



NA Speaker condemns terrorist attack on PAF training air base

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has condemned the terrorist attack on a training air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in Mianwali. The NA Speaker, in a statement issued here on Saturday, paid tribute to the security forces for thwarting the terrorist attack on the PAF training air base.



Fakhar bags multiple records with brisk century against New Zealand

Left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman on Saturday, bagged multiple records with his quickfire century against New Zealand in the 35th match of the ICC World Cup 2023. Fakhar, who played a match-winning 81-run knock against Bangladesh, backed it up with a sensational century in a daunting 402-run pursuit against New Zealand. (Details on Page 7)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Handshake with soldiers

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, interacting with base security staff during his visit to PAF Base, Mianwali.



All nine terrorists killed as combing, clearance operation at PAF Training Air Base Mianwali concludes

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Combing and clearance operation at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Training Airbase Mianwali has been concluded and all nine terrorists have been sent to hell, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said here on Saturday. The successful operation was launched by security forces to eliminate any potential threat in the surrounding area following the cowardly and failed terrorist attack on the base early Saturday. "No damage has been done to any of the PAF's func-

tional operational assets, while only some damage was done to three already phased out non-operational aircraft during the attack." "The prompt and professional conclusion of the operation serves as a stark reminder to all enemies of peace that Pakistan's Armed Forces remain vigilant and are fully capable of defending the homeland from any threat," the ISPR added.



President condemns terrorist attack on security forces in Gwadar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the convoy of Pakistan Army in Gwadar district. The president expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the attack. He also paid tribute to 14 security forces personnel who were martyred in the attack. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs in paradise and patience for the bereaved families. President Alvi vowed to continue endeavors for complete eradication of the scourge of terrorism from the

country saying that the terrorists were the enemies of country and the nation. He said the entire nation stood by its security forces to eliminate this scourge of terrorism. The president also condemned in strong words the terrorist attack on the training air base in Mianwali, commending the swift action taken by the security forces that successfully thwarted the attack.



We stand resolute against any threat to our beloved nation-CAS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Pakistan Air Force (PAF) visited PAF Base Mianwali on Saturday, following a recent foiled terrorist attack. During the visit, the Air Chief commended the on-duty security personnel for their unwavering professionalism and bravery in thwarting the malicious attempt and neutralizing the intruders in the minimum possible time, said a press release issued here.

The CAS interacted with the base personnel, expressed his utmost appreciation for their exceptional commitment in putting service before self and reiterated the required level

of readiness of each and every person in the Pakistan Air Force to counter any malicious intent of hostile elements & terrorist outfits. He lauded the morale of base personnel and highlighted the collective resolve of PAF to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and preparedness in the face of evolving security challenges. He also thanked the joint operations

team comprising Zavar Company of Pakistan Army and civil LEAs for their timely support to counter the infiltration most optimally. "The security scenario demands our unwavering vigilance and commitment. We stand resolute against any threat to our beloved nation. Pakistan Air Force will continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integ-

city of Pakistan," the Air Chief said. The visit of CAS serves as a strong message of solidarity and reassurance to the entire Pakistan Air Force personnel, inspiring them to remain steadfast in their duty to protect the nation. It also showcases the PAF's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, bravery and dedication.

Scores killed as Israel strikes ambulance near Gaza hospital



Agencies

GAZA: An Israeli air strike on an ambulance being used to evacuate the wounded from besieged northern Gaza killed 15 people and injured 60 others on Friday. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society has said one of its ambulances was struck "by a missile fired by the Israeli forces" just feet from the entrance to the hospital in Gaza City, in an attack it says killed 15 people and wounded more than 60 others. Video shared on social media, showed people lying in blood next to an ambulance with flashing lights on a city street as people rushed to help. Another video showed three ambulances standing in a line, with about a dozen people lying either motionless or barely moving next to them. Blood was pooled nearby. World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a social media post he was "utterly shocked by reports of attacks on ambulances evacuating patients", adding that patients, health workers and medical facilities must be protected. The head of the United Nations was "horrified" by a strike by Israeli forces on a convoy of ambulances in Gaza on Friday, he said in a statement, adding that the conflict "must stop". "I am horrified by the reported attack in Gaza on an ambulance convoy outside Al Shifa hospital. The images of bodies strewn on the street outside the hospital are harrowing," Antonio Guterres said in the statement. Israel, which has accused the Hamas of concealing command centres and tunnel entrances in al-Shifa hospital, ordered all civilians to leave the north of Gaza last month and its military encircled the

Amnesty Int'l wants FATF to review India's obliteration of human rights

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Amnesty International, Charity and Security Network and Human Rights Watch has urged the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to call on the Indian government to stop prosecuting, intimidating and harassing human rights defenders, activists and non-profit organisations on the pretext of countering terrorist financing. The global human rights watchdog, in its latest report, said that FATF members would start their fourth periodic review of India's record on tackling illicit funding on November 6.

It said that Indian authorities exploited FATF's recommendations as part of a coordinated campaign to restrict civic space and stifle the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. The Indian government has particularly targeted human rights groups and activists working to protect the rights of the most socially and economically marginalized populations. "Draconian laws introduced or adapted to this end include the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Their actions have flouted both FATF's standards and international human rights law," it said. "The Indian authorities have weaponized laws to crack down on the human rights work by HRDs, activists and non-profit organizations in the country," said Aakar Patel, chair of board at Amnesty International India. They

were using bogus foreign funding and terrorism charges to target, intimidate, harass and silence critics, in clear violation of FATF standards, he added. The Indian government also enacted the 2002 Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to satisfy membership conditions set by the FATF. In recent years, the report said, authorities used the law to attack, intimidate and harass human rights defenders, activists and non-profit organizations by supplementing the charges under FCRA, seizing their properties, and burdening them with stringent bail conditions. "Amnesty International India has been subject to action under the PMLA through the freezing of its bank accounts in September 2020, putting its work on hold for the past three years, without funds to even secure effective legal representation," it added. Meenakshi Ganguly, Deputy Asia Director at Human Rights Watch said, "India's three laws together have created a dangerous arsenal with debilitating consequences for civil society and human rights activists." The FATF should not allow the Indian government to exploit the organization's recommendations for its political purposes - to silence all forms of dissent, he stressed. Amnesty International



further said that since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014, the authorities have used over-broad provisions in domestic law to silence critics and shut down their operations, including by cancelling their foreign funding licenses and prosecuting them using counterterrorism law and financial regulations. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, first enacted in 1976, was aimed at preventing and regulating foreign interference in Indian politics. However, in 2010, the government repurposed the legislation with a greater focus on non-profit organizations, while relaxing foreign funding oversight for political parties. In the last 10 years, the authorities have used this law to cancel the licenses of over 20,600 non-profit organizations, including 6,000 in 2022, blocking their access to foreign funding. Indian authorities have also frequently used the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), India's primary counterterrorism law, to arbitrarily arrest and detain human rights defenders and activists, it said.

The law was introduced as a reform to the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act in 2004, but the government amended it in 2008, 2012 and 2019 to include many problematic provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The counterterrorism funding provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act have been misused against several student activists who had organized protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

PM commends PAF for foiling terrorist attack in Mianwali

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday commended the Pakistan Air Force for thwarting the terrorist attack on PAF Training Base in Mianwali. "The valiant Pakistan Air Force has once again proven its mettle by thwarting a cowardly terrorist attack in Mianwali," the prime minister wrote on X,

formerly twitter. He said any attempt to undermine the security would meet with unwavering resistance. "The nation stands with you and we salute your courage and resolve."



Solangi pays tribute to brave soldiers for foiling Mianwali airbase attack

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Saturday paid tribute to the brave soldiers of the security forces who thwarted the terrorists' attack at a training airbase in Mianwali. The minister, in a news statement, also lauded the security forces for foiling the nefarious designs of terrorists by responding to the situation immediately. "We salute the brave young men who successfully foiled the attack and they are the heroes of the nation," he remarked.

Wife says Fawad Chaudhry is arrested, driven away to undisclosed place

ISLAMABAD: Fawad Chaudhry, a former PTI leader who joined the newly-formed Istehkam-e-Pakistan (IPP) after the May 9 violence, was arrested Saturday in Islamabad, his wife said, adding that he had been shifted to some undisclosed location. According to his brother, police detained Fawad from outside his house.



All Flags Together 2023

Cultural diplomacy connects nations for collaborative peace, development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The colourful cultural diplomacy event 'All Flags Together' (AFT 2023) attracted large crowds of locals and foreign nationals. The daylong second edition was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad Foreign Women Association (IFWA), Roots Future World School and COPAIR.

Different educational institutions, national and international organizations, and individuals showcased handicrafts, food, art and culture to inculcate cultural understanding and strength of cultural diplomacy. The event also included a cultural diplomacy dialogue, 'Cultures for peace and development'.

The Roots Future World School students presented a scene from a Shakespeare's play along with a tableau depicting Pakistan's cultural fusion. The PNCA National Performing Arts Group (NPAG) presented the dances from Kalash and Sindh jhoomar. The national award-winning sitar-player Aamir Hussain performed different compositions to enthrall the audience.

The IFWA stalls offered Moroccan meatballs, Italian mini pizza, Indonesian honeycomb cake and nasi lemak, spring rolls with delicious Yemeni



sauce, Danish meatballs, Belgium's waffles, and Bahraini kebabs. As many as twenty Pakistan women put up their food and handicraft stalls.

Speaking at the cultural diplomacy dialogue, the experts called for mainstreaming the cultural intelligence in society, and cultural diplomacy in the core public policy. The multilateral arena is especially vital for cultural diplomacy. Some countries are increasingly investing in regional or global forums including China, US, South Korea and Kazakhstan. Cultural diplomacy in the multilateral sphere has existed in the form of World Expos, which began in 1851 in the United

Kingdom.

The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said: Cultures are imperative bridges between communities and nations. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of the countries spending least in cultural diplomacy despite having diverse and rich cultural strata. He appreciated Devcom-Pakistan for relaunching the 'All Flags Together' for realization of cultural importance in the public policy and country's international relations.

The US trainer and intercultural intelligence consultant Daniela Draugelis said: Understanding cultur-



al differences promotes appreciation of cultural assets to foster cooperation, understanding and trust that enables effective functioning across cultures. Building trust and relationships among communities and nations fosters harmony, peace and development while different cultures make a colourful bouquet of nations.

Amna Malik, president of COPAIR, said: We are living in the digital age that provides ample cost-efficient solutions for cultural diplomacy. Digital diplomacy compliments cultural diplomacy if the social media platforms are used in the best manner for strategic

interventions. They are the best tools to promote any nation's culture and nation branding. The public diplomacy activities and cultural diplomacy events such as 'All Flags Together' bring diverse cultures together and improves foreign relations and positive image of Pakistan.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana, the managing director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), in his presentation highlighted the rich potential of tourism in Pakistan. He said, Pakistan is one of those countries in the world which are blessed with a diverse inventory of tourism

attractions which are based on the unique endowments of natural landscape features and its rich culture and heritage.

Rana said, tourism plays a significant role in promoting cultural diplomacy by facilitating cross-cultural interactions, fostering mutual understanding, and building positive international relations.

The Secretary Youth, Culture and Tourism Midhat Shehzad of the AJK government said: Cultural diplomacy doesn't make alliances of powers or solve geopolitical problems with wars but it is a journey through souls which wins through minds and hearts. It is through languages, literature, artists, artisan, students, food, dresses, heritage and traditions.

Earlier, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of All Flags Together Munir Ahmed briefed the audience about the objectives of the event. He said the cultural showcasing helps understanding each other and closing the gaps while working in collaboration leads to unity for peace and development. We shall aim to understand each other's national heritage and the valuable work for peace and development. The AFT 2023 has provided different national and international stakeholders to come together and share their thoughts, culture and work.

Kashmiri Leaders discuss future role of Kashmir in exile: APHC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiri Leaders in exile, Diaspora and base camp role post 5th August 2019, since abrogation of article 370, vital for Kashmir freedom movement.

These views were expressed during dinner hosted in honor of Senior leader of the Kashmiri Freedom Movement from London, Nazir Ahmad Qureshi, by Kashmiri political and social leader Altaf Ahmed Bhat.

Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Kashmiri leaders Tanveer ul Islam, Altaf Hussain Wani, Muhammad Hussain Khatib, Ijaz Rahmani, Malik Hassan, Abdul Mateen, Professor Yaqoob Wani, Khurshid Mir, Sanaulah Dar, Rasheed Qureshi and Malik Aslam also participated.

Convener APHC Mahmood Ahmed Sagar appreciated Altaf Ahmed Bhat for this exclusive and important gathering held in honor of Nazir Ahmad Qureshi at Bhat's residence.

He also commended the dedica-



tion and commitment of Nazir Ahmed Qureshi, and said that through APHC Platform Kashmir freedom movement will be stronger and garner support throughout the world.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat gave suggestion and ideas for immediate rehabilitation and support for poor and needy displaced and refugees, which was appreciated by all the participants. It has been unanimously suggested that

as soon as possible project based rehabilitation and support to the displaced and refugees especially for students shall be started

Additionally, they called upon the governments of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan to enact proper and legislation aimed at the rehabilitation of the displaced, and those who have been compelled by Indian forces to refuge, living in areas such as different camps

of Azad Kashmir, Rawalpindi, Taxila, Karachi, Sialkot, Lahore and other Cities of Pakistan.

The attendees were unanimous in their belief that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) stands as a symbol of the Kashmir Freedom Movement. They stressed the vital need to strengthen the APHC from various fronts, including Srinagar, Muzaffarabad, Islamabad, and the United Kingdom, Turkey, Gulf Countries and America, to fortify its role in advancing the cause of Kashmiri self-determination and promoting unity among Kashmiri leaders across these key regions.

At the conclusion of the gathering, the attendees offered heartfelt prayers for the betterment, peace, and prosperity of Pakistan, and fervently sought freedom and justice for the people of Kashmir and Palestine. Their collective hope was for a future where the region can experience lasting harmony, security, and the realization of their long-cherished aspirations.

All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference condemns Mianwali attack

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on the Mianwali Training Air Base and the soldiers of the Pakistan Army and offered tribute to the soldiers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred while fighting against the terrorists in a brave manner. He offered their respects and said that Pakistan forces have made eternal and unforgettable sacrifices in the defense of the homeland and the war against terrorism, and whatever the enemy does, they cannot demoralize these soldiers of Islam. We have achieved great success in the war against Pakistan and in the presence of Pakistan forces, the enemy cannot look at Pakistan with a blind eye. He said that the entire nation is standing behind Pakistan's forces like a leaden wall in the defense of the homeland and the war against terrorism. He said that at present the enemy is active on the eastern and western borders and terrorists are active to create internal disturbances and our forces are fully determined and successful in eliminating these terrorists. The operation is continuing, he said that the terrorists will be made a lesson and we salute the character and spirit of the Pakistan Army on this he added.

Minister reviews progress of Azad Kashmir higher education in Muzaffarabad

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Under the chairmanship of Minister Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik, a meeting of Higher Education Department of Azad Kashmir was held in Ministry of Higher Education Muzaffarabad, in which a departmental briefing was given to Minister. Mr Zafar Malik Minister Education said that according to the vision of the Prime Minister, the reform process is being started in the department. Quality of education is needed. He said that the biometric system should be strictly implemented in the department and colleges. Lectures are very respectable for us, but they have to be present at their designated place. Secretary Colleges Zaheer Uddin Qureshi, Additional Secretary Higher Education Zahid Shafi, Director Higher Education College Khawaja Abdul Rehman, Director Planning Raja Shahid Director Teacher Academy Madam Nizhat Mir Alam Khan Deputy Director Library Madam Musrat Mehrban Divisional Director Muzaffarabad Dr. Tariq Mehmood, Divisional Director Mirpur and Poonch Dr. Nazar PS to Minister of Higher Education Sikandar Hayat Chaudhry and others were also present on the occasion.

Announcement of election with the intervention of Supreme Court is welcome: Faisal Kundi

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Central Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party and former Federal Minister of State Faisal Karim Kundi has said, that despite not getting a level playing field, they welcome the election and will participate fully in it.

He expressed these views during a conversation with the divisional senior vice president of the party, Sardar Malik Iqbal Khan Esar.

He said that the announcement of the election with the intervention of the Supreme Court is welcome,

As soon as the election schedule comes out, preparations for the election process will speed up.

He said that the Muslim League should respect the vote of Mian Nawaz Sharif and also stick to the independent and transparent narrative.

The suggestion of match-fixing by the Muslim League is regrettable if four years of sacrifices were given for this selection.

We want all political parties to agree on the Charter of Democracy for transparent elections and sustainable real stable democratic system in the country.

He said that this time if the selection process is adopted instead of transparent elections, the nation will not accept it.

Because now there is a majority of youth who are conscious and they will not accept selection.

He said, If selection is to be done then give a single notification, why the billion rupees of the nation's election, why waste sixty billion rupees at the election stage.



VC Women's University inspected Canteen and Hostels at Katchery Campus

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha along with Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan visited canteen, hostels and various other places in Katchery campus, Women University Multan and also mingled with students. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Kalsoom Pracha and Registrar Dr Mamoon Khan inspected food quality at Canteen. They inquired about rate list of Canteen also interacted with Students and inquired about Food quality. She was accompanied by Project Director Asad Bhutta and Irfan Mehmood (PS to VC).



VC Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha and Dr. Mamoon Khan visited Photo Copier Shop, juice shop expressing

dissatisfaction over the rate of photocopying and fruits quality available. She asked for the terms and condi-

tions and details of the contract to be reviewed.

VC and Registrar also visited hostels to review available facilities, cleanliness and repairable works at the hostels. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha said that the purpose of their visit was to ensure cleanliness and review the condition of student hostels rooms. She said that all facilities must be ensured at every room of hostels. They also inspected cleanliness of different classrooms, washrooms, and other areas of university. They stressed on students to keep their campus clean and green for healthy environment.

Jammu massacre, worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing: Shabir Shah

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: While paying eulogizing tributes to martyrs of Jammu, the incarcerated APHC leader Shabir Ahmed Shah has said that the massacre of Muslims in Jammu in 1947 at the hands of Hindu fanatics was the most horrible incident of Kashmir that continues to haunt Kashmiris despite the passage seventy-six years.

In his message from Tihar jail Shabir Ahmed Shah said, "Hindu chauvinists aided and abetted by Dogra Maharaja wiped out the entire Muslim population of the entire province with a mala-fide intent to alter demography of the region".

Terming it as a worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing he said that during the intervening period of time (27 Oct 1947 to 6 Nov 1947) thousands of Muslims were massacred in Jammu



region by mobs led by the extremist Hindus, whereas tens of thousands of hapless families were forced to flee and take refuge in newly formed state of Paki-

stan. He said that chronology of key events of Kashmir history amply demonstrate the fact that changing demographic

complexion of Muslim majority state of Jammu and Kashmir had always been on the cards from day one.

The Muslims, he said constituted more than 60 percent of the population of Jammu region, were reduced to a minority after killing more than two lakh (two hundred thousands) Muslims.

He said that stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its decades' old special status and doing away with article 35-A was part of this sinister design to convert Muslim majority of the state into minority.

Expressing his serious concern over the continued bloodshed and violence in Kashmir, he said that it was high time that the world community should take effective notice of human rights violations and killing of innocent Kashmiris especially the youth who were being ruthlessly murdered by the occupation forces.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:04 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:35 pm
Maghrib	5:13 pm
Isha	6:38 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
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	919, 9272429

Pakistanis want end of Israel-Palestine war

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: One hundred percent of Pakistanis want a ceasefire in Palestine. America's support for Israel will be expensive.

Israel is breaking international laws of war. Hamas has exposed the face of American and Israeli terrorism to the world.

The blood of Palestinian martyrs and wounded. It will be the starting point of Israeli destruction.

The bombing of the civilian population in Gaza is the worst example of brutality. Hatred against America and Israel has increased in the hearts of Pakistanis.

Chairman Azad Awam Tahreek Javed Intizar Said in Statement that open support of the Palestinian government and the action against Israel and the United States are expedient.

Islamabad Literature Festival 2023 Day 2

The momentum continues for Literature, Art, and Culture

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 9th Islamabad Literature Festival, organized by Oxford University Press continued its second day. With a focus on sustainability, diversity, and the potential of human imagination, this literary extravaganza continued to inspire and enlighten attendees who arrived in scores from all over.

The day featured panel discussions, namely Verses in Play: Celebrating Tradition through Urdu Poetry; Pakistan's Wars: An Alternative History; Destined to Fail Democracy and State Building Experiment in Post Taliban Afghanistan; and Other Days by Arshad Waheed.

Moderated by Yaqoob Bangash, the session saw Rahman present his main findings of his work tracing the history of wars in Pakistan, followed by a discussion on the economic implications of such events. Moeed Yusuf, while commenting on the cost of wars which is not just fiscal said, "The cost of war is that no one who has been born after 1995 has seen a peaceful day in their lives. These people are our future, and they will be weighed down by this trauma tomorrow when they come forward."

Engaging conversations were held around some thought-provoking and extremely diverse themes including: The Dark Side of Journalism-Culture and Political Economy of Global Media in Pakistan and Afghanistan; Mahmud o Jaras: Collection of Unpublished Poems by Josh Malihabadi; Pakistani Prose and Verse Exploring Contemporary English Literature; Qaidi by Omar Shahid Hamid translated from English by Inaam Nadeem; Grieving for Pigeons Twelve Stories of Lahore by Zubair Ahmad; Shaping the Future of Learning; Ink and Empowerment: Women in Publishing; Lahore's Lost Legacy Unveiling the Life and Contributions of Sir Ganga Ram; The Other In The Mirror: Stories from India and Pakistan edited by Sehry Mirza; Hans Kar Jeeyo; The Lost Heritage and Dandelion Blooms: The Evolution of Islamabad.

The insightful session, The Dark Side of Journalism-Culture and Political Economy of Global Media in Pakistan and Afghanistan, moderated by Fasi Zaka highlighted the role of stringers and fixers in the last few decades in KP region. Syed Irfan Ashraf spoke about the impediments faced by Pashtun journalists while Afrasiab Khattak shed light about the importance of KP region as a periphery within a periphery. Hamid Mir also acknowledged the various issues and lamented about the coverage of many events in the post 9/11 era where the fixers risked their lives for foreign media outlets.



Moderated by Mina Malik, Ink and Empowerment: Women in Publishing, raised various issues about the journey of women publishers. Both Muneeza Shamsie and Mehvash Amin narrated their experiences about getting published, getting the work distributed as well as the

role of libraries in promoting local writers.

Moderated by Khayyam Mushir, the discussion titled Democracy, Bureaucracy, and Judiciary delved into different aspects especially tenets of good governance which are missing in the bureaucracy today. Speakers Hamid Khan, Fauzia M. Sana and Zahid Hussain shared their perspectives about measures which can address these issues by referring to the sociopolitical scenario in the country.

Moderating the session, AI in Education, Saquib Ahmad, Managing Direc-

tor SAP Pakistan, said that earlier the entire focus used to be on getting the right answers but in today's fast paced world, it is all about asking the right questions to extract the correct answers. Shahid Mahmud shared that while there is reluctance towards AI, it has been around since late 1950s; it's only the pace which has now picked up immensely.

In the session Fair Assessments: Ensuring Equity and Excellence in Education, Andrew Coombe, Managing Director OxfordAQA, reinforced the importance of fair assessments and said that the aim of the system is to make a high-quality syllabus which is valid, reliable and comparable.

The humorous session of Khaled Anam and Beo Zafar titled 'Hans Kar Jiyo' was a sight to behold. The duo delighted the audience with Anam's signature wit and Zafar's masterful mimicry.

The day came to an end with screening of the feature film "Kamli," which was introduced by Sarmad Khoosat. Simultaneously, a captivating Mushaira took place, featuring a gathering of renowned poets who mesmerized the audience with their poetic verses. Ifikhar Arif presided over the Mushaira, with Mehboob Zafar as the host.

Called on

RAWALPINDI: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari meeting with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Saturday.



Punjab is culturally fertile land: Waqar Ahmad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab pavilion has become a center of attraction for people of all walks of life. The Pavillion was built under the supervision of Director General Punjab Arts Council, Syed Bilal Haider. Folk music along with handicrafts from morning till night is entertaining the fans. The stalls of yogurt, green roti and jalebi are also crowded with citizens. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad says that the purpose



of the fair is to promote regional culture. Lok Mela is a guarantee of cultural unity and solidarity between the four

provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. On the second day of the festival, the traditional sport of Punjab was organized by the Arts Council. Young people dressed in traditional clothes entertained the tourists. The two teams from Rawalpindi and Chakwal fought hard to win the competition. The match ended with the victory of the Rawalpindi team. The final score of the contest was 24-18. Prizes and certificates of appreciation were also distributed to both the teams at the end

Civil Society Islamabad's decision to hold a rally in support of the Palestinians



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defense Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed has said that the relationship between Pakistan and Palestine is centuries old, not years. Before and after the establishment of Pakistan, every ruler, including the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam, has made his political, diplomatic and economic efforts against Israel and in favor of the Palestinians. Israeli atrocities on Gaza are currently unfolding in the form of the worst genocide in history, we as a nation need to raise our voice in favor of the oppressed. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting organized under the Civil Society Islamabad regarding the Israeli atrocities on Gaza at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce.

On this occasion, it was decided to organize a big rally in favor of Palestinians in Islamabad on November 7, which will be held from National Press Club to D Chowk. Speaking at the ceremony, Mushahid Hussain Syed said that the relationship between Pakistan and the Palestinians began on March 23, 1940, when a resolution in favor of the Palestinians was passed along with the resolution of Pakistan in the historic session of Lahore. The Quaid-i-Azam always spoke for the right of the Palestinians.

After becoming the ruler of Pakistan, the first letter he wrote to a foreign leader was to the American president regarding Palestine. Pakistan is the only non-Arab country that has been a part of the regular Palestinian-Israeli war twice. He said that people are coming out in favor of Palestinians today not only in Islamic countries but also in Western countries. Israel is making history of genocide. We need to stand strong with our brothers.

Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said in his address that Muslims of the whole world look towards Islamabad in difficult times and Pakistan has also played its role historically. We as a nation need to come out now and stand with the oppressed. Islamabad's civil society sends a message of solidarity to the Palestinians. The rulers of the entire Islamic world are silent spectators, but the people are waking up. Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Pakistan's businessmen, lawyers, journalists all stand with the Palestinians.

President Anjuman Tajran Pakistan Ajmal Baloch said that Islamabad is one of the most prominent cities not only in Pakistan but also in the Islamic world. It is very important for this city to wake up and come out in favor of the oppressed.

A Visionary Journey: Xi Jinping's Governance of China

Adnan Hameed

Xi Jinping's monumental work, "The Governance of China," stands as a testament to a visionary journey that has profoundly reshaped the destiny of the world's most populous nation. In my two trips to China, first in 2018 and later in 2023, I had the privilege of observing the tangible transformations unfolding under Xi's leadership. These journeys allowed me to witness firsthand the multifaceted dimensions of China's development, and it is within this context that we explore the profound implications of Xi's governance, as encapsulated in his book.

Reshaping China's Path
Xi Jinping's commitment to reshaping China's path is manifest in the very essence of his governance. His unwavering dedication to governing China under the Rule of Law reflects a deliberate effort to instill transparency, fairness, and accountability in the country's legal and administrative

frameworks. This approach has not only bolstered China's domestic stability but has also contributed to fostering a climate of trust and reliability, which underpins the nation's remarkable progress.

A Triumph Over Poverty

The resounding success of Xi's leadership is nowhere more evident than in the unprecedented triumph over poverty. During my first visit to China in 2018, I had the privilege of witnessing the initial stages of this ambitious endeavor. The monumental feat of uplifting millions of people from poverty underscores the transformative power of Xi's governance. Upon my return in 2023, I was confronted with the undeniable evidence of this achievement, as rural areas I had previously visited had metamorphosed into prosperous communities. It is under Xi's leadership, guided by the socialist core values, including Marxism-Leninism and socialism with Chinese characteristics, that China has realized this monumental accomplishment.

Economic Prosperity and Job Creation

The economic vitality and remarkable job creation in China under Xi's governance are a testament to his unwavering commitment to national security. During both my visits, I observed thriving industries and bustling cities that were thriving testaments to the remarkable job market and economic development under Xi's leadership. This dedication to not only economic growth but also ensuring the nation's security speaks volumes about Xi's comprehensive approach to governance.

Global Environmental Stewardship

China, under Xi's governance, has assumed a leading role in global environmental stewardship. The country's commitment to environmental conservation is readily apparent, from the expansive national parks to the green urban initiatives. My second visit in 2023 only deepened my admiration for China's dedication to environmental sustainability. These practices embody the harmonious coexistence of economic growth and ecological balance, a testament to

Xi's far-sighted approach. Global Solidarity

China's position as a global partner in providing aid, expertise, and support to less fortunate nations is a hallmark of Xi's governance. The principle of "complete national reunification" for Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, as well as adherence to the One-China principle and the 1992 Consensus for Taiwan, reflects China's steadfast commitment to global peace and stability. My observations during both visits highlighted China's unwavering solidarity with underprivileged regions, underpinning its role as a global partner.

Building a Moderately Prosperous Society

Xi Jinping's vision for a moderately prosperous society encompasses the very fabric of Chinese life. It is an aspiration rooted in the nation's history, theories, and practical governance. As I witnessed during my travels in China, this vision has translated into improved living conditions and a palpable sense of unity and optimism among the Chinese people. The depth of communi-



ty and well-being I encountered reflects Xi's vision of a prosperous and harmonious society.

The Great Way and the People "When the Great Way rules, this land under heaven belongs to the people"—an ancient wisdom that finds modern resonance in Xi's governance. The focus on the well-being of the Chinese people takes center stage in his leadership.

This emphasis on the welfare of the people is palpable in the warmth, hospitality, and open-heartedness I experienced during my travels in China.

Conclusion: A 21st Century Vision Realized

Xi Jinping's "The Governance of China" represents a 21st-century vision, brought to life through transformative leadership. It is a

testament to an awe-inspiring journey that has redefined China's destiny on the global stage, both economically and culturally. My two trips to China, in 2018 and 2023, have allowed me to witness the tangible impact of Xi's governance, turning a visionary philosophy into a reality that has touched the lives of millions. Xi Jinping's leadership has not only reshaped China but has also left an indelible mark on the global stage, demonstrating that a visionary leader can indeed change the course of a nation's history. It is within this intricate tapestry of governance that I had the privilege of witnessing the enduring impact of Xi's leadership during my two journeys through China's transformative landscape.

Writer is double master's degree holder in Political Sciences and Mass Communications, is a dedicated promoter of Chinese culture in Pakistan. With six years of experience, he actively contributes to cultural exchange initiatives as a young media professional. He can be reached at Email: adnan.chinaculture.pk@gmail.com

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

India- The International Terrorist - II

Embracing a non-interference policy aligns with international norms and principles. For instance, the United Nations Charter underscores the significance of refraining from involvement in the internal matters of other states. Adhering to these norms fortifies the global framework for peaceful and lawful international relations.

A non-interference policy lends support to the right to self-determination, enabling countries to shape their governance, culture, and policies free from external pressures. This commitment to self-determination is not just a matter of principle but also a pragmatic approach to cultivating peaceful coexistence.

Interfering in another country's affairs can have unintended and adverse consequences, often resulting in instability and insecurity. Historical examples demonstrate that interventions, even when well-intentioned, can lead to protracted conflicts and intricate aftermaths. A non-interference policy helps avert these inadvertent negative outcomes.

By embracing a non-interference policy, nations contribute to global stability. In an interconnected world, peaceful coexistence and non-interference foster trust and security, thereby diminishing the potential for international disputes and hostilities.

India has been engaged in interventionist activities in numerous countries, utilizing RAW as a tool to exert its influence abroad. RAW, which stands for the Research and Analysis Wing, India's external intelligence agency, has long been shrouded in mystery and conjecture due to its covert undertakings on

foreign soil. The Indian Spy Agency RAW partakes in objectionable activities overseas that encroach upon the sovereignty of other nations.

RAW, officially known as the Research and Analysis Wing, serves as India's principal external intelligence agency with the responsibility of collecting intelligence and conducting covert operations beyond its borders. Established in 1968, RAW's core mission is to safeguard India's national security by procuring information related to external threats, encompassing both military and non-military aspects, and executing operations to safeguard and further India's interests on the international stage. Nevertheless, a number of allegations have arisen regarding RAW's activities overseas.

One of the most persistent accusations against RAW is its alleged provision of support to insurgent groups and separatist movements in neighboring nations, with Pakistan being a prominent case. Critics contend that RAW has extended material and financial backing to various insurgent factions, thereby contributing to regional instability. Furthermore, RAW has faced allegations of espionage in foreign countries, entailing the gathering of sensitive intelligence data and compromising the national security of other nations. These allegations have on numerous occasions strained India's relations with its neighboring countries.

RAW has been implicated in clandestine operations aimed at destabilizing governments and promoting political

change in neighboring countries. These actions transgress the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations. RAW has also been linked to acts of sabotage in foreign countries, encompassing activities such as cyberattacks and acts of terrorism. These allegations have resulted in noteworthy diplomatic consequences.

India and RAW have persistently been implicated in supporting terrorist activities within Pakistan. Kulbhushan Yadav, a retired Indian Navy officer, was implicated in perilous activities in Pakistan's Balochistan province and was found to be spying for India's intelligence agency, RAW. He was apprehended by Pakistani Security Forces on March 3, 2016, on charges of espionage and involvement in acts of terrorism in Balochistan, with his arrest being based on information provided by the ISI.

RAW has been operating from the territories of neighboring countries with the aim of destabilizing and weakening Pakistan, even prior to the World Trade Centre incident. Pakistan paid a substantial price for its role as an ally in the global war on terror, enduring a prolonged strategy by India to foment division along ethnic lines. India has exploited Afghanistan's territory as a launchpad for its activities against Pakistan, actively engaging in anti-state activities throughout Pakistan, including in regions such as Balochistan and KPK. Consequently, these areas have been marred by recurring periods of unrest

and conflict, often attributed to India's sponsorship and support for terrorism in Pakistan.

For instance, in the past year, a bomb blast in Lahore's Johar Town claimed the lives of 22 individuals. During a press briefing alongside Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) officials, Pakistan's Home Minister of then disclosed that "we have concrete evidence that India was behind the blast." Speaking to the media, the CTD official asserted that "during the investigation, it has been ascertained that the primary suspect in the incident had been an operative of the Indian spy agency (RAW) since 2012."

Recent disputes between Canada and India have garnered global attention.

A few months ago, Canada made an announcement indicating its active pursuit of credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. This development dealt a significant blow to diplomatic relations between the two countries. In an emergency statement delivered to the House of Commons, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his firm stance that any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen constitutes "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty." The victim in question was Hardeep Singh Nijjar, aged 45, who was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb known for its substantial Sikh population. Nijjar openly advocated for a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khalistani state and had been designated as a "terrorist" by India in July 2020.

To be continued



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

Balochistan to be tourism hub after inauguration of CPEC airport

Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province has the potential to become a hub of domestic and international tourism after the inauguration of the New Gwadar International Airport, a donation by the Chinese government under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Pakistani official said.

"In recent years, Balochistan has experienced a notable surge in domestic tourism and with the commencement of the airport operations, geographical distances are expected to diminish, paving the way for an influx of tourists into Gwadar and its surrounding regions," Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab ur Rehman Rana said in an interview with Xinhua.

To facilitate tourism, the PTDC will establish a tourist information center at the airport to provide them with comprehensive information about hotels, tourist sites, and all other basic information, the officer said.

He added that in order to tap the potential of the airport, the Balochistan Coastal Development Authority has made a master plan, and marked the areas along the coast on which tourist sites will be developed.

Balochistan boasts a stunning coastal stretch, and there are ongoing efforts to develop eco-tourism resorts, beach parks, floating jetties, and relaxation spots along this coastline to cater to both domestic and international tourists, including those visiting Gwadar for business reasons," Rana added.

Talking about the security of the tourists, he said that in the initial stage, group tourism will be permitted, primarily driven by security considerations.

"Tourists will be required to share their travel plans with a dedicated tourism police force, which will be established to enhance safety and support tourism activities. During this phase, tourists will receive security provisions as they travel in organized groups," Rana said. Subsequently, in the second phase, individual tourists will have the opportunity to explore the area independently when tourism becomes more common, and a comprehensive security plan is established in the area, he added.

Lauding CPEC for playing a great role in promoting tourism in his country, Rana said that its road network passes almost through the whole of Pakistan, and all major tourism sites are around the CPEC route. In recent years, Pakistan's domestic tourism has boomed, and CPEC is the major driving factor behind it because it enhanced connectivity and made road travel easy and shorter for the tourists," he added.

The officer said that they are currently engaged in discussions with Chinese tour operators to attract China's outbound tourists and business professionals to Pakistan.

In line with these efforts, a group of tour operators from China recently visited Pakistan, and a delegation of Pakistani tour operators is scheduled to visit China to participate in the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market exhibition in November, the PTDC officials said.

"Pakistan has a great business potential in the tourism sector, and if Chinese investors invest in building hotels and resorts in Pakistan, it will not only attract Chinese tourists to Pakistan but also uplift the overall tourism industry in the country," he added.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Analyzing the Dynamics of Inflation in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications II

It is essential to note that inflation is often the result of a complex interplay of multiple factors, and different theories may apply in different economic contexts. In the case of Pakistan, understanding these theories and their applicability can provide insights into the causes of inflation, which can inform effective policy responses to manage and control inflationary pressures.

Inflation is a significant concern for emerging market economies, including Pakistan.

Emerging markets are often more vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in global commodity prices and changes in investor sentiment. These external factors can exert upward pressure on inflation. Exchange rate fluctuations can influence inflation in emerging markets. Depreciation of the domestic currency can lead to higher import costs, contributing to inflationary pressures. Balancing inflation control with economic growth poses challenges for central banks in emerging markets. Inadequate infrastructure, supply chain inefficiencies, and regulatory obstacles can limit production and contribute to inflation. Effective inflation control often requires a blend of fiscal and monetary policies tailored to evolving economic conditions by policymakers in emerging markets. Emerging markets often engage in regional and international cooperation to address common challenges, including inflation. Trade agreements and coordination with global financial institutions can play a role in managing inflation. In Pakistan's

context, understanding the unique challenges and dynamics of inflation as an emerging market economy is crucial for policymakers and economists when formulating strategies to manage and control inflationary pressures.

In Pakistan, inflation has had a significant historical presence, shaped by various factors: over the years, Pakistan has experienced fluctuating inflation rates, influenced by both domestic and global factors. Government policies, including fiscal decisions and monetary strategies, have played a vital role in shaping inflation trends. Global factors, such as changes in oil prices and geopolitical tensions, have also left their mark on inflation in Pakistan. The country's economic structure, with a substantial reliance on agriculture and various fiscal and monetary challenges, has contributed to the

inflation dynamics. Inflation in Pakistan has broad socioeconomic consequences, affecting income distribution, access to basic services, and especially political stability. Hence, understanding this historical perspective is crucial for comprehending the unique drivers of inflation in Pakistan.

In Pakistan there are multiple drivers of inflation, this section dissects the primary causes of inflation in the country, categorizing them into monetary, fiscal, and supply-side factors. Monetary factors are central contributors to inflation in Pakistan:

One of the primary determinants of inflation is the expansion of the money supply within an economy. When the money supply grows

significantly without a corresponding increase in the production of goods and services, it often leads to inflation. This phenomenon is typically associated with excess liquidity in the financial system, which can result from factors such as loose monetary policy or an influx of foreign remittances. The State Bank of Pakistan, as the nation's central bank, plays a pivotal role in managing inflation. It employs a set of monetary policy tools to control the money supply and influence inflation. Key among these tools are interest rates and reserve requirements. Adjustments in interest rates, such as raising them to curb lending and borrowing, are used to influence overall demand in the economy. Reserve requirements dictate the amount of funds banks must keep in reserve, impacting their lending capacity and, in turn, the money supply. Lastly, fluctuations in exchange rates can have a notable impact on inflation in Pakistan; this depreciation can lead to higher import costs which further contribute to overall inflationary pressures.

Fiscal policies and government actions also contribute to inflation: the level of government spending, especially when not adequately matched by revenue generation, can be a significant driver of inflation. When the government injects a substantial amount of money into the economy through its expenditures, it increases the overall demand for goods and services. If this heightened demand is not met with a corresponding increase in supply, prices tend to rise. Large budget deficits, indicating a misalignment between government revenues and expenditures, can lead to increased borrowing.

To be continued

Climate Change Is Drastically Affecting Agricultural Sector cooperation rather of Pakistan-I

Syeda Sarah Jawad

'Everyone agrees that climate change has and will have a disastrous or at least dramatic effect on agriculture"-Modern Farmer

Pakistan is an agriculture economy-based country. 60% population of Pakistan relies directly or indirectly upon rain-fed agriculture that depends on predictable weather patterns. Global climatic change affects our agriculture and its impacts seem to increase daily. Pakistan produces crops such as wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, and maize and which are affected by climate change. Pakistan is especially vulnerable to climate and has been ranked as the 12th most detrimentally impacted country due to climate change impacts on agriculture and livelihoods.

Due to the extensive use of fossil fuels that emits Green House Gases (GHG), it is presumed the chief cause to effect on holding heat in the upper atmosphere. This rise in global temperature amplified the global warming phenomenon and triggered climate change effects felt the world over. Resulting from rising temperatures, northern Pakistan experienced a noted shift in monsoon pattern and increased occurrence of cyclones over the past several years with impacts to the agricultural sector.

Currently, almost all-arable land in Pakistan is under cultivation as the country strives to meet the sustainably of food security threshold for its rapidly growing population. Climate change has increased temperatures resulting in abrupt changes in rainfall patterns, which closely linked to agricultural production, water,

and forest resources. Rainfall distribution and intensity have changed drastically as evidenced by severe drought and devastating floods that damage fertile lands as well as infrastructure. Climate change is also affecting the amount of annual rainfall. Less than 250 mm rainfall per annum is received by many parts of the country that requires further enhancement of farming and irrigation infrastructure including canals, dams for water storage and irrigation channels.

Pakistan being a warm region, predominantly at risk to atmospheric shift due to its located in such geographical region where the temperature rises are higher than the global average. In Pakistan, agriculture is the prime economic sector that supports approximately 45% of the country's workers, adds 21% to country's GDP (Gross domestic product), and contributes almost 60% to country exports. An estimation, Pakistan has about 23.4 million hectares under cultivation, and 18.63 Mha only irrigated. Irrigation is very important to Pakistan with 77% of the area in Punjab irrigated with lesser amounts in other provinces. Many different farming systems exist including spate irrigation. Spate irrigation is a crop irrigation technique that consists of diverting seasonal storm water from rivers, valleys, gullies and riverbeds by gravity onto farmland situated at a lower elevation than the floodwater.

The crop production system of our major crops such as wheat, maize, cotton, rice, and sugarcane being threatened by climate change. According to a prediction there will be a 3°C temperature rise by 2040 and will cause lose up to 50% of their wheat productivity in Asian countries. This loss will be greater for Pakistan due to its geographical position.

To be continued

IS The Historical Initiative of Sukarno

Asian-African (Bandung) Conference

“Since when you have taken people for slaves and they were born free” — Umar bin al-Khattab, the Second Khalifa of the Muslims

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

From April 18 to April 24, 1955, delegates from twenty-nine countries in Asia and Africa convened in Bandung, Indonesia, to discuss the common challenges their nations faced in navigating a postcolonial world. The Asian-African Conference, popularly known as the Bandung Conference, was a sensation around the world. Never before had leaders from so many non-Western countries gathered together to make common cause. But the Conference's iconic status, coupled with a growing global sense of nostalgia for the supposedly optimistic days of the 1950s, means that many legends that have subsequently sprung up about the event are simply not true. Seldom has historical memory distorted and misrepresented any single event in quite so many different ways. Accordingly, it is valuable to include an extended discussion of the facts surrounding the Bandung Conference: how it was organized, who participated, what was said, and—perhaps most important—what was not said.

The Asian-African Conference was the brainchild of Indonesian Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjojo, who planned the proceedings in collaboration with the prime ministers of Burma, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan. These five men met in Bogor, Indonesia, in December 1954 to draft the Conference's agenda and to issue invitations.

After considerable debate, the five hosts agreed to send invitations to twenty-five countries. From the continent of Africa, they invited four of the five independent countries of the day: Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Libya. They declined to invite the fifth, South Africa, whose policy of apartheid was criticized in the Conference's final communiqué. In addition to the four independent African countries, the conveners extended invitations to the Gold Coast (modern-day Ghana), Sudan (then under joint British-Egyptian control), and the Central African Federation (modern-day Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). The Central African Federation was the only invited country that did not agree to send a representative to Bandung.

Delegations from twenty-nine countries convened in Bandung on April 18, 1955, a date that Indonesian President Sukarno celebrated in his welcoming address as the anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Sukarno praised the American War of Independence as “the first successful anti-colonial war in history” and quoted from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.”

Among the most prominent world leaders who attended the Conference were Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Burmese Prime Minister U Nu, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Chinese Premier and Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai. Most other countries sent high-ranking representatives, but not their heads of government. Nasser and Zhou attracted particular attention as newcomers to the international scene. The Bandung Conference was only Nasser's second foreign trip since leading the 1952 Free Officers' Revolution: his previous trip was a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. For most of the delegates in attendance, the Bandung Conference was also the first time they had engaged with any representative of Communist China. Nehru, his daughter Indira Gandhi, U Nu, Nasser, and Zhou spent a considerable amount of social time with one another at the Conference.

In addition to the participating delegations, a variety of individuals from around the world came to observe the Conference in an unofficial capacity. These observers included two notable African Americans. One was the author Richard Wright, whose book *The Color Curtain* described his experiences in Bandung. Wright felt a connection between his identity as an African American and the identities of the non-Western leaders gathered in Bandung, whom he described as “the despised, the insulted, the hurt, the dispossessed—in short, the underdogs of the human race.” The other important African American to attend the Conference was Adam Clayton Powell,



a Democratic congressman from New York whose district included Harlem. Powell was the only member of the American government to attend the Conference, which he did despite the objections of American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

Dulles opposed the convening of the Asian-African Conference on the grounds that it would offer a forum for Communist countries to criticize the West. He also worried that attendees at the Conference would condemn American- and British-led military alliances such as SEATO and CENTO. The British and French governments were especially concerned about the effect the Conference would have on their own colonies in Africa. The British government actively discouraged the Gold Coast and the Central African Federation from sending representatives to the Conference. The French ambassador in Washington asked Dulles to use his influence to convince the governments of Liberia and Ethiopia to decline their invitations as well, but Dulles refused to do so. Instead, he asserted that it would be best if pro-Western countries sent “the ablest possible representation” in order to articulate the anti-Communist position. Dulles specifically singled out Lebanon's delegate, the Harvard-educated Charles Malik, as the kind of participant he hoped would attend the Conference.

The Asian-African Conference is often misrepresented as the beginning of the “Non-Aligned Movement” of countries that sought to take a neutral position in the Cold War. While a few Conference attendees, led by Nehru, had begun by 1955 to

advance a “neutralist” ideology, the reality was that the majority of countries in attendance in Bandung were explicitly aligned with the United States. During the Conference's plenary session, representatives of Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, Turkey, Cambodia, and Thailand all criticized the Soviet Union, with some delegates asserting that Soviet ambitions in Eastern Europe were tantamount to colonialism. This discussion forced Zhou Enlai to speak in defense of the Communist bloc. Since the organizers of the Conference prioritized exchanging technical assistance, but it specifically allowed them to continue accepting aid from governments outside the region, by which it meant the United States and the Soviet Union. It condemned “colonialism in all its manifestations” as “an evil which should speedily be brought to an end,” but it called explicitly for the independence of only three colonies: Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. The communiqué also condemned racial discrimination and singled out South Africa as a country in which racism needed to be “eradicated.” Finally, the communiqué asserted that the countries of Asia and Africa could promote world peace and called for “universal disarmament.”

While the Asian-African Conference did not itself



signal the beginning of the Non-Aligned Movement, it did provide a setting in which several relationships that later helped launch that movement could be formed. In particular, Nehru and Nasser met for the first time in New Delhi en route to the Conference. When the Non-Aligned Movement was established in 1961 at the Belgrade Conference in Yugoslavia, Nehru and Nasser—along with several non-Asian, non-African leaders such as Josip Broz Tito—were among its most vocal proponents.

The delegates at the Asian-African Conference did not establish any kind of permanent organization directly as a result of the Conference, but it did mark the beginning of a period of intense interest in promoting cooperation among Asian and African countries. In December 1957, another conference in Cairo founded the Asian-African People's Solidarity Organization, which, unlike the Asian-African Conference, included the participation of the Soviet Union. The first president of an independent Algeria, Ahmed Ben Bella, planned to host a second Asian-African Conference in Algiers in 1965, but those plans were scuttled in part because of the coup that overthrew Ben Bella in June of that year and in part because of Chinese opposition to allowing the Soviet Union to attend.

Today, the Asian-African Conference is often mythologized, especially by the current governments of participating countries, as an example of a spirit of cooperation among Third World countries that has since been lost. This impulse toward nostalgia often leads to the spread of incorrect information about the Conference. American scholar Robert Vitalis has catalogued erroneous

reports, sometimes from official government publications, about the attendance in Bandung of various anticolonial leaders who were not in fact there, including Tito, Kwame Nkrumah, Fidel Castro, and Jomo Kenyatta.

Despite this confusion, the Asian-African Conference must be recognized as an event that encouraged many leaders of developing countries to articulate a vision of global anti-imperialist cooperation beyond their own borders. The Conference was also a trigger for some governments, including those of China, Egypt, and Ghana, to begin to seek both domestic and international legitimacy by portraying themselves as exemplars of a commitment to Third World solidarity.

Sukarno's Opening Speech
In his opening speech at the first Asian-African Conference, President Sukarno of Indonesia recognized that the gathering of the leaders of the 29 Asian-African independent countries was a result of the sacrifices made by their forefathers and by the people of their own and younger generations. “The hall was filled not only by the leaders of the nations of Asia and Africa but also contained within its walls the undying, the indomitable, the invincible spirit of those who went before them,” he said. Their struggle and sacrifice paved the way for this meeting of the highest representatives of independent and sovereign nations from two of the biggest continents of the globe. In a historic event, Asian and African peoples were meeting together to discuss and deliberate upon matters of common concern to them.

Sukarno stated that the burden of the delegates attending the Conference was not a light one. “For many generations our peoples have been the voiceless ones in the world. We have been

the unregarded, the peoples for whom decisions were made by others whose interests were paramount, the peoples who lived in poverty and humiliation. Then our nations demanded, nay fought for independence, and achieved independence, and with that independence came responsibility. We have heavy responsibilities to ourselves, and to the world, and to the yet unborn generations. But we do not regret them.”

Below are some extracts of his speech:

“We are often told ‘Colonialism is dead.’ Let us not be deceived or even soothed by that. I say to you, colonialism is not yet dead. How can we say it is dead, so long as vast areas of Asia and Africa are unfree. And, I beg of you do not think of colonialism only in the classic form which we of Indonesia, and our brothers in different parts of Asia and Africa, knew. Colonialism has also its modern dress, in the form of economic control, intellectual control, actual physical control by a small but alien community within a nation. It is a skilful and determined enemy, and it appears in many guises. It does not give up its loot easily. Wherever, whenever and however it appears, colonialism is an evil thing, and one which must be eradicated from the earth.

“If this Conference succeeds in making the peoples of the East whose representatives are gathered here understand each other a little more, appreciate each other a little more, sympathize with each other's problems a little more – if those things happen, then this Conference, of course, will have been worthwhile, whatever else it may achieve. But I hope that this Conference will give more than understanding only and goodwill only – I hope that it will falsify and give the lie to the saying of one diplomat from far abroad: ‘We will turn this Asian-African Conference into an afternoon-tea meeting.’

“I hope that it will give evidence of the fact that we Asian and African leaders understand that Asia and Africa can prosper only when they are united, and that even the safety of the World at large cannot be safeguarded without a united Asia-Africa. I hope that this Conference will give guidance to mankind, will point out to mankind the way which it must take to attain safety and peace. I hope that it will give evidence that Asia and Africa have been reborn, nay, that a New Asia and a New Africa have been born!

“Our task is first to seek an understanding of each other, and out of that understanding will come a greater appreciation of each other, and out of that appreciation will come collective action. Bear in mind the words of one of Asia's greatest sons: ‘To speak is easy. To act is hard. To understand is hardest. Once one understands, action is easy.’ Let us remember that the highest purpose of man is the liberation of man from his bonds of fear, his bonds of human degradation, his bonds of poverty – the liberation of man from the physical, spiritual and intellectual bonds which have for too long stunted the development of humanity's majority.”

The other 28 leaders also spoke eloquently in calling for unity among Asian and African countries and for greater solidarity, self-determination, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality.

The Bandung final declarations
The Final declarations of the 1955 Bandung Asian-African Conference provided the basis for South-South cooperation with

concrete proposals for promoting economic, political, technological, cultural spheres. It declared full support of the fundamental principles of human rights as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and took note of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations in a moment in history when many South nations were still under Western colonial rule.

The communiqué deplored all forms of racial segregation and discrimination. In declaring support for the cause of freedom and independence for all peoples it also deplored colonialism, in all its manifestations.

The communiqué took note that several States had still not been admitted to the United Nations, and that for effective cooperation and world peace, membership in the United Nations should be universal. The leaders also considered that representation of Asian and African countries in the UN Security Council, in relation to the principle of equitable and geographical distribution, was inadequate, as it is today. The right to self-determination, stated the communiqué, should be enjoyed by all peoples.

The Ten Bandung Principles enunciated in 1955 continue to be as relevant today as it was 60 years ago and in the decades since. These are as follows:

“Free from mistrust and fear, and with confidence and goodwill towards each other, nations should practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours and develop friendly cooperation on the basis of the following principles: “1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

“2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

“3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small.

“4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.

“5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

“6. (a) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, (b) Abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.

“7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.

“8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

“9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.

“10. Respect for justice and international obligation.”

The 1955 Bandung communiqué concluded by expressing its conviction that friendly cooperation in accordance with the 10 Principles of Bandung would effectively contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, while cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields would help bring about the common prosperity and well-being of all.

In the six decades after the 1955 Bandung Conference that gave rise to the “Bandung Spirit” of South-South cooperation, decolonization has for the most part taken place, with most developing countries now independent. The basic principles of Bandung, namely, mutual interest, solidarity and respect for national sovereignty, continue to play important roles in shaping and guiding the relations of developing countries with each other. Developing countries have also joined the United Nations and actively developed different regional and multilateral South-South institutions to defend and promote their common interests in the various multilateral negotiating processes. The “Bandung Spirit” continues to animate and motivate the spirit of South-South cooperation and Indonesia did it. This Asia Africa Bandung conference final declaration in 1955 but which still waiting for implementation

CEO CBD Punjab Reviews Ongoing Projects for Timely Completion



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Imran Amin CEO of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), visited ongoing projects of the authority including Ghora Chowk Flyover and infrastructure development works at Lahore Prime, CBD Punjab Quaid District. The visit aimed to ensure the timely and efficient completion of the projects.

COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Executive Director Commercial CBD Punjab, Mohammed Omer, Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain, Director Project Management CBD Punjab, Asif Iqbal, Director Construction CBD Punjab, Asif Babar, Director Architecture CBD Punjab, Sameer Aftab, officials of NLC and Nespak were present during the visit.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, emphasized the importance of adhering to the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi, he further added that "completion of these projects will open new development avenues. We are modernizing Lahore's infrastructure which will serve as a sound foundation for modern urbanization".

Oil prices down 6pc in a week as supply disruption fears ease



Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Oil prices settled more than 2 per cent lower on Friday as supply concerns driven by Middle East tensions eased, while jobs data raised expectations the US Federal Reserve could be done hiking interest rates in the biggest oil consuming economy.

Brent crude futures were down \$1.92, or 2.3pc, to \$84.89 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures fell \$1.95, or 2.4pc, to \$80.51 a barrel.

Both benchmarks settled down more than 6pc on the week.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, speaking for the first time since the Israel-Hamas war erupted, warned on Friday that a wider conflict in the Middle East was possible but did not commit to opening another front on Israel's border with Lebanon.

"The market is taking this conflict in its stride, as it looks to be neither a significant demand or supply disruption event," said John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital LLC in New York.

US job growth slowed more than expected in October, official data showed, while wage inflation cooled, pointing to an easing in labor market conditions.

The data bolstered the view that the Federal Reserve need not raise interest rates further.

The Fed held interest rates steady this week, while the Bank of England kept rates at a 15-year peak, supporting oil prices as some risk appetite returned to markets.

But a private sector survey on Friday showed that while China's services activity expanded at a slightly faster pace in October, sales grew at the softest rate in 10 months and employment stagnated as business confidence waned.

The data followed a reading from the National Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday that showed China's manufacturing activity unexpectedly contracted in October.

On the supply side, Saudi Arabia is expected to reconfirm an extension of its voluntary oil output cut of 1 million barrels per day through December, based on analyst expectations.

The US House of Representatives easily passed a bill to bolster sanctions on Iranian oil in a strong bipartisan vote, but it was unclear how effective the legislation would be if signed into law.

While Congress can pass sanctions legislation, such measures often come with national security waivers that allow presidents discretion in applying the law.

China could also continue to import the oil despite new sanctions.

US energy firms this week cut the number of oil and natural gas rigs operating to their lowest since February 2022, energy services firm Baker Hughes (BKR, O) said on Friday.

CDWP approves Rs 10.022 bln projects

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Friday approved five development projects worth Rs 10.022 billion and recommended four others worth Rs 213.86 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further consideration. The CDWP meeting was chaired by Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan and attended by Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, senior officials from the Planning Commission and federal ministries/divisions, besides related provincial governments officials.

Projects related to Food and Agriculture, Education, Energy, Physical Planning & Housing, Science and Technology, Social Welfare, Transport and Communication and Water Resources sectors were considered in the meeting. A project related to the Food & Agriculture sector, namely the 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Security Support Project,' was presented during the meeting. The project of Rs 24,640 million has been forwarded to ECNEC for further approval. The location of the project is District(s): Charsadda, Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Nowshera, Peshawar, Swat, and Upper Dir. The project is proposed to be financed through foreign funding by the Asian Development Bank.

In the CDWP forum, a project related to the Education Sector namely 'Rehabilitation of Schools in Balochistan Affected by Flood-



ing' has been granted approval with a total cost of Rs 1400 million in the meeting. The location of the project is District(s): Lasbela, Dera Bugti, Quetta, Sibi, Naseerabad, Chaman, Kalat, Khuzdar, Sohbatpur, Kachhi, Killa Abdullah, Jaferabad, Killa Saifullah, Panjgur, Mastung, Musakhel & Jhal Magsi. The project source of financing is the federal PSDP. The project aims to rehabilitate and restore schools that have been severely affected by floods, with the objective of improving schooling opportunities for students in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Another

project from the Education Sector presented in the forum namely "Sindh school rehabilitation project under flood restoration program" worth Rs 83187.500 million recommended to ECNEC for further consideration. The provincial government will pay 10% of the total cost (7562.50 million) and ADB will pay the rest of the 90% (75625 million). The project will cover 17 districts of Sindh. This project includes the construction of completely and partially damaged schools and the up-gradation of 62 primary schools to the secondary, middle and higher secondary levels by the construction of

new blocks. A project related to the Physical Planning and Housing sector was presented in the forum namely "Permanent settlement of IIOJK Refugees 1989 onwards (phase-1)" and approved at the cost of Rs 3096.500 million. The location of the project is the Bagh, Hattian Bala, Kotli and Muzaffarabad districts of A.J.K. A project related to the Social Sector namely "Women Inclusive Finance Development Program" was presented. This project, valued at Rs 31,413.047 million, has been referred to ECNEC for further consideration. It aims to support Women entrepreneurs across Pakistan. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) is designated as the executing agency for this funding proposed to come from foreign sources, specifically ADB. The implementation agency is the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), which will establish a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The PIU's expenses will be covered by SBP's own funds. The financing will be overseen by a steering committee led by the Executive Director of SBP, with members from relevant stakeholders. A project related to Transport & Communications presented in the meeting namely "Improvement & Reconditioning of Noseri Leswa By-Pass road length 52-Km District Muzaffarabad Neelum, A.J.K" worth Rs 1622.045 million has been approved in the CDWP forum. A project related to the Science and technology sector presented namely "Establishment of Pak Korea Testing Laboratory for PV Modules and Allied equipment (Revised)" worth Rs 1504.955 has been approved by the forum.

Islamic Finance seems promising in Canada

Alhuda CIBE organize two days Specialized Training Workshop on Islamic Banking and Finance in Toronto, Canada

Spokesman Report

DUBAI - UAE: Canada is witnessing an increasing interest in Islamic finance, particularly in areas like housing finance, mortgage finance, and takaful (Islamic insurance) products. Some small level Islamic finance institutions in the Canadian market are offering the financial services that adhere to Sharia principles.

Alhuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) - UAE, a leading global Islamic finance consultancy and advisory firm, recently conducted a two-day specialized training workshop on the basic and practical aspects of Islamic banking and finance in Toronto, Canada. Islamic finance is a rapidly growing industry worldwide, and Canada is no exception. While Islamic finance is still in its early stages of development in Canada, it is gaining popularity among both Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The growing popularity of Islamic finance in Canada is a positive development for the country's economy. Islamic finance can help to promote financial inclusion and economic growth. It can also help to strengthen Canada's ties with other Muslim-majority countries.

Mr. Zubair Mughal, CEO of Alhuda CIBE, spoke at the workshop about the importance of Islamic finance in promoting religious harmony and financial inclusion. He said, Islamic finance is a system, not a religion. Muslims have a distinct advantage, as it aligns with their religious principles, but it also offers non-Muslims a unique and ethical way of managing their finances. This is an inclusive system



that benefits everyone, regardless of their faith.

Mr. Zubair Mughal, added that the religious harmony in Canada makes it an ideal atmosphere for Islamic finance, and due to the large number of Muslim immigrants, demand of Islamic banking products is increasing in the market. This industry not only caters to the financial needs of Muslims but also resonates with individuals seeking ethical and socially responsible financial solutions.

The specialized training workshop by Alhuda CIBE aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of Islamic banking and finance principles and their practical applications to the Canadian Market. It also provided a platform for industry experts to share insights and experiences. Through initiatives like the recent workshop, Alhuda CIBE continues to play a vital role in promoting the principles of ethical and responsible finance in Canada.

Elevate your tech skills with Huawei ICT competition

Muhammad Usman UET TAXILA

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the Huawei ICT Competition and share my experiences and insights regarding this remarkable initiative.

The Huawei ICT Competition stands as a beacon of opportunity for students, offering them a unique platform to acquire practical knowledge and bridge the critical gap between academic learning and real-world industry demands. Throughout my journey with Huawei, I have been fortunate enough to take part in this competition and have witnessed the transformative impact it can have on a student's educational and professional trajectory.

One of the most commendable aspects of the Huawei ICT Competition is the impeccably designed registration process. It is seamless, user-friendly, and efficiently streamlined, allowing participants to focus on showcasing their skills and talents rather than getting bogged down in administrative hurdles. This thoughtful approach to registration is a testament to Huawei's commitment to ensuring a level playing field for all candidates.

Furthermore, the implementation of a merit-based system for evaluation adds an invaluable layer of transparency to the selection process. It builds confidence in participants, knowing that their performance will be assessed objectively and fairly. This

not only fosters a sense of trust in the competition but also encourages a healthy spirit of competition among participants, driving them to strive for excellence.

Reflecting on my own experience, having had the privilege of participating in the Huawei ICT Competition last year and securing a position in the coveted top 10, I am more determined and prepared than ever to represent Pakistan once again. The knowledge, skills and opportunities I gained through this competition have been instrumental in shaping my professional journey. It has equipped me with a competitive edge and a deeper understanding of the rapidly evolving ICT



landscape. I firmly believe that the Huawei ICT Competition holds immense potential for growth and learning, not only for individual participants but also for the broader educational ecosystem. It serves as a catalyst for innovation, encouraging students to push their boundaries and explore new horizons in the field of information and communication technology.

In closing, I extend my warmest wishes to all participants of the Huawei ICT Competition. Your dedication, passion, and hard work are commendable, and I have no doubt that they will lead to well-deserved success. May this competition be a stepping stone towards a future filled with limitless opportunities and achievements.

Bank of Khyber to Launch Wholly-Owned Exchange Company

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank of Khyber (BoK) is pleased to announce its intention to set up a wholly-owned Exchange Company (EC). This strategic initiative, approved by the BoK Board of Directors on November 3, 2023, with an authorized share capital of Rs1 billion, will provide a wide range of foreign exchange services to BoK customers and the general public.

The establishment of the EC is aligned



with the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) recent structural reforms to strengthen controls and address the challenges posed by fluctuations in the open market's rupee

value. The SBP has encouraged leading banks to establish wholly-owned ECs to meet the legitimate foreign exchange requirements of the public.

The setting up of the EC is subject to final approvals including grant of license from SBP and other regulatory requirements. BoK is committed to continuously enhancing its services and offerings to better serve its valued customers and contribute to the stability and growth of Pakistan's financial sector.

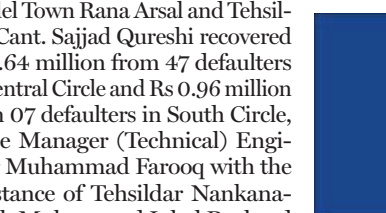
LESCO recovers over Rs 01m from 381 defaulters on 52nd day of recovery campaign

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered Rs 01 million from 381 dead defaulters in all the five districts-Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara- on the 52nd day of its recovery campaign.

LESCO spokesman told media here Saturday that on the 52nd day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalim Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.39 million from 51 defaulters in Northern

Circle and Rs 2.31 million from 62 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 1.64 million from 47 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 0.96 million from 07 defaulters in South Circle, while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana-Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhpura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 0.61 million from 45 defaulters in Nankana Circle and Rs 1.52 million from 64



ered outstanding dues of Rs 0.67 million from 59 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 1.42 million from 46 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

Up till now during the recovery campaign, the LESCO with the help of Tehsildars (Recovery) recovered more than Rs 1.13 billion from 35,362 dead defaulters in its all circles of operation. He elaborated that LESCO recovered outstanding dues of Rs 145.42 million from 4,675 defaulters in Northern Circle; Rs 260.73 million from 4,257 defaulters in Eastern Circle; Rs 164.64 million from 4,470 defaulters in Central Circle; Rs 63.28 million from 1,868 defaulters in South Circle; Rs 76.41 million from 3,223 defaulters in Nankana Circle; Rs 164.54 million from 3,938 defaulters in Sheikhpura Circle; Rs 72.94 million from

5,214 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 189.67 million from 7,717 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

For the recovery campaign started on September 13, the Lahore Division's Commissioner had assigned additional charge of Tehsildar Recovery (from LESCO defaulters) to relevant Tehsildars, while LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haidar has also designated four senior officers to assist them in the dues recovery from defaulters. LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haidar said that the company is facing loss due to dead defaulters, and vowed to continue action against them.

Australia rest England's World Cup 2023 hopes with 33-run victory

A Sports

AHMEDABAD: Adam Zampa-led bowling attack powered Australia to a 33-run victory over arch-rivals England and moved within touching distance to make it to the semi-finals of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Set to chase 287, England's batting unit unfolded in the 49th over and could score 253 runs in response.

David Malan and Ben Stokes raised England's hopes for their first victory after four consecutive losses when they put together a gritty 74-run stand for the third wicket.

The pair appeared to have settled down but Australia skipper Pat Cummins got the all-important breakthrough for his side by getting rid of Malan, who scored 50. His 64-ball knock included four boundaries and a six.

Australia's pick of the bowlers Adam Zampa gave the five-time champions another success, a couple of overs later, by dismissing England captain Jos Buttler.

Meanwhile, Stokes stood his ground firm and put together a 63-run partnership with Moeen Ali, who scored

42 in 43 deliveries.

Zampa broke the stand when Stokes mistimed a paddle sweep straight to short fine-leg and departed after top scoring for England with a 90-ball 64.

Liam Livingstone and Moeen Ali's dismissals in quick succession resulted in England slipping to 186/7 in the 40th over.

Tailenders Chris Woakes and Adil Rashid offered notable fightback at the backend but their efforts were not enough as Australia ran away with a hard-fought victory.

Woakes scored 32 in 33 deliveries while Rashid hit a 15-ball 20.

Zampa led the bowling attack for Australia with 3/21 in his 10 overs while Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc bagged two wickets each.

Put into bat first, Australia had a dismal start to their innings as they lost their in-form openers Travis Head (11) and David Warner (15) inside six overs with just 38 runs on the board.

Following the back-to-back dismissals, Steven Smith and Marnus Labuschagne anchored the proceedings with a gritty 75-run partnership.

The pair had put Australia in a



comfortable position Adil Rashid marked England's comeback with twin

strikes in his consecutive overs, removing set batter Smith and Josh Inglis (3).

Smith remained a notable run-getter for Australia with 44 in 52 deliveries

with the help of three boundaries.

Labuschagne was then involved in yet another important partnership for Australia as he added 61 runs for the fifth wicket with Cameron Green before finally perishing in the 33rd over.

He top-scored for Australia with an 83-ball 71, laced up with seven boundaries.

Green then joined forces with Marcus Stoinis to put together a 45-run stand before being castled by David Willey in the 41st over.

He fell shy of his well-deserved half-century, scoring 47 in 52 deliveries, hitting five boundaries.

Stoinis soon followed Green's footsteps back to the pavilion as he fell for a 32-ball 35 in the 44th over with 241 runs on the board.

Adam Zampa then played a vital 29-run cameo at the backend to bolster his side's total while skipper Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc contributed with a 10 each.

Chris Woakes led the bowling attack for England with a four-fer, followed by Mark Wood and Adil Rashid taking two each.

Liam Livingstone and David Milley picked up a wicket apiece.

Fakhar bags multiple records with brisk century against New Zealand

A Sports

BANGALORE: Left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman on Saturday, bagged multiple records with his quickfire century against New Zealand in the 35th match of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Fakhar, who played a match-winning 81-run knock against Bangladesh, backed it up with a sensational century in a daunting 402-run pursuit against New Zealand.

Despite losing his opening partner Abdullah Shafique early, the left-handed opener kept Pakistan in the hunt with clean hitting.

Fakhar Zaman pelted the Blackcaps' bowlers and brought up his 11th ODI century in just 63 deliveries.

His belligerent knock had powered Pakistan to 160/1



in 21.3 overs, 10 ahead of the par score as per the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, before the rain intervened.

At the stoppage, Fakhar Zaman was unbeaten on 106 in 69 deliveries, laced up with seven boundaries and nine sixes.

Notably, his 63-ball

hundred is the fastest ton by a Pakistan batter in a World Cup game.

The record of the fastest World Cup century, however, belongs to Australia's Glenn Maxwell, who conceded just 40 deliveries to reach the milestone against the Netherlands in the ongoing mega event.

Fakhar's 63-ball hundred ranks joint-ninth on the list of fastest World Cup centuries with India's captain Rohit Sharma, who scored a 63-ball century against Afghanistan, which also came in the ongoing edition of the World Cup.

Moreover, Fakhar Zaman has thus far hit nine sixes amid his ongoing entertaining knock to go past Imran Nazir's record of most sixes hit by a Pakistan batter in a World Cup innings.

The right-handed opener smashed eight sixes against Zimbabwe in the 2007 World Cup in West Indies.

He came close to break Imran Nazir's long-standing record in his last outing for Pakistan when he smashed seven sixes against Bangladesh on Tuesday.

Premier League: Jeremy Doku Dazzles But Erling Haaland Injury Scare Mars Manchester City's Six-Goal Romp



Manchester City swept to the top of the Premier League as Jeremy Doku's dazzling display inspired a 6-1 win against Bournemouth, but the champions' rout was marred by Erling Haaland's injury scare. Pep Guardiola's side ripped Bournemouth apart with three goals in seven minutes late in the first half at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. Belgian winger Doku led the way as he scored the treble winners' opener before setting up Bernardo Silva for the second. Manuel Akanji deflected in Doku's shot for City's third goal and Phil Foden grabbed the fourth after the interval from another Doku assist.

Teed up by Doku yet again, Silva made it five and Nathan Ake completed the demolition job for City.

However, Guardiola will be sweating on Haaland's fitness after the Norway striker was forced off at half-time following a first-half knock.

"Twist in the ankle. We didn't want to take risks with him because he didn't feel comfortable," Guardiola said.

Haaland's availability is uncertain for City's Champions League clash with Young Boys on Tuesday and their Premier League trip to Chelsea next weekend.

"He'll be back maybe Tuesday but maybe next Sunday. Hopefully not a big issue," Guardiola said.

Saluting Doku, the City boss added: "He's settled so quick. It's not just today, all the games he played have been really good. He is an incredible threat."

Since losing to title rivals Arsenal in October, City have reeled off four successive victories in all competitions — including three in the league — to show their hunger for silverware remains strong after last season's incredible haul.

PFF announced upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier Round 2

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced probable for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier Round 2, where the Green Shirts are set to face Saudi Arabia in an away match on November 16 and will host Tajikistan at Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad on November 21. The camp will start tomorrow (4th November) and last till 13th of November in Islamabad.

PAKISTAN SQUAD (Probables): Goalkeepers: Salman Ul Haq, Usman Ali and Hassan Ali.

Defenders: Mamoon Moosa Khan, Mohibullah, Muhammad Sohail, Junaid Shah, Ali Khan Niazi, Rao Umar Hayat, Haseeb Khan, Umar Javed, M. Saddam and Muhammad Hamza Munir. Midfielders: Alamgir Ghazi, Ali Uzair, Rajab Ali, Zaid Umer, Abdul Razaq, M Zahid Shah, Ali Zafar and Imran Kiyani. Forwards: Shayak Dost, Moin Ahmed, Fared Khan, Waleed Khan, Mohammad Waheed, Nizamuddin, Hamza Ahmed, Samman and Adeel Younas.

The diaspora players will directly join the national side in Saudi Arabia.

PCB announces cash reward for Fakhar Zaman

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Zaka Ashraf announced a reward for Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman for his match-winning performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against New Zealand at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The left-handed batter scored an unbeaten century to guide the side to a 21-run win under the Duckworth Lewis (DLS) Method. He struck 126 off 81 deliveries with eight fours and 11 maximums to his name.

The opener became the only fourth batter to hit 10 or more sixes in a World Cup innings.

Thanks to his blistering knock, Pakistan are in contention to qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Babar Azam's side would pin their hopes on them beating England, Sri Lanka defeating New Zealand and Afghanistan losing to Australia or South Africa.

The PCB, in a press release, stated that Chairman Zaka Ashraf announced a cash reward of PKR1 million to Fakhar Zaman for his standout performance during a telephonic conversation.

Fakhar Zaman reportedly lauded the opening batter's knock in Saturday's fixture.

"Chairman of the PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf has lauded Fakhar Zaman's outstanding innings of 126 not out in Pakistan's victory over New Zealand in the ICC World Cup match in Bengaluru," he stated, "In a telephone conversation with Fakhar Zaman, Mr Zaka Ashraf praised his exceptional performance. In recognition of his stellar effort, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee has announced a reward of PKR 1 million for Fakhar."

Moreover, the PCB chief extended his best wishes to Fakhar Zaman and the entire Pakistan team for their upcoming fixtures and expressed optimism about witnessing similar performances and success in the future.

Hardik Pandya ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been ruled out of the rest of the ICC World Cup 2023 with an ankle injury, it was announced Saturday.

The 30-year-old damaged his left ankle while bowling during unbeaten tournament hosts India's ICC World Cup 2023 win against Bangladesh in Pune last month and it has now been confirmed he will be unable to take any further part in the event.

Following prolonged on-field treatment, he tried running in to bowl but could only hobble towards the crease and eventually



limped off the field. India won the match by seven wickets, with Pandya playing no part in the match after suffering the aforementioned injury.

Pandya's injury, however, paved the way for Mohammed Shami's return to the side, with the paceman

having since taken 14 wickets in three matches at a stunningly low average of 6.71.

Prasidh Krishna, who has appeared in just 19 white-ball internationals for India, will now take Pandya's place in a 15-man squad.

But the 27-year-old

fast-medium bowler will do well to break into a formidable India pace attack of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Shami.

India, already into the semi-finals, will look to maintain their perfect start against South Africa in Kolkata on Sunday.

India's Squad for ICC World Cup 2023

Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Prasidh Krishna, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav

Fakhar ton pulls off miraculous win over New Zealand as Pakistan stay alive

A Sports

BENGALURU: Fakhar Zaman's sensational 126-run knock trumped Rachin Ravindra's century as Pakistan pulled off a daunting pursuit against New Zealand to keep their ICC World Cup 2023 hopes alive.

Set to chase 402, Pakistan edged New Zealand by 21 runs as per the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, courtesy of an astounding onslaught by Fakhar.

The green shirts had a contrasting start to their pursuit as their in-form opener Abdullah Shafique (4) perished cheaply with just six runs on the board in two overs.

Despite the early blow, Fakhar Zaman launched an onslaught on the Blackcaps' bowlers and brought up his 11th ODI century in just 61 deliveries.

After being invited to bat by Pakistan's skipper Babar Azam, New Zealand opening batters Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra scripted a flying

start with a 68-run partnership.

His quickfire knock put Pakistan 10 runs ahead of the DLS par score when rain intervened in the 22nd over.

The rain interruption resulted in the high-scoring ICC World Cup 2023 clash being reduced to 41 overs with Pakistan requiring a further 182 runs in 19.3 overs.

Meanwhile, Fakhar carried on his domination and took Pakistan 21 runs ahead of the DLS par score when rain interrupted again.

The second spell of rain was more severe and persistent, forcing the match to be called off.

Consequently, Pakistan claimed a 21-run victory over New Zealand and grabbed two crucial points to keep their semi-final hopes intact.

Fakhar Zaman remained unbeaten with an astonishing 126. His 81-ball knock featured eight boundaries and 11 sixes.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, on the other hand, offered notable support to

unstoppable Fakhar with an anchoring 66 in 63 deliveries, hitting six boundaries and two sixes.

For New Zealand, only Tim Southee could pick up a wicket.

They scored at a quick rate and kept the run rate just above 6 before Hasan Ali provided Pakistan with the first breakthrough in the 11th over as Conway miscued a pull shot and was caught behind after scoring 35.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, who replaced Will Young in the side after recovering from a thumb injury, then joined Ravindra and together they annihilated Pakistan's bowling attack.

They knitted 180 runs for the second wicket from 142 balls, pushing the total to 248 in the 35th over, before Williamson was caught on the boundary in an attempt to clear long-off.

Williamson played a blistering innings of 95 from 79 deliveries, with the help of ten boundaries and two sixes.

The 23-year-old Rachin Ravindra on the end, scored his third century during



the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023, becoming the first batter to score three centuries in the tournament before turning 25.

He also became the first New Zealand batter to score three centuries in a single edition of the World Cup.

However, he soon followed his skipper back to the pavilion as he tried to hit Mohammad Wasim over midwicket but was caught by Saud Shakeel at the boundary.

Ravindra's record-breaking 108 took only 94 balls and featured 15 bounda-

ries and one six.

After two quick wickets, Daryl Mitchell and Mark Chapman joined hands and added a brisk 57 runs from 32 balls for the fourth wicket before the former was bowled by Haris Rauf.

Mark Chapman was joined by Glenn Phillips with the scoreboard reading 318 in the 42nd over; however, their 27-run stand was ended by Mohammad Wasim as the former departed after scoring 39 off 27.

Phillips then played a blistering knock of 41 off 25, with the help of four boundaries and two sixes and added 43 runs for the sixth wicket before being castled by Wasim in the penultimate over.

Mitchell Santner (26) remained unbeaten on the other end and saw his team cross the 400-run mark for the first time in World Cup history.

Mohammad Wasim topped the bowling chart for Pakistan with figures of 3-60, while Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali and Iftikhar Ahmed picked one wicket each.

Earthquake

KATHMANDU: Civilians look for survivors under the rubble of collapsed buildings



Nepal earthquake kills at least 150, as officials fear higher toll

Reuters

KATHMANDU: At least 150 people were killed and dozens injured in Nepal when a strong earthquake struck the western area of Jajarkot, officials said on Saturday, as houses in the area collapsed and buildings as far as New Delhi in neighbouring India shook.

The quake occurred at 11:47 pm (1802 GMT) on Friday with a magnitude 6.4, Nepal's National Seismological Centre said. The German Research Centre for Geosciences measured the quake at 5.7, downgrading it from 6.2, while the US Geological Survey pegged it

at 5.6.

The quake is the deadliest since 2015 when about 9,000 people were killed in two earthquakes in the Himalayan country. Whole towns, centuries-old temples and other historic sites were reduced to rubble then, with more than a million houses destroyed, at a cost to the economy of \$6 billion.

Officials feared the death toll in Friday's quake could rise as they had not been able to establish contact in the hilly area near the epicentre, some 500 km (300 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu, where tremors were also felt. The district has a population of 190,000 with villages scat-

tered in remote hills.

"The number of injured could be in the hundreds and the deaths could go up as well," Jajarkot district official Harish Chandra Sharma told Reuters by phone.

Police spokesman Kuber Kadayat said 92 people were killed in Jajarkot and 36 in neighbouring Rukum West district, both in Karnali province.

The epicentre was in the village of Ramidanda.

At least 85 people were injured in Rukum West and 55 in Jajarkot, an official in the prime minister's office said, while Sharma said at least 50 people were in hospitals in Jajarkot alone.

"Many houses have collapsed; many others have developed cracks. Thousands of residents spent the entire night in cold, open grounds because they were too scared to go in into the cracked houses as aftershocks struck," Sharma said. "I have myself not been able to go in."

Search and rescue must clear roads blocked by landslides, triggered by the earthquake, to reach the affected areas, police officer Namaraj Bhattarai said.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal flew to the area early on Saturday with a 16-member army medical team to oversee search, rescue and relief, his office said.

Dahal, posting on the X social media platform, expressed deep sorrow at the loss of life and property in the quake and ordered security agencies to launch immediate rescue and relief operations.

Local media footage showed crumbled facades of multi-storied brick houses, with large pieces of furniture scattered. Videos on X showed people running into the street as some buildings were evacuated.

"Houses have collapsed. People rushed out of their homes. I am out in the crowd of terrified residents. We are trying to find details of damage," police official Santosh Rokka said by phone.

PM grieved over loss of lives, property in Nepal earthquake



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property in the earthquake in Nepal.

"Our thoughts and prayers are

with those affected by last night's earthquake in Nepal that has resulted in loss of precious lives and property," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

"Pakistan stands with Nepal during this difficult time and is ready to extend whatever assistance is required," he added.

Senate Chairman grieved over loss of lives in Nepal quake



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life and property in earthquake in Nepal. The Senate chairman, in a statement on Saturday, expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the bereaved

families, stating that he stands with the people of Nepal in the hour of difficulty.

Sanjrani further said that the people of Pakistan and the government shared grief with the families of the deceased and the injured. The chairman Senate prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured in the earthquake.

Mushaal appeals int'l community to save Yasin Malik's life

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick has appealed to the world to protect the life of her incarcerated husband Yasin Malik, who was facing real threats in notorious Tihar jail because he was not ready to budge an inch from his principled stance of the Kashmiri right to self-determination. Speaking at a seminar on HR situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in Oslo, Mushaal said: "We are the worst victims of human rights violation, as we are divided family peacefully struggling for the right to self-determination of IIOJK. The seminar was co-host-

ed by Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Standing Committee Member Dag-Inge Ulestein and President Foundation Dialogue for Peace Aamir Javed Sheikh, according to a press release received here on Saturday. "We just spent one birth day together back 2014 and during 14-year-long marriage life, we just spent 60 days together. I spoke to my husband last time back in February 2019, there-by my life is just like a movie," she added. Speaking as a chief guest at the event, the SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that Yasin Malik was one of the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom movement at present; hence the notorious Narendra Modi-led government kept in unlawful detained by falsely implicating him in fabricat-



ed and politically motivated case to break his resolve. She revealed that Yasin Malik was not only deprived him of his legal and fundamental rights of free trials but even he was denied basic lifesaving drugs despite his fast deteriorating health issues. Mushaal feared

of judicial murder of Yasin Malik ahead of general elections in India, as Modi could use his murder for political mileage because his popularity graph witnessed alarming decline.

She demanded the international community and UNSC

to play their due role to immediately stop the massacre and genocidal acts in the valley, besides ensuring lasting solution to the decades-old problems as per the aspirations of the people of the occupied valley and the UN resolutions. Mushaal warned that the restive and unresolved Kashmir issue would remain a constant threat to the regional peace; hence steps to be taken on war-footing basis to find out durable and lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict. Former Norwegian PM Kjell Magne Bondevik, Raziyah Sultana, daughter of Yasin Malik and Mushaal Mullick, Ambassador of Pakistan to Norway Saadia Qazi and Aamir Sheikh President Foundation Dialogue for Peace, Ms Sabien Hussein Mullick focal Person SAPM also attended the event.

UN chief 'horrified' by Israeli strike on ambulance convoy in Gaza

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "horrified" by a deadly Israeli strike on an ambulance convoy outside a hospital in the Gaza Strip on Friday, reiterating his appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire. "I am horrified by the reported attack in Gaza on an ambulance convoy outside Al Shifa hospital. The images of bodies strewn on the street outside the hospital are harrowing," the UN chief said in a statement.

Guterres added that for nearly one month, civilians in Gaza, including children and women, have been besieged, denied aid, killed, and bombed out of their



homes. "This must stop," he stressed. More than 9,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and 32,000 people wounded, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Earlier, at a UN briefing session, Pakistan's Ambassador Munir Akram called on Israel to stop its ongoing "genocide" of Palestinian people. "We cannot mince our words; we have to tell the Israelis: stop the genocide," Ambassador Akram said, as he reiterated his call for an immediate ceasefire.

Erdogan says Netanyahu 'no longer someone we can talk to'

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday he was breaking off contact with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu due to Israel's actions in Gaza.

"Netanyahu is no longer someone we can talk to. We have written him off," Turkish media quoted Erdogan as saying.

Erdogan's remarks came a week after Israel said it was "re-evaluating" its relations with Ankara because of Turkey's increasingly heated rhetoric about the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel had earlier withdrawn all diplomats from Turkey and other regional countries as a security precaution.

Israeli forces have encircled Gaza's largest city, trying to crush Hamas in retaliation for October 7 raids into Israel that officials say killed around 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took some 240 people hostage.

The health ministry in Gaza, which is run by Hamas, says more than 9,400 Gazans, mostly women and children, have since been killed in Israeli strikes and the intensifying ground



campaign.

Erdogan said Saturday that Turkey was not breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel.

"Completely severing ties is not possible, especially in international diplomacy," Erdogan said.

He said MIT intelligence agency chief Ibrahim Kalin was spearheading Turkey's efforts to try and mediate an end to the war.

"Ibrahim Kalin talking to the Israeli side. Of course, he is also negotiating with Palestine and Hamas," Erdogan said.

But he said Netanyahu bore the primary responsibility for the violence and had "lost the support of his own citizens".

Pemra issues guidelines for election coverage by media

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) issued a directive to all the TV channels regarding the coverage of General Elections 2024.

The directive was issued to all the satellite-based news, current affairs and regional channels for the upcoming polls.

The code of ethics during the news coverage and analysis must be ensured, it said. The directive added that the speculation and 'negative reporting' regarding the general elections must be avoided.

"It is responsibility of all the citizens and institutions to assist the election commission in ensuring free and fair elections," said Pemra.

According to the directive issued by Pemra, the channels cannot air statements of banned organisations or their representatives.

"Electronic media has a pivot-

role in educating masses, building and shaping fair opinion and strengthening democratic process required for establishment of democratic government in the country," the directive said.

"Airing of any such news or content was a violation of PEMRA laws, including the Code of Conduct 2015, in general," Pemra said.

The channel and its representative must stop the participant if a hate speech is made by any guest.

The new directive of Pemra said that the channels cannot air anything indecent, obscene or pornographic, abusive comment against any individual or group of persons, based on race, caste, nationality, ethnic or linguistic origin, colour, religion, sect, gender, age, mental or physical disability.

The authority warned to take strict action against satellite TV channel licensees in case of any such violation.