.

Strong Passwords: Configure combination of lowercase and uppercase letters, numerals, and special characters for each of your online account. It is best practice to frequently change the passwords.

Enable Two-Factor Authentication: Enable Two-factor authentication if available, this adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of identification, such as a code sent to your phone or email, in addition to your password.

Emails and Messages: Be aware of unsolicited emails or messages requesting personal information or contain links to click. Verify the sender's identity before clicking on any links or providing any information.

Antivirus Software: Install reputable / proprietary antivirus software on your devices to detect and remove any malware.

Software Updates: Install latest updates and security patches for your computer operating system, web browser, android and IOS software from authentic / proprietary source only. This will help to protect you from known vulnerabilities and exploits.

Monitor Accounts: Regularly review your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions or e-mail IDs for unauthorized access. Set up alerts for any unusual activity on your accounts.

Taking proactive precautionary steps is essential to safeguard ourselves online and minimize the risk of falling prey to cybercriminals. PTA is diligently working to remove and block unlawful online content. In the unfortunate event of online fraud, victims should promptly report the incident to the FIA Cyber Crime Wing for legal action.

Australia prepares to strike final blow on old enemy England

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Australia can deliver the final blow to old enemy England's dismal ICC World Cup 2023 campaign on Saturday with memories of their acrimonious Ashes series still fresh.

Jos Buttler's defending champions sit rock bottom of the 10-nation group with one win in six games, requiring a mathematical miracle to squeeze into the semi-finals.

On Saturday, they face an Australian team who come into the game at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad with four straight wins.

However, the five-time winners will be without two key players, Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh.

England's most recent loss was a 100-run thrashing at the hands of unbeaten India in Lucknow where coach Matthew Mott faced down questions over the team's brittle batting lineup and claims of dressing room unrest.

Opening batsman Dawid Malan

slammed reports of Mott, who had conceded the ICC World Cup 2023 campaign was over for the 2019 champions, losing the confidence of the players.

"Motty is not the one walking out on the field," Malan told BBC.

"As players, we need to take responsibility when we cross that rope. We are being given everything we need to perform. The facilities and work, everything is being done as it always has been."

He added: "It is really hard to sum up. We just can't seem to get anything going at the moment or any rhythm or momentum. We're not used to being in that position."

England's only win in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 so far was against Bangladesh.

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They lost to Afghanistan while in their last two games, their batting folded for 156 (against Sri Lanka) and then



129 (India).

Defeat to Australia will not only knock them out of contention for a semi-final spot but also put them in danger of missing the 2025 Champions Trophy.

England must finish in the top seven

places to qualify for the 50-over tournament in Pakistan.

"I'm pretty sure I'll be done for that but I'd love the guys to play in that," the 36-year-old Malan said. "Hopefully we can find the momentum and finish the World Cup on a high."

The two fierce rivals played out an exhilarating and often bitter Ashes this year with the five-match Test series ending 2-2.

Australia hold the aces in the 50-over format with 87 wins over England in 155 matches and in nine World Cup meetings the Aussies remain 6-3 ahead.

But when they met in the 2019 World Cup semi-finals, England triumphed and went on to win their maiden World Cup.

Australia started this World Cup with two losses but bounced back and are fresh from their record 309-run hammering of the Netherlands last week.

But the former champions have been dealt two blows after Maxwell fell off a golf buggy and suffered concussion while Marsh has left for home due to personal reasons.

Maxwell blasted the fastest World Cup century off just 40 balls to tear into the Dutch attack in New Delhi.

His omission paves the way for Marcus Stoinis to return.

Marsh has amassed 225 runs including a classy 121 in a 259-run opening partnership with David Warner against Pakistan.

Coach Andrew McDonald said Maxwell's injury does leave them "a fraction exposed at the back end" but Stoinis "does become available".

Cameron Green also comes into the picture for the all-important match with Marsh's place up for grabs.

Marnus Labuschagne is expected to retain his place despite his 18 in the team's previous win — a thrilling last-ball finish in Dharamsala — over New Zealand.

The middle-order batsman said England remain a "dangerous" team and "let's not get sucked into how they're performing".

Australia, led by Pat Cummins, are currently in third spot and well-placed to reach the semi-finals after winning four games.

T20 tri-series Featuring Pakistan Women A, West Indies Women A and Thailand Women Emerging to begin Today

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan Women A, West Indies Women A and Thailand Women Emerging team will feature in a T20 tri-series, scheduled to be played from 3 to 8 November. The three teams will play each other once before the top two play the final on 8 November. All matches will be played at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

This is the first multi-nation tournament in Pakistan involving women's emerging teams. The tri-series were preceded by a three-match one-day series between West Indies Women A and Pakistan Women A, which went in 2-1 in the visitors' favour.

Pakistan Women A have been forced to make one change to the squad that played the one-day series, with Kaynat Hafeez replacing the injured Tuba Hassan. Kaynat has represented Pakistan in one ODI in 2019 against England.

Rameen Shamim, who will continue to lead Pakistan Women A, was the joint wicket-taker in the recently concluded one-day series. Rameen and off-spinner Anosha Nasir picked six wickets each in



the three-match series. Pakistan's squad has six internationally capped players: Rameen, Gull Feroza, Kaynat Hafeez, Omaira Sohail, Shawaal Zulfqar and Sira Nawaz.

West Indies Women A will be buoyed by the one-day series victory as they will continue to be captained by Rashada Williams, who was the leading run-getter in the 50-over matches.

Meanwhile, this is Thailand's first-ever cricket tour of Pakistan. Following the tri-series, the side will also play two T20s against the home team, scheduled for 10 and 11 November at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Seven players out of Thailand Women Emerging's 15-member

squad have represented the senior side in T20Is.

Thailand Women Emerging captain, Thipatcha Putthawong, speaking to PCB Digital, expressed her excitement at leading her side on the tour to Pakistan: "It is an honour to be a part of this series and to be able to play at such an iconic venue. I would like to thank PCB for arranging such a wonderful event."

We have prepared well and we hope to perform to the best of our abilities. We are an up and coming team but we back ourselves to deliver winning performances during the tri series.

Rashada Williams, captain of West Indies Women A, said: "It was a really good feeling to win the one-day series and now we focus on our prep for the T20 series which is a shorter and faster format. We want to execute our skills well so we can come out champions again."

Pakistan Women A skipper Rameen Shamim stated: "We have learnt from the mistakes made in the one-day series and have prepared accordingly. We are aiming to give our best in the tri-series. It's a big opportunity for the team."

The combination of the team is really good. We have a mix of senior players and fresh talent so we are optimistic about our chances."

Pakistan Women A Squad: Rameen Shamim (captain), Amber Kainat, Anosha Nasir, Eyman Fatima, Fatima Shahid, Gull Feroza (wk), Gull Rukh, Humna Bilal, Kaynat Hafeez, Noreen Yaqoob, Omaira Sohail, Saima Malik, Shawaal Zulfqar, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tasmia Rubab

Travelling Reserves: Fatima Khan, Maham Manzoor and Syeda Khadija Chishti

Back up Reserve: Masooma Zehra and Yusra Amir

Full schedule:

3 November – Tri-series first T20 match (Pakistan Women A v West Indies Women A); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore
4 November – Tri-series second T20 match (West Indies Women A v Thailand Emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore
5 November – Tri-series third T20 match (Pakistan Women A v Thailand Emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore
8 November – Tri-series final; Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Holdings Manchester United knocked out of League Cup 3-0 by Newcastle

Manchester United's defence of the League Cup came to a limp end in a 3-0 home defeat by Newcastle on Wednesday as Arsenal were well-beaten 3-1 at West Ham.

In a repeat of last year's League Cup final, which Erik ten Hag's men won 2-0, both managers named much-changed sides at Old Trafford.

But it was Newcastle's strength in depth that showed as United slumped to an eighth defeat in 15 games in all competitions this season — their worst start to any campaign since 1962/63.

"This is not good enough. We have to take responsibility, I have to take responsibility," said Ten Hag.

"I feel sorry for the fans, it is below our standards and we have to put it right."

Tino Livramento and Lewis Hall have had to wait for their chance to shine since signing for the Magpies but the young full-backs played a huge role as Eddie Howe's side got revenge for defeat at Wembley



in February. Livramento's surging run set up Miguel Almiron to open the scoring on 28 minutes.

Chelsea loanee Hall then volleyed home a brilliant effort from the edge of the box just eight minutes later. Joe Willock's solo run and stunning

finish then drew the sting from any chance of a United fightback on the hour mark.

After eliminating both Manchester City and Manchester United from the League Cup, Newcastle's reward is another tough draw away to Chelsea in the last eight.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was left to rue leaving Declan Rice out on his return to the London Stadium, with the England international alongside Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and William Saliba on a star-studded Gunners' bench.

Aaron Ramsdale was handed a rare start since he was dropped in favour of David Raya, but it was a night to forget for the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Ben White beat Ramsdale to Jarrod Bowen's dangerous in-swinging corner but could only head into his own net after 16 minutes.

Mohammed Kudus made it 2-0 in 50 minutes with a brilliant touch and low finish from Nayef Aguerd's long ball forward.

India inflict second-biggest World Cup defeat on Sri Lanka

A Sports

MUMBAI: India pacers decimated the Sri Lankan batting attack after Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer to power the home side to hand Sri Lanka the second-biggest World Cup defeat in the 33rd match of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Set to chase a daunting 358-run target, the Sri Lankan batting lineup unfolded at a mere 55 in 19.4 overs.

Indian pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj gave India a dominant start in the defence as they ran through Sri Lanka's top order, reducing them to 3/4 in the fourth over. Charith Assalanka and Angelo Mathews attempted to

pull their side of trouble but Mohammed Shami spoiled their plans with a ruthless spell which yielded five wickets and eventually booked Sri Lanka on the meagre total.

Kasun Rajitha remained the top-scorer for Sri Lanka in their dismal show with the bat, followed by Maheesh Theekshana and Mathews scoring 12 each.

The rest of their batters failed to make it into the double figures.

Shami led the bowling attack for India with 5/18, followed by Siraj's 3/16 while Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja made one scalp each.

After inviting India to bat, Dilshan Madushanka drew first

blood for Sri Lanka as he castled Rohit Sharma on the second ball of the innings after he sent the first one for four.

Virat Kohli then joined Shubman Gill and together they scored 189 runs for the second wicket, completing their half-centuries.

Shubman Gill appeared to be in a position to score his maiden World Cup ton, while Virat Kohli was eyeing his 49th ODI century to tie Sachin Tendulkar's record for most ODI hundreds.

However, Dilshan Madushanka rained on their parade as he returned to the attack and removed both batters in consecutive overs.

Shubman Gill top-scored with a run-a-ball 92, featuring



11 boundaries and two sixes, meanwhile, Virat Kohli scored 88 runs from 92 deliveries with the help of as many boundaries as his partner.

Shreyas Iyer, came down to bat at number four and added 60 runs for the fourth wicket with KL Rahul, who scored 21 runs during his 19-ball stay at the crease.

Iyer added another 57 runs with Ravindra Jadeja for the sixth wicket but was dismissed

by Madushanka after hitting back-to-back sixes.

Iyer's blistering knock of 82 runs from 56 balls featured three boundaries and six sixes.

Jadeja on the other end scored a brief 35-run cameo off 24 balls before being run-out on the last ball of the innings.

Other than Madushanka's five wickets, Dushantha Chameera was the only bowler to pick a wicket for Sri Lanka, while two batters got run-out.

Pakistan Cricket Board signed MoU with Defence Housing Authority

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 10 years with Defence Housing Authority Lahore at DHA Main Office, Lahore.

As per the agreement, DHA has allocated an area within its Sports Complex in DHA Phase 5 where PCB will set up an academy dedicated to women's cricket. Women cricketers will also have access to flagship Sports Complex facilities.

The MoU was signed between Chairman PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf and Administrator DHA Lahore Brig Mirza Yasir Baig.

PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Director Domestic Cricket Nadeem Khan, Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket Junaid Zia, Head of Women's Cricket Tania Mallick, Secretary DHA Brig (r) Hafiz Mohammad Azhar, DHA Director Sports Brig (r) Munir Ahmed and DHA Additional Director Sports Lt Col (r) Ziauddin were present during the signing ceremony.

Mr Zaka Ashraf thanked Brig Mirza Yasir Baig and hailed the signing of the MoU as a positive step in women's cricket.

Zaka Ashraf said: "This signing is one step forward from PCB in the growth and progression of women's cricket. The collaboration with DHA will provide another center for women cricketers to train and prepare for international cricket."

Zone-VII Whites moved into Final of the A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites moved into Final of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-II Whites by 83 runs in the 2nd Semi Final played at KCCA Stadium. highlights of the Semi Final deadly bowling by young Promising Abdul Wahab capturing 6 wickets for 6 runs in 7.5 overs. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VII Whites 139 all out in 44.1 overs. Maaz Khan 25 3x4, Jawad Zameer 22 2x4 1x6, Noor Zaman 18. Huzaifa Ahsan (rob) 3/30, S. M. Mohtashim (sla) 2/20, Abdul Rauf (rmf) 2/25.

Zone-II Whites 57 all out in 25.5 overs. Alwaz Ahmed 20, Zain Ali 11, Aliyan Asif 10. Abdul Wahab (rmf) 6/9, Muhammad Azaan Ali (rob) 2/12.

The date and venue for the Final Match will be announced later on.

Emerging female talent from Pakistan lands cricket contract in Australia

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Saira Jabeen, a 22-year-old emerging talent from the North of Pakistan, has secured a six-month contract with the Paramatta Women's Grade Cricket Club in Sydney, Australia.

She touched down in Australia on September 28, 2023.

Hailing from the picturesque Kalash Valley, Saira Jabeen has recently earned a spot in the list of 74 women cricketers who received PCB's first domestic women contracts for 11 months.

"I have a good experience of Pakistan's grassroots cricket, and now with this opportunity, I would gain valuable exposure to competitive cricket in Australia. I hope that by blending these experiences, I can make a significant difference in the future."

"My journey is facilitated by Mel Jones, the former Australian women's cricket team captain and Mr. Yahya Ghaznavi from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), who played a pivotal role in connecting me with the Paramatta club."

"I want to set an example for all those girls who are dreaming but are not able to chase their dreams due to societal pressure," Saira Jabeen affirmed, highlighting her commitment to inspiring aspiring female cricketers.

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel Born with a passion for the game, Saira Jabeen shared that her journey was not without challenges.

"I used to disguise myself to play with the guys," she recalled, mentioning how she had even cut her hair short to blend in with her male counterparts.

"They were very good and supportive. They used to encourage me to play," she added, reflecting on the encouraging environment she found among her fellow cricketers.



Muharib-al-Bahr

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Special Service Group and Qatari Naval Special Forces demonstrating Counter Piracy Operation during Joint Naval Exercise Muharib-al-Bahr VI being conducted at Karachi.



Bilateral Exercise of Pakistan Navy and Qatar Navy Special Forces Concludes

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The 6th edition of bilateral exercise MUHARIB-AL-BAHR between Pakistan Navy Special Service Group (SSG(N)) and Qatari Naval Special Forces (QNSF) was

conducted at Karachi. The exercise is conducted annually alternatively at Pakistan and Qatar.

The two weeks long exercise comprised of various operations such as Frogman Ops, coordinated Maritime Inter-

diction Operations, Ship Visit-Board-Search & Seizure (SVBSS) Procedures, Sniper Weapon Firing, Day & Night Counter Terrorism Training, Close Quarter Combat (CQC) at Ship in a Box Mockup and Fast Rope Insertion Extrac-

tion Techniques (FRIETS). (QNSF).

The exercise proved highly beneficial to enhance professional acumen of SOFs of both navies with testimony to long lasting and historic brotherly relations between the two countries.

Dr. Umar Saif urges Saudi Arabia to facilitate Pakistani IT companies in travel, visas

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Thursday urged the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki to facilitate Pakistani IT professionals and business persons in travel and issuing of visas. The minister expressed these views during a meeting with the ambassador who called on him. Matters of mutual interest and related to IT and



Telecommunication were also discussed, said a news release.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the IT

and telecom sectors between the two countries. Dr. Umar Saif said that the Government of Pakistan wanted to boost relations with Saudi Arabia in the IT and telecom sectors. Saudi Arabia is a very attractive market for Pakistani IT companies, he added. He said as Pakistani IT companies scale up their presence and businesses in Saudi Arabia, it's important to facilitate their travel and issuance of visas. The minister said that there was great potential for IT and Telecom profes-

sionals in Pakistan and the environment for investment in the country was conducive, urging the Saudi tech companies to invest in Pakistan. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said that Saudi Arabia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the IT sector and Telecom. The ambassador also ensured the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would provide full support in facilitating visas for Pakistani IT companies. The meeting was also attended by senior officers of the Ministry.

State Bank of Pakistan & CDC launched RAAST payments facility for Mutual Funds

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Central Depository Company (CDC) has collaborated with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for allowing investors to purchase mutual funds units using SBP's RAAST Payment Gateway. CDC has developed a framework where it acts as an "Aggregator" and issues a RAAST Payment ID, enabling investors to digitally transfer funds, using RAAST, to the respective Asset Management Company (AMC) for purchase of mutual fund units.

The facility was launched in an event at CDC House with Mr. Saleem Ullah - Deputy Governor SBP as the Chief Guest.

While officiating the event, Deputy Governor SBP - Mr. Saleem Ullah expressed his heartfelt appreciation for CDC's unwavering efforts and initiatives for digitalization and customer facilitation. He emphasized that the core objective of all digitalization efforts is to improve customer convenience and satisfaction. He said that the launch of RAAST payments facility for Mutual Funds will provide the much-needed convenience to the mutual fund investors and would be instrumental in increasing the investors' base.

Highlighting the importance of RAAST, the DG SBP said that the RAAST will work as the pivot for digitization of the country's payment system.



He said that since its launch in 2021, RAAST is working smoothly, successfully processing over 1 million transactions daily.

Commissioner SECP - Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi also honored the event and

remarked, "CDC has been consistently working closely with SECP for formulating and refining the Regulatory framework for the mutual fund industry.

While speaking at the event, CEO CDC - Mr. Badiuddin

Akber said, "Implementation of this project is part of CDC's strategy of constantly striving for new and novel solutions based on technology and innovation to create ease of doing business for investors and market participants (AMCs in this case).

Chairman CDC - Mr. Moin Fudda welcomed the audience and thanked SBP for their continued support in market development endeavors by CDC. The event was also attended by CEO MUFAP - Ms. Mashmoona Zehra Majeed, CEOs and senior executives of the mutual fund industry, all of whom lauded CDC's efforts in undertaking this initiative and playing its role for market development.

Solangi attends launching ceremony of book on 100 best CEOs, companies



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi attended the CEO's Investment Summit on Thursday.

The business community's favourite book "100 Best Performing CEOs and Companies of Pakistan," was

launched at the event. Founder and President of CEO Club Pakistan Ijaz Nisar presented the book as a gift to the Information Minister.

The book contains the success stories of 100 Pakistani CEOs working at the local and international levels who have highlighted the positive image of Pakistan in the world in difficult situations.

Pakistan Embassy in Brussels organises Khuli Katchery in virtual format

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, H. E. Amna Baloch conducted monthly online Khuli Kachehri for the Pakistan Community residing in Belgium & Luxembourg.

During this e- Khuli Kachehri, matters pertaining to the facilitation of community were discussed. Community representatives were also apprised of initiatives taken by the Mission within its area of jurisdiction.

Ambassador stated that Govern-



ment of Pakistan is making all out efforts to facilitate Pakistanis living abroad. She said that Khuli Kachehri provides an excellent opportunity to interact with Pakistanis directly.



ISLAMABAD: The participants are praying in the prayer ceremony held at the Press Information Department on the demise of the mother of Shafqat Abbas, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. APP

Pakistan looks forward to further accelerating CPEC construction: Ambassador Haque

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan looks forward to further strengthening exchanges with China, accelerating the high-quality joint construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), deepening economic, trade, cultural, and sub-national exchanges, and pushing bilateral relations to a higher level, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said. The friendship between Pakistan and China is iron-clad and unbreakable. It is the inevitable trend of history and the aspiration of the people, he said while addressing at a farewell reception.

He said, in every significant moment, the Chinese people have consistently demonstrated good-



will and empathy towards the Pakistani people. Regardless of external changes and numerous challenges, he added that the friendship between the two countries is enduring and extensive, CEN reported. Ambassador Haque said that his mission to China is a highlight of his career, and he deeply felt the sincere friendship between the Pakistani and Chinese people during his stay in China.

Solangi, Kaira offers Fateha for deceased mother of JS MoIB Shafqat Abbas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and senior Pakistan People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira on Thursday met Shafqat Abbas, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to extend condolences over the demise of his mother.

Murtaza Solangi and Qamar Zaman Kaira offered Fateha for the deceased.

Both dignitaries prayed the Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

NAB Ordinance 2023 for extended 120 days

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday extended the National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance 2023 for a further period of 120 days.

Caretaker Minister for Law Ahmad Irfan Aslam moved the resolution, which was adopted by the House. The extension will take effect from October 31, 2023.

The resolution says, "That the Senate resolves to extend the National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 (1 of 2023), for further period of one hundred and twenty days with effect from 31st October, 2023 under proviso to sub-paragraph (ii)

of paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

Earlier, the minister laid in the Senate the National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2023), as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution.

The amended law allows custody of the arrested suspects to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for up to 30 days instead of 14 days. It also empowers the NAB chairman to issue a warrant of arrest during the course of inquiry if an accused is not joining inquiry despite notice-

es or willfully does not cooperate in such inquiry.

Speaking in the House, Senator Ali Zafar while questioning the legality of the NAB law said that three-member bench of the Supreme Court had already rejected the NAB law.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the law was not person specific. He said the SC had not rejected the NAB law in toto and maintained its 70 per cent sections. The ordinance would help reorganize NAB, he observed.

Kamran Murtaza viewed that it would not be appropriate to extend the ordinance in the presence of SC judgment.

Safe City Islamabad integrates with Sindh to issue e-challans

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Safe City Islamabad has recently integrated with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department, facilitating the issuance of e-challans. The development was confirmed by Islamabad police spokesperson. The integration comes in response to the discovery of numerous vehicles with Sindh number plates violating traffic laws within the federal capital.

This posed a challenge as their data was previously inaccessible within the Safe City E-Challan system, hindering the issuance of e-challan tickets. The collaboration with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department will significantly streamline the process of issuing e-challan tickets for traffic law violators, the spox said.