



Stop in the name of God': Pope calls for humanitarian aid to Gaza

Pope Francis Sunday made an urgent plea for a halt to the conflict in Gaza on Sunday, calling for humanitarian aid and help for those injured to ease the "very grave" situation.



Pakistan decides to expand strategic petroleum reserves

As the Middle East remains surrounded by tensions, the caretaker government has decided to expand the country's strategic petroleum reserves, sources within the Petroleum Division said.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity

WASHINGTON: At a pro-Palestinian march in Washington on Saturday, the streets swelled with demonstrators, and the crowd was dense.



Photo: Amir Hamja

NA Speaker condemns Israeli Minister's statement of using nuclear weapons on Gaza

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaz Ashraf has strongly condemned the Israeli minister's statement about using nuclear weapons on the Gaza Strip.

The threat of using nuclear weapons on innocent Palestinians is a testament to Israeli brutality and warmongering, said the NA Speaker in a statement on Sunday.



especially children, women, and the elderly, have become victims of its aggression. He urged the world powers to take immediate steps to stop Israel's insanity and war frenzy.

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters march across Washington, urge end of US support to Israel

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters — some of them chanting 'Allah-o-Akbar' — marched through Washington Saturday in what was called the biggest US demonstration since Israel began its bombardment of Gaza.

sea, Palestine will be free, and donning black and white keffiyehs while holding Palestinian flags, the protesters, predominantly young individuals, gathered on the street leading to the White House.

capital before looping past the White House. "Now is the time to stand with the besieged people of Palestine! Gaza is being bombed by the hour. Its people are denied food, water and electricity by Israel.

similar message for both Israel and supportive Western governments. Meanwhile, US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib criticized President Biden, saying he "supported the genocide of the Palestinian people" over his administration's support for Israel.

including pledging billions in aid for the country. In recent days, the administration has called for a "humanitarian pause" in the war in order to assist Gaza civilians.

Iran says US 'will be hit hard' if no cease-fire in Gaza: Tasnim

Spokesman Report



DUBAI: Iran said that the United States would "be hit hard" if Washington did not implement a cease-fire in Gaza, the country's Minister of Defense was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency on Sunday.

icans is to immediately stop the war in Gaza and implement a cease-fire, otherwise they will be hit hard," Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani said.

Fazl meets Hamas leaders in Qatar

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met Hamas leaders Khalid Mashaal and Ismail Haniya in Qatar on Sunday.

China to accelerate issuance of govt bonds, finance minister says

Monitoring Desk

BELJING: China will accelerate the issuance and use of government bonds, state-run news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday citing an interview with new finance minister Lan Foan.



advance to reasonably ensure local financing needs, he said. Lan, a 61-year-old technocrat with little central government experience, was named finance minister in state media last month, at a time when the government is ramping up fiscal stimulus to revive the world's second-biggest economy.

heavily on debt and state spending but that analysts said falls short on deeper reform. The top parliamentary body last month approved the issuance of 1 trillion yuan (\$137 billion) in sovereign bonds in the fourth quarter to fund rebuilding of areas affected by floods, state media reported.

Nawaz Sharif to commence PML-N election campaign next week

Bureau Report



LAHORE: With the official announcement of the election date, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is gearing up to campaign across Pakistan, starting next week.

Govt firmly believes in freedom of press & expression: Solangi

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said the government fully and firmly believed in the freedom of press and expression that was enshrined in the Constitution.

One Window Centre to be set up for industrialists in Lahore: CM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a special meeting at CM Office for establishing 'One Window Operation' in which proposals regarding 'One Roof, One Stop' solution for the investors and industrialists in Lahore were reviewed.

Khalid Magsi elected BAP president

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Khalid Magsi has been elected as the president of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Sunday.



Magsi was elected unopposed after Agha withdrew his nomination for the top slot in the party.

Former Balochistan chief minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo was removed from the post on Saturday. Addressing the party's central general council, Magsi said, "The party has witnessed various challenges over the past five years, including witnessing mistakes and facing political crises in the country. Despite these circumstances, BAP has played a historic role," he added.



# A well-equipped and modern thalassemia Centre will be established in Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Thalassaemia Awareness Seminar was held under the auspices of Al Haider Welfare Foundation at capital city Muzaffarabad. The seminar was presided over by former Member of Assembly and Secretary Red Crescent Ms. Gulzar Fatima while the chief guest was Colonel Toqeer Abbas, Chairperson of Women's Commission Mrs. Rehana Khan and Secretary SDMA Khaled Mirza, Mayor Syed Sikander Gilani, Principal Post Graduate College Professor Dr. Abdul Karim, Dr. Mumtaz, Shazia Awan special guest participated. Addressing the seminar, the speakers said that Service to humanity is a great mission and an essential part of Islamic teachings. Christianity and renunciation are the ways of holy beings and it is a blessing to follow this path. The patient and his relatives should not be left alone to fight against every disease including thalassemia. Rather, it is the responsibility of every citizen of the society to devote a part of his time and resources to this work of



goodness and kindness

Christianity and goodness is the way and great mission of the prophets. He said that the non-governmental organizations that are contributing to this good work should not only be appreciated but should also be supported practically. Along with this, every section of the society should be encouraged to participate

in this good work. The speakers said that the increased inflation has made it difficult for the common man to get even minor treatment. Therefore, the eligible members of the society should spend some part of their resources on social work. The youth should offer their services for this work so that we can create a society based on Islamic

self-sacrifice and brotherhood.

MA Dr. Liaqat Mirza, Former Member of Assembly and Secretary Red Crescent Gulzar Fatima, Chairperson Women Commission Ms. Rehana Khan, Mayor Municipal Corporation Syed Sikandar Ali Geelani, Director Baitul-Mal Chaudhry Zahoore Ahmed, Prof. A. Srar Butt, Dr. Raja Zahid, Haroon Azad, R. BC Head Professor Imtiaz Ahmed, Chairperson Aqds Foundation Shazia Awan, Syed Fada Hussain Naqvi, Naem Kayani, Syed Tahir Ali Kazmi, Asim Khurshid, Raja Adib Khan, Alibhai and others participated and addressed.

On this occasion, Syed Abdul Basit Ali, General Secretary of Al Haider Foundation Muzaffarabad Division, thanked the guests. On this occasion, Colonel Toqeer Abbas said that free medicine, screening and free injections will be provided to children suffering from thalassemia in Azad Kashmir and from Azad Kashmir. We will support you till the end of thalassemia and said that a higher cost thalassemia center will be built in Muzaffarabad.

## SWL police launched crackdown on weapons, black windows after Section 144



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer Farman Ullah and DC South Waziristan Lower Mohammad Nasir Khan launched a crackdown by imposing a ban on display of weapons and tinted windows and glasses of vehicles, Section 144 was imposed across the district on Sunday.

A heavy police force has been deployed in Wana, Toi Khullah, Azam Warsak, Shakai and operations have been started against weapons and black glasses.

The district administration and the police have appealed to the general public to avoid display of weapons and requested the public to cooperate with the police in this regard.

District Police Officer Farman Ullah has deployed a heavy police force in Wana, Toi Khullah, Azam Warsak, Shakai while taking strict action against cleaning black glasses from weapons and vehicles.

South Waziristan Lower Police under the supervision and instructions of District Police Officer Farman Ullah have set up blockades at various places.

Regular operations have been started by strictly banning the display of weapons and black glasses.

DPO said that no one can be allowed to roam around Azam with weapons.

He said that immediate action will be taken against those who take the law into their hands.

## A policeman injured in an attack by miscreants in Tank

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Last night police station Gul Imam Tank was attacked by unknown miscreants.

On which the policemen present in the checkpoint also fired back by showing courage and bravery under the right of self-defense.

The firing continued for about an hour and a half, which was repulsed by a manly retaliatory fire by the police.

A police constable Waheed Gul was injured in the attack.

As soon as the incident was reported, District Police Officer Tank Iftikhar Ali Shah immediately reached the spot along with police personnel and APC in order to thwart the nefarious intentions of the unknown miscreants.

On this occasion the injured young police Constable was immediately shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Tank for treatment.

Later, the police started a search operation from all sides in the Gul Imam area.



## Local Government Elections

KARACHI: A female voter exercising her right to vote at a polling station in the metropolis during by-elections for direct Local Government (LG) seats.



# Drug Union SWL withdraws strike call, otherwise action under 1976 Drug Act: Officials

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Drug Inspector South Waziristan Lower and Upper Sibghat Ullah Wazir has said that last Sunday a detailed meeting was held with Drug Union South Waziristan Lower in the presence of ADC and Tehsil Wana Chairman.

In the meeting, Drug Union Lower Waziristan was informed about the problems of the people, that the people of Lower South Waziristan are facing a lot of problems due to the drug union strike and it is becoming impossible for people to get medicines.



The drug union was requested to withdraw its

strike, call, keeping in mind the public suffering.

Drug Union Waziristan demanded that no action be taken against drug stores, and they should be given two more years during which they will apply for the license.

The drug inspector said that the drug union was told that the administration had already given them two years, that in the meantime they ensure that they obtain their license and complete their paperwork, but drugstores have failed to do so.

Finally it was decided that the Drug Union Lower

Waziristan will open all doors tomorrow morning on 6/11/2023 till 9 o'clock, and will provide their services to the people.

The drug inspector said that if the drug union did not follow this decision, so the agreement that has been signed with them is one by 2024, there will be gentleness in his light. And no license will be required from them.

If the Drug Union failed to open stores by 9 pm tomorrow, so from tomorrow 6/11/2023 action will be taken against him under the Drug Act 1976.

# Fariha Pervez and Asteria Illuminate Times Square, NYC's Digital Billboard

PNP

ISLAMABAD: EQUAL Pakistan, a Spotify program dedicated to empowering female artists, has highlighted its ambassadors for September and October 2023 in a towering fashion. With Fariha Pervez, the famed "Patang Baz Sajna" singer lighting up a digital billboard on Times Square, NYC for September followed by Asteria, a captivating figure in Pakistan's music scene, the program has continued a legacy of highlighting female musicians who have and are continuing to make an impact on the local music scene.

Asteria, the pop musician renowned for her captivating blend of pop and indie pop, was the latest EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador with her track "Nishaan" being featured on the EQUAL Pakistan playlist. Her emotionally charged lyrics and distinctive



sound has earned her a dedicated fan following. Asteria's catalog is filled with mesmerizing tracks, including hits like "1:45," "Monaco," "The Palms," and "Dawn." Each song showcases their

versatility and originality within the pop genre.

Expressing her excitement, Asteria stated: "Being Spotify's EQUAL Ambassador for Pakistan for October 2023 is

genuinely an honour for me. As a songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist who has been releasing songs as Asteria for over 2 years now, being recognised for my craft like this is an amazing moment for me. This is important to me personally as well because growing up, I barely saw women—people like me—making the music I listen to. I rarely saw female guitarists, instrumentalists, producers, or even just songwriters making music in the genres I loved listening to—rock, indie, and alternative, namely, I'm super grateful to Spotify. Their initiatives to promote female artists across the region is definitely important; they are creating opportunities for women to be elevated and celebrated for their hard work and art."

EQUAL Pakistan continues to shine a spotlight on exceptional female artists, ensuring their voices are heard and celebrated on a global platform.

## LESCO meter reader dismissed

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has dismissed from service a Meter Reader after he was proved guilty of conniving in electricity theft in Sheranwala Sub-Division.

The company told the media that under the leadership of LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider, a vigorous operation against electricity thieves is going on across the LESCO region, while strict action is also being taken against the company's officers and other employees who assist in electricity theft and neglect their duties.

During a recent operation, he said, a Meter Reader Muhammad Naem of Sheranwala Sub-Division was dismissed from his service after being found guilty of facilitating a consumer in electricity theft by placing a shunt on the respective power meter in the area of Sheranwala Gate. The accused was also supplying the stolen electricity to the neighbors and giving monthly bribes to the Meter Reader.

After noticing the connivance, the LESCO authorities initiated a departmental inquiry against the Meter Reader Muhammad Naem after placing him on suspension. The said official, he mentioned, was given full opportunity but he failed to clear his position and could not submit a satisfactory answer to inquiry committee. On the recommendation of the committee, the competent authority, the XEn/DMO (Deputy Manager-Operation) of Data Darbar Division, issued 'dismissal from service' order for Meter Reader Muhammad Naem, the spokesman concluded.

## Two students went missing under mysterious circumstances in Hassanabdul

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Two teenage boy went missing under mysterious circumstances in the limits of Hassanabdul Police station on Sunday. The Police sources said that 13 years old Shahmeer along with his friend identified as 12 years old Shah Abdullah went to a local tuition academy located on GT road adjacent to police station and not returned. The sources while quoting the family and of the boys said that despite searched the missing boys with their friends and relatives but failed to get any clue. Hassanabdul Police registered two separate cases and launched hunt to search the missing boys.

## PHA'S Tent Pegging Championship Concludes

PPA

LAHORE: The two-day tent pegging championship organised by the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore at the Fortress Stadium concluded on Sunday.

More than 390 riders, including a group of female participants, representing 93 tent pegging clubs from across the country, took part in this event. This competition, known as the "Chief Minister Tent Pegging Championship," was conducted in conjunction with the ongoing 'Lahore Lahore Aey' festival.

PHA Director General Muhammad Tahir Wattoo extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, Caretaker Minister for Housing Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, at the venue.

During the closing ceremony, Mr. Nasir presented prizes to the winning teams and individuals.

"Tent pegging is a traditional sport and the fearless competitors challenged each other with great skill," Mr Wattoo said. He was of the view that sports activities leave a positive impact on society.

"PHA is committed to expanding opportunities for sports and recreational activities for the residents of Lahore," he added.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:05 am  
Zohr ..... 11:51 am  
Asr ..... 3:34 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:12 pm  
Isha ..... 6:37 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

**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

**21st annual mass marriage program organized by Islam Qureshi Welfare Trust**

**City Desk**

JHELUM: The 21st annual mass marriage program organized by Islam Qureshi Welfare Trust was held at Major Akram Shaheed Park, in which 25 couples got married. The mass marriage program was organized at Major Akram Shaheed Park. In this program, 25 couples got married this year. Every bride and groom had everything they needed in the house. Guests were welcomed with Bands, on this occasion, the brides said that we thank Islam Qureshi Sahib for paying all the expenses for our wedding, and today, we are starting our new life. Chief Guest of the event Deputy Commissioner Azad Kashmir Ch Muhammad Ayub Khan said that I felt very happy to participate in the mass marriage ceremony today. Apart from them, Chaudhry Arif from Jhelum, former president of Anjuman-e-Tajran, MD SLS College Sarfraz Malik, President of Jewelers Association, Raja Saeed, Shaheen Dar, Dr. Shahzana Imtiaz and citizens participated in large numbers. On this occasion, Islam Qureshi said that I am thankful to Allah Almighty for giving me and my team so much courage. Chairman Qureshi Welfare Trust Aamir Saleem Mir thanked the guests, and at the end of the program, all the guests, along with Islam Qureshi, saw off all the brides.

# Three-Day Islamabad Literature Festival concludes with an Aplomb

**Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), a celebration of literature and the arts, came to a close, marking the end of a successful and inspirational event. The festival, which began on November 3, 2023, brought together authors, readers, and literary enthusiasts for a memorable event of academic exploration and discussion.

The closing ceremony comprised keynote speeches by Senator Sherry Rehman and Anwar Masood. Senator Rehman expressed her appreciation for the revival of the Gandhara Citizens Club and was impressed by the theme because it is crucial to the times, we live in. Reiterating the importance of a sustainable planet she shared: "The planet is under stress, and we need to look at possibilities. Poet and critic, Anwar Masood expressed gratitude to the organizers and highlighted the importance of literature for a civilized society and a brighter future. He praised poets like Iqbal and said, "In times of unpredictability, poetry has long been a source of solace for individuals. With arts and literature, we can discover a glimmer of hope and unearth significance in the ordinary moments of everyday life."

In his vote of thanks, Arshad Saeed Hussain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan was grateful for the phenomenal response, "Immersed in the compelling narratives and profound discussions of this literary festival, we've unravelled the deep ties binding humanity, the planet, and the realms of potential. In these trying times let us offer hope, fostering a united awareness for a world that thrives on sustainability and empathy."



Muhammad Mikal Soomro, Manager Corporate Communications, Getz Pharma, Pvt. Ltd., lauded the efforts for putting together such an impeccable literary event.

The Interim Minister of Information, Murtaza Solangi also attended all three days of the event.

Moderated by Raheela Baqai, the session on Haya Fatima Sehgal's book, Resilient Pakistan- The Sociocultural Impact, touched upon various inspi-

rational aspects from the life of Jinnah and Fatima Jinnah. Mushahid Hussain Syed appreciated Haya's work that it addressed the status quo and focused on the possibilities and resilience of the nation. Raheela commented that the book proves to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The crowd was in awe of Swaang Theatre Group, which presented a play, Aao Drama Karain, by Saadat Hasan Manto while Aisha Sarwari. Moneeza Hashmi took a trip down memory lane in the

session, Conversations with my father: Forty Years on- a Daughter Responds, which was moderated by Aisah Sarwari.

Hamid Mir in conversation with Tauseeq Haider spoke about the current political scenario by referring to numerous writers who have fictionalised their accounts to reach a wider audience at the cost of compromising the integrity of the state. He hoped that future generations will instead, do our country the justice it deserves.

In the session titled, Business and Economy, Shaping the Way Forward, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO, Nutshell Group elaborated on the evolving economic landscape in Pakistan: "If we wish to improve the investment climate of the country, we need to have a long-term plan that is sustainable for at least 20 to 30 years, without any compromise, and with guarantee of continuation of policies.

Throughout the 3-day festival, attendees had the opportunity to meet and interact with prolific authors, discover new voices in the literary world, and engage in thought-provoking discussions on a wide range of topics. The festival's diverse planning ensured that there was something for everyone.

## Asean-Pakistan Fun Golf 2023

ISLAMABAD: Participants posing for a group photograph along with Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Movlamov during opening ceremony of Asean- Pakistan Fun Golf 2023 at Bahria Golf City in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad distributes Prizes among brilliant students

**City Desk**

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Transport, Livestock and Mines and Minerals Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that the destiny of nations can be changed only through education. We have to emphasize on training of children along with education in our educational institutions so that they can go ahead and play their full role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. These views were expressed by Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad on the occasion of participating in the Model United Nation Conference at Pak-Turk Maarif Ahmed Chariji, Aslam Bhatti and 300 students representing delega-



attended by Principal Pak-Turk Maarif Girls Campus Principal Sadia Amir, Event Coordinator Noor Fatima, Director Pak-Turk Maarif Ahmed Chariji, Aslam Bhatti and 300 students representing delega-

tions from across Punjab in the Model United Nation Conference. In his address, the provincial minister said that in the first revelation of Islam, the word Iqra was emphasized that read in the name of your Lord, that is, education was emphasized from the beginning of Islam and our youth are fortunate to adopt any profession in Pakistan. He advised to the students, they should all strive to be like a Nobel laureate who was among the 20 scientists in America and who given credit to his mother as she questioned daily: Did you ask the teacher any question today? /: The provincial minister further said that our youth should not lose hope and should always move forward with positive thinking and perform their duties like a responsible citizen. He congratulated the outstanding students and also congratulated the school management and administration as well as the organizers of MUN 2023.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Business Group Organization Punjab Chapter S. M Zunnurain, His excellency Sheikh Muhammad Sajid Chairman Asian Business Council & Former President Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Ex Federal Minister Ch Abid Shair Ali, Ex Mpa Mian Tahir jamil & Chaudhry Muhammad Asif meet with Governor Punjab Mr Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Governor House Lahore Punjab.

## Kareena Kapoor at SIBF 2023: I stay confident because of my fans



**PPA**

SHARJAH: Indian actor-turned-author, and mom of two, Kareena Kapoor Khan opened up about pregnancy, films and more to thousand fans of cinema and reading at the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF 2023).

"Being pregnant doesn't give you a ticket to eat anything", the actor whose 2021 book Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible: The Ultimate Manual for Moms-to-be has been widely read worldwide, asserted to her SIBF 2023 audience. "I love pizzas and Chinese food but I tried to balance it as I didn't want to eat anything wrong during my pregnancy," she added.

In a heart-to-heart conversation with UAE-based presenter Rania Ali, she said that she approached her book in a way so it could serve as a helpful reference, particularly for first-timers-both expectant and new mothers.

"I enjoyed my first pregnancy so much. I worked until I gave birth. I felt it would be exciting to be open about it; I have always been open with my fans. As I was going through my second pregnancy, I felt if I had to write a book, sharing my experience. It would be the perfect topic."

The seven-time Filmfare Award winning actress, who has been active in the field for two decades, candidly admitted that she always knew she had to get back to work one day to be truly happy and a good mother to her children. "I have learnt to embrace myself with love. I stay confident because of my fans and all the love my fans give me. All actors are like plants and need nurturing to grow".

While tackling questions from the audience, she said like every Virgo she was a perfectionist particularly about punctuality and cleanliness. The Hindi film actor hopes to visit the UAE more.

## SOT Events 2023 Kicks Off in Islamabad

**PNP**

ISLAMABAD: The sixteenth edition of School of Tomorrow (SOT) Events, Guardians of the Future: Shaping Tomorrow with Generative AI, was launched at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad. Organised by Beaconhouse, the future-oriented three-day event is scheduled to continue until Monday, 6th November.

Throughout its 23 years, SOT Events has discussed the future of humanity and advocated for the rights of children and young people to be guardians of the future: the next generations of mentors and leaders within their communities, nations and the world. This year's event retains this focus while exploring the increasing role of generative Artificial

Intelligence (AI) in shaping our world going forward. An exciting feature of the SOT this time is the inclusion of AI Avatars as panellists.

SOT included diverse discussion topics ranging from the pursuit of peace to the media's fascination with breaking news, entrepreneurship, sustainability, education, and cyber safety. From the sessions related to Pakistani drama, and fashion, prominent participants were Ali Safina, Misha Sethi, Ali Xeeshan, Vanceza Ahmad, Roshani Zafar, Night Dad, Aly Khan and Shahbaz Taseer. The event also showcases an immersive art exhibition, Envision E-vision: Chronicles of Tomorrow, curated by Rashid Rana & Risham Syed and presented by Beaconhouse National University's School of Visual Arts & Design.

With more than 40 thought-provoking sessions over three days, SOT 2023 welcomes over 150 global speakers including Jeffrey Archer, Sean Covey, Wusat Ullah Khan, Munizae Jahangir, Mehmal Sarfraz, Dr Tariq Banuri, Ayesha Chundrigar, Moeed Yusuf, Dr Sohail Naqvi, Amanda Muñoz de Toro, Kamran Lashari, Mohammad Hafeez, and Jose Alonso, amongst many others. Discussions, interviews, debates, workshops, and storytelling cover a wide spectrum of areas, including climate change, technology, art, education, children's rights, animal rights, healthcare, and more.

Speaking about the event, Kasim Kasuri, Chair SOT Events and CEO Beaconhouse, said, "Through the SOT, we aim to explore what the future actually holds for children, and how to better



prepare them for the world they are stepping into. This year our focus is to bring

people from diverse areas of expertise together to share their perspectives on

how AI can impact the future of humanity, and to see if it can play a part in creating a more peaceful world."

SOT is a free-to-attend event series that started in 2000 and is organised by Beaconhouse as part of its dedication to corporate social responsibility. SOT conferences have featured over 1,000 thought leaders and changemakers from across the world, including heads of state, prime ministers, heads of major global organisations, and distinguished figures from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand, the UAE, and various other countries.

This year's lead sponsor is Google for Education and Tech Valley, the Titanium Sponsor is UBL, and the gold sponsors are My BagPack and Emkay Books International.



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# India- The International Terrorist - III

**T** Trudeau conveyed that Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations pointing to a possible connection between government agents from India and Nijjar's demise. He mentioned that he had raised the murder issue directly with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 summit in New Delhi and urged the Indian government to cooperate with Canada in investigating the matter thoroughly. In response to these developments, Canada also took the unprecedented step of expelling India's top intelligence agent stationed in the country.

Recently, a court in Qatar handed down the death penalty to eight former Indian navy personnel, accusing them of espionage on behalf of Israel. Among those sentenced are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Rajesh. All of these ex-naval personnel were employed by Al Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private company owned by a former officer of the Oman Air Force. This firm was responsible for providing training and various services to Qatar's armed forces and security agencies.

India appears to be heading towards increased international humiliation and isolation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India continues to engage in actions that tarnish its remaining global reputation, revealing a growing degree of cynicism day by day. Not too long ago, the Canadian Prime Minister subjected India to global humiliation, but the recent execution of eight Indian officers by Qatar for allegedly spying for Israel has further eroded India's standing. India's relentless humiliation on the world stage seems to have left it dis-

oriented. Following Canada's actions, India, instead of amending its objectionable mindset, engaged in yet another disgraceful act by violating the working boundary with Pakistan.

Most recently, a spy drone attempted to breach Pakistan's territory and India initiated unprovoked firing, prompting a retaliatory response from Pakistan. India persists in its actions marked by cowardice and treachery, but consistently fails in its endeavors. Indian forces violated the ceasefire on the working boundary in the Zafarwal sector of Sialkot, unleashing unprovoked gunfire. It has been reported that Indian forces initially attempted an incursion into the Zafarwal sector using a quadcopter drone, which Pakistan's forces promptly thwarted. Subsequently, the Indian forces resorted to unprovoked firing on Pakistani posts in an apparent bid to obscure the failure of the quadcopter operation.

The Pakistan Army responded decisively to the Indian aggression, offering a comprehensive rebuttal to the hostile incursion. In response to these developments, the Additional Deputy Commissioner issued a high alert in border areas, mosque announcements were made, emergency camps were set up in affected regions, and the process of migration from various areas was initiated.

Another instance can be seen in Sri Lanka, which has experienced interference from India on several occasions. In the past, a collective of Sri Lankans implored India to refrain from meddling in Sri Lanka's internal affairs, particularly by criticizing Colombo's intentions to curtail the rights of provincial councils established to share power with the ethnic minority Tamils. Approximately

100 demonstrators from the Federation of National Organisations, a coalition of nationalistic groups, conducted a silent protest in front of the Indian embassy in the capital city, Colombo. They urged India not to intrude in Sri Lanka's internal matters. This protest followed criticism from prominent Indian politicians regarding the Sri Lankan government's proposal to reduce the powers of provincial councils established to share governance with Tamils.

In 1987, Sri Lanka and its more influential neighbor signed an agreement that led to amendments in Sri Lanka's constitution, permitting the creation of provincial councils aimed at devolving power as part of an effort to resolve Tamil militancy. The offer, however, was rejected by the Tamil Tiger rebels, who were beginning a futile civil war to establish a separate state for Tamils, deeming the granted powers insufficient. Subsequently, an Indian peacekeeping force sent to Sri Lanka to assist in implementing the agreement found themselves embroiled in combat with the Tamil rebels before eventually withdrawing in 1990. India had a substantial stake in the conflict due to the presence of a sizable Tamil population in southern India.

India has a longstanding history of interference and embroiling Pakistan in controversies. India has conducted several false flag operations against Pakistan, casting doubt on its credibility and reliability as a nation, as no concrete evidence has been produced in support of its claims. A recent conversation between Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and former Governor of Occupied Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, on October 14 has come to light. In this discussion, the former Governor of Occupied Kashmir, Satya

Pal Malik, asserted that Prime Minister Modi exploited the Pulwama incident for political advantage. Rahul Gandhi responded by stating that Modi prevented him from receiving the bodies of the martyrs, locking him in an airport room. The entire incident was manipulated by Modi for political gain.

Satya Pal Malik disclosed that when he informed Modi that Pulwama occurred due to their mistake, he was ordered to remain silent. He claimed that Ajit Doval and Rajnath Singh also instructed him to maintain silence. The former Governor of Occupied Kashmir mentioned that the BJP deliberately pinned the blame on Pakistan for Pulwama to gain political mileage. Numerous alerts were relayed to warn about the attack, but Modi was occupied with other matters.

In his conversation with Rahul Gandhi, Satya Pal Malik noted that the Modi government compelled the army to travel by road instead of by air, and the suicide car used in Pulwama roamed freely on the roads for ten days. On the day of the attack, no additional security measures were implemented. Rahul Gandhi pointed out that Atiq Ahmed was killed in front of the media to divert attention from Satya Pal Malik's revelations. The former Governor of Occupied Kashmir disclosed that he was transferred five times as punishment for speaking about Pulwama.

Readers, India has been exposed as an international actor with a history of interference and involvement in the affairs of other countries. India's actions raise questions about its commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and responsible international conduct. To some, India represents a potential threat to global peace and sovereignty. Therefore, it may be time for the international community to consider designating India as a nation that engages in acts of interference and compel it to cease such actions in other countries.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



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

## Analyzing the Dynamics of Inflation in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications - III

**T**his borrowing can expand the money supply, potentially contributing to inflation. Effective management of budget deficits is therefore a critical aspect of controlling inflationary pressures. Supply-side factors are essential components of inflation dynamics too: Pakistan's economy is particularly susceptible to fluctuations in food prices, which can have a significant impact on overall inflation. Supply disruptions, whether due to natural disasters, inefficient supply chains, or inadequate infrastructure, can result in periodic surges in food prices. Given the importance of food in household budgets, such fluctuations often have cascading effects on the general price level. Energy prices, specifically the cost of fuels and electricity, represent a significant supply-side factor influencing inflation in Pakistan. These prices can have a cascading effect on various sectors of the economy, ultimately contributing to overall inflationary pressures.

Exchange rate dynamics are a critical element influencing inflation in Pakistan. Fluctuations in the exchange rate, especially the depreciation of the domestic currency, can have significant consequences for the overall price level within the country. A depreciation of the domestic currency relative to other currencies can lead to higher import costs. As Pakistan relies on imports for a variety of goods, including energy and essential commodities, increased import costs can contribute to inflation. These higher costs are often passed on to consumers in

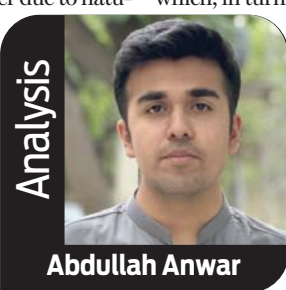
the form of elevated prices for imported goods. Exchange rate changes affect the balance of trade, potentially improving exports but also raising inflation through costlier imports. Exchange rate movements may trigger policy responses by the central bank. For example, if the currency depreciates rapidly, the central bank might intervene to stabilize the exchange rate. These interventions can have implications for monetary policy and money supply growth, which, in turn, can impact inflation.

Global factors, including changes in international commodity prices, geopolitical events, and global economic conditions, exert significant influence on inflation dynamics in Pakistan. Pakistan, like many countries, is sensitive to fluctuations in global commodity prices, particularly oil. A surge in oil prices can lead to higher costs for energy and transportation, which, in turn, contribute to inflation. Conversely, declining commodity prices can help curb inflationary pressures. The state of the global economy can influence Pakistan's inflation. A robust global economy can stimulate demand for Pakistani exports, potentially improving the country's trade balance and reducing inflation. Conversely, a global economic downturn can reduce demand for exports, negatively impacting Pakistan's trade balance and possibly increasing inflation. Political tensions and conflicts in the region or globally can disrupt supply chains and lead to uncertainties in commodity markets, hence creating inflationary pressures in Pakistan. Pakistan is highly sensitive to fluctuations in global

oil prices, as oil is a crucial import. When oil prices rise, it leads to higher energy costs, affecting transportation and production. These increased costs are often passed on to consumers, contributing to inflation. Global food price changes, driven by factors like climate events and global supply and demand dynamics, can impact Pakistan's food inflation as certain food items that are imported would sell at higher prices.

Now we will explore the far-reaching consequences of inflation in Pakistan. Inflation, when not effectively managed, can have significant economic, social, and political implications, impacting various sectors of society. First and foremost we will talk about the economic consequences: one of the most direct economic consequences of inflation is a decrease in the purchasing power of individuals and households. As prices rise, consumers can afford fewer goods and services with the same amount of money, leading to a decline in their standard of living. Then high or unpredictable inflation rates can introduce economic uncertainty. Businesses may find it challenging to plan for the future, make investments, or set prices, which can hinder economic growth and stability. Furthermore, inflation often leads to higher nominal interest rates. Borrowers face increased borrowing costs, potentially constraining investment and economic expansion. Savers, on the other hand, may see reduced real returns on their savings. Lastly, Persistent high inflation can distort investment decisions. Investors may prioritize assets that offer protection against inflation, such as real estate and commodities, rather than productive investments in the real economy.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdullah Anwar

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

Syeda Sarah Jawad

**A** study conducted by Siddiqui to evaluate the impact of climate change on the major crops of Pakistan reported that all of them will be significantly affected by climate change. Climate change also changes the precipitation and temperature of the earth and the time and growth stages of the crop disturbed. Its effect varies from one crop to another as cotton is one of the most affected crops. In Pakistan, wheat and rice are the main crops and leading staple food of the agriculture sector. A decrease of 14.7 and 20.5 percent of wheat and rice crop due to climate change has been observed in the past few years with their market price shooting up.

Pakistan is the country where both Rabi and Kharif crops are cultivated. One of the major rabi crops is wheat while Kharif crops includes sugarcane, rice, maize, turmeric etc. In irrigated as well as spate farming systems, crops are exceedingly sensitive to water quantity and temperature fluctuations. It is predicted that by 2040, as the temperature goes up, the agricultural production will reduce by around 8%–10%.

A research model that includes the use of the crop growth simulations method, estimated a reduction in crop yield, particularly in rice and wheat. The study has predicted a 6% decrease in wheat yield, and a 15%–18% reduction in the yield of basmati rice in almost all the agro-climatic system except for the northern regions of Pakistan. A significant effect of climate change is observed on wheat crop due to number of agronomic and socio-economic reasons like water accessibility, pesticides, and labor availability due to seasonal variations in the weather conditions. Scientists from all around the globe have been

searching for a range of solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change on agriculture. One of the potential solutions is the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) concept. CSA aims at invigorating the incorporation of agriculture expansion and climate receptiveness to accomplish food security and growth targets under the shifting weather and rising food requirement. CSA initiatives sustainably boost production, increase resilience, diminish/eliminate greenhouse gases (GHGs), and necessitate preparation to deal with trade-offs and synergies amid productivity, adaptation, and mitigation.

CSA offers remarkable prospects for Pakistan, where agriculture is socially, economically, and culturally significant. Several CSA measures are already in practice nationwide. It can boost the Pakistani economy through groundbreaking, technological practices such as laser land leveling and solar power-driven irrigation systems, management amendments like crop divergence, appropriate cropping models, and enhanced planting dates.

Climate smart agriculture will require working closely with farmers to adapt their crop management strategies into more resilient practices that limit impacts of climate change. Developing a reliable CSA farming system will require communication and numerous feedback loops so that the practices can be continually adapted to the different eco zones and cropping systems.

Scientific diagnosis and assessment of the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector is essential for formulating the vision of future agriculture and the direction of agricultural administration. Specifically, it can provide useful information for formulating the long-term agricultural development plan for each region and the adaptive measures for farming households.



Qatar Museums, in Collaboration with Yuz Museum

# First Large-Scale Exhibition Open in China

PPA

DOHA, QATAR: In a formative exhibition that will take place at Yuz Museum Shanghai, Watering the Desert | Contemporary Art from Qatar will be the first large-scale exhibition of Qatari and Qatar-based contemporary artists to be presented in China. Curated by Qatar Museums' Issa Al Shirawi and Maryam Hassan Al Thani, the exhibition is organised by Qatar Museums in collaboration with Yuz Museum, which will showcase the work of 34 multidisciplinary artists, designers, and filmmakers working within Qatar's artistic scene. The exhibition is scheduled to be on view from 8 November 2023 to 3 March 2024.

Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, stated, "Watering the Desert is the result of a 6-year strategic partnership between Qatar Museums (QM), Yuz Museum (YUZ), and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Based on this partnership, the exhibition highlights the importance of cross-cultural

dialogue and exchanges through art. We are proud to collaborate with Yuz Museum in Shanghai, a prominent Chinese institution and a long-time partner of Qatar Museums, in showcasing and amplifying distinct voices and artistic practices from Qatar. Through the diverse, multidisciplinary works of these exhibited artists, this exhibition presents our thriving and globally connected creative ecosystem which is nourished by our local roots and traditions."

Justine Alexandria Tek, CEO and Director of Yuz Museum and Yuz Foundation, added, "We are proud to host our trusted partner, Qatar Museums, in China for an in-depth exhibition of contemporary Qatari art that sparks a dialogue among our diverse cultures and explores the intersections and influences throughout our history."

Watering the Desert—Contemporary Art from Qatar bridges the gap between Qatar's traditional practices and modern transformative spirit. The exhibition showcases an impressive array of multidisciplinary projects that focus on four interconnected themes: vivid recollections of shared

experiences, commentary on complex social dynamics regarding the concept of home, urban transformations, and the fusion of art and the natural environment. Combined, this culturally rich presentation captures the current artistic zeitgeist in Qatar.

"Travelling exhibitions are great opportunities to broaden perceptions, address misconceptions, and offer glimpses into the artistic experimentation that has been growing organically within and with Qatar. We are proud to serve as a global platform for Qatari artists to showcase their work, whether they are pioneering, mid-career, and emerging artists," said Issa Al Shirawi, Head of International Exhibitions at Qatar Museums and the exhibition's co-curator. Maryam Hassan Al Thani, co-curator of the exhibition, added, "We have approached this exhibition with fresh perspectives on recurring themes in contemporary Arab art. To work with Yuz Museum, who shares the same passion for contemporary art and providing platforms for emerging voices in the art world, has been an extremely meaningful process that we are excited



to share with new audiences."

The exhibition's artists are Sebastián Betancur-Montoya, Hassan bin Mohammed Al Thani, Noora Al Hardan, Hadeer Omar, Michael Hersturd and Simone Muscolino, Sophia Al Maria, Mubarak Nasser Al Thani, Markus Elblaus, Maryam Al Homaid, Noor Abu Issa, Salman Al

Malik, Bouthayna Al Muftah, Abdulrahman Al Muftah, Aisha Al Sowaidi, Hana Al Saadi, Ghada Al Khater, Yousef Ahmad Al Homaid, Christto Andrew, Giovanni Inella, Hala Amer, Saga Elkabbash, Levi Hammett and George Paul, Anfal al Kandari, Alya Al Khalifa and Guillaume Rousere, Naila Al Thani, Amena Al Yousef, Saida Al

Khulaifi, Water with Water (Nathan R Davis and Sarah Elawad), (IN)>Tangible Lab (Sara Al Naimi and Maha Al Marri with Research and Design by Latifa Al Ali, Alanood Al Thani and Natasha Fernandez and Film, Sound, Support, and Guidance from Astrid Kensing, Mayssa Al-Mumin, Guillaume Rousere, Alaa Albarazy, Dr. Aspa Chatziefthimiou, Raviv Cohen, Shaima Sherif, David Mathew, Basma Hamdy and Nishi Rafols), Shaima Al Tamimi and Mariam Salim, Majid Al Remaili, Amal Al Muftah, and Jassim Al Remaili.

Moreover, Watering the Desert serves not only as a vibrant celebration of contemporary art from Qatar but also as a testament to the legacy of the Qatar-China 2016 Year of Culture. This pivotal cultural milestone has laid a robust foundation for fostering cultural exchange and artistic collaboration between Qatar and China. This exhibition is representative of the international and cultural exchange that continues to flourish, bridging nations and fostering a global appreciation of art and culture.

## Xi sends letter to sixth CIIE

Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a letter to the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE), which opened in Shanghai on Sunday.

First held in 2018, the annual expo has leveraged the strengths of China's enormous market, fulfilled its platform function for international procurement, investment promotion, people-to-people exchanges and open cooperation, and made posi-



tive contribution to creating a new development pattern and promoting world economic development, Xi said in the letter.

Noting that the world economic recovery lacks momentum, Xi said China will always be an important opportunity for global development.

He pledged that China will firmly advance high-standard opening-up and continue to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

## China, Pakistan joins hands to enhance the well-being of people under CPEC

Xinhua

CHANGSHA: In October, in the wind corridor of Jhimpir area in Thatta district of Pakistan's southern Sindh province, more than 100 wind turbines are located under the blue sky, constantly delivering green power to distant villages and cities.

"This is an important part of the group of wind power general contracting projects we have undertaken, and at present, all 12 wind power projects with a total installed capacity of 610 MW have been connected to the grid," Chief representative of POWERCHINA in Pakistan Yang Jianduo introduced.

The wind power project group created over 20,000 jobs. It will provide 2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean energy to the Pakistani power grid annually and reduce about 2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which will help solve the problem of power shortages and effectively improve the local energy, power supply structure.

The wind power group is a project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor



linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

During the construction of the project, the construction team led by POWERCHINA transplanted rare and protected plants on the site, and restored the landscape of the entire construction site after completion. At the same time, the project cooperated with

many local universities, organized college students majoring in engineering to practice at the site and cultivated a group of professionals in new energy construction and operation and maintenance for Pakistan.

"Today we have 6,000 megawatts of energy. We have about 850 kilometers of transmission line. We have about 525 kilometers of road highway... We are very happy and proud to say that we have actually achieved most of our

targets and projects," said Hassan Daud Butt, Associate Professor of Bahria university Islamabad campus. He added, entire Pakistan has a consensus that all stakeholders support the construction of CPEC and also development of Gwadar.

At the Indus River in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province the Diamer Bhasha dam with the height of 272-meter is under intensive construction.

"Pakistan has grown in BRI

and CPEC in various areas including energy and transport... so I think in the next phase Pakistan will invite more Chinese investment in agriculture, renewable energy. We will also request China for supporting R&D," said H. D. Butt, "through CPEC we have actually demonstrated Pakistan. Now we are known because of Chinese investment, because of CPEC."

Over the past 10 years, CPEC has turned and is still turning vision into reality in Pakistan: the China-funded New Gwadar International Airport will soon be put into operation, investment attraction work for the first phase of Rashakai SEZ is in full swing, China's hybrid rice has significantly increased the productivity of Pakistan's rice...

Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told Xinhua correspondent, CPEC helped Pakistan in diversifying energy requirements, completing motorway network and modernizing the railway network. He believes that with the closer cooperation between China and Pakistan, there is a bright prospect for the two sides to utilize their respective advantages and achieve win-win outcomes.

## November 6 is darkest day in Kashmir's history: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that November 6 is a terrible memory of the brutality and human hostility of the Jammu Dogra rulers and extremists RSS when millions of Muslims of Jammu were slaughtered. Peace and humanity were scattered. In his message on the occasion of Jammu Martyrs' Day, he said that November 6 is a darkest day in

history of Kashmir. On that day, the Muslims of Jammu were killed at Sambna on the pretense of bringing them to Pakistan. Out of the millions of Muslims, a very small number of stragglers had reached Pakistan. He said that this plan to massacre Muslims was the result of the nexus of Dogra government and Hindu extremists. Today, this Hindu mind has prevailed in India, so the dangers for South Asia have increased. He said that the martyrs of Jammu sacrificed for the completion of Pakistan and even today the Kashmiri people are carrying forward this mission. India's oppression continues today. And nine lakh Indian army is ready to massacre the Kashmiris.

## China to keep expanding opening-up of market opportunities: premier



Xinhua

SHANGHAI: China will continue to promote the greater opening-up of market opportunities, Premier Li Qiang said Sunday.

Li made the remarks during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the sixth China International Import Expo and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum.

China has a population of over 1.4 billion people and a middle-income group of over 400 million people, presenting huge potential in terms of market demand, Li said.

Noting that China has always been willing to share its market opportunities, Li said the country will actively expand imports, promote coordinated development of trade in goods and services, implement negative lists for cross-border service trade, support innovation in foreign trade formats and models, and boost digital trade.

China's imports of goods and services are expected to reach 17 trillion U.S. dollars in cumulative terms in the next five years, according to him.

## 06 November Jammu Martyrs Day a massacre of humanity

November 06, 1947 is not only the history of Kashmir, but the darkest day in the history of humanity. On that day, Dogra Police, Army and Rashtriya Suk Singh goons killed 237 thousand Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir in the love of Pakistan. There are so many martyrdoms in the history of the world.

Even the tragedy that happened in Jammu has not happened. After the coming into existence of the kingdom of Godfather Pakistan on August 14, 1947, the Muslims of the state of Jammu and Kashmir expressed great joy and celebrated. Before the establishment of Pakistan in July 1947, the residence of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Srinagar passed the resolution of annexation to Pakistan, and

the future of the people of the state was associated with Pakistan. The slogans echoed. Seeing this emotional sentiment of the Muslims of Kashmir, fear fell on the Hindus and the Dogras.

On November 4, Maharaja Hari Singh announced that all Muslims who want to go to Pakistan will be brought to Pakistan safely. It was a serious plan, under the guise of which, the Muslims in Udhampur, Riasi, Kathua, Ramnagar, and other areas, took thousands of people out of their homes through deception and trickery and collected them at the police parade ground in Jammu.

Before that, in August in Jammu. On the orders of the Maharaja, 7 thousand rifles were distributed among the volunteers of the RSS and the Sikhs of Indian Punjab and they were instructed to start massacring the Muslims, on which the Muslims

fought against the Dogras well enough. An announcement was made to collect the Muslims in the ground and then arrange to transport them to Pakistan by lorries, buses and trucks under the auspices of the police and the army. On hearing this announcement, the Muslims of Jammu started gathering at the police line ground shouting slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, where weapons were also collected from the Muslims and they were allowed to take only one bed and one box.

On November 5, a caravan consisting of 36 vehicles and trucks left for Chetgarh, Sialkot, each vehicle had 70 to 80 Muslims on board. Just a

few kilometers away, this convoy was diverted to Samba instead of Suchitgarh. When they reached there, there were Hindus and Rashtriya Suk Singh groups hiding on both sides of the road and in the hills, who had rifles and other weapons and stopped the police station trucks and opened fire on the Muslims.

On November 6, the vehicles came again with 70 Muslims on trucks and buses, and at the same place the Hindu beasts used bullets, spears, axes, and swords without hesitation and cut the Muslims like radish carrots. Police Inspector Raja Sahab Ali of Banda-la and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Raja Sarwar Khan of Panjri were also martyred while

saving the convoys of Muslims. Former Secretary to the Government Abdul Rashid Malik was also among those who survived the tragedy and came to Pakistan. The martyrdoms and incidents of rape of women were not allowed to be narrated. Whenever the words were uttered, Kaleja would come to his mouth and there would be silence.

The news of the martyrdoms of Muslims spread to other areas of the state, which made the incidents of murder and massacre their own. After looting the houses, houses and shops of the Muslims in Jammu, the Hindus burnt the properties and razed all the properties to ashes. About the tragedy of Jammu, many foreign journalists have also admitted that Mehr Chand Mahajan and Maharaja Hari Singh paved the way for Hindu-Muslim riots in order to shoot millions of Muslims. This

destruction and destruction proved that 'The basic principles of tolerance and justice were violated by the government itself. At the end of August, 7,000 rifles and ammunition were distributed among the local Hindus in the forts of Jammu. The Hindu population was trained in the use of automatic weapons.

Chief of the Staff Brigadier Scott had admitted that he was instructed to exterminate the Muslims of Jammu. Mr. Einstein, who was the editor of Steamtain, in his book mentions the condition of the Muslims of Jammu and writes that by the autumn of 1947, the population of about five lakh Muslims had completely disappeared, of which two lakhs had no name at all had been wiped out and the rest of the people had become refugees in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

Sheikh Abdullah had

addressed the Hindus of Jammu in November 1947 and said that you have emptied this area of Muslims. Gangs of Hindus and Sikhs entered and started an endless series of killings. Easter Lamb wrote in his work Crisis in Kashmir that this policy of killings created in the hearts of Muslims India and Jammu and Kashmir.

It created a strong wave of hatred against the ruling class. During this massacre, about five lakh Muslim population of the states of Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur were affected. Thousands of young girls were kidnapped. The Muslims of Jammu were killed. This will defeat the ambitions of the Maharajah and the Gangresi Hindus on the natives of the country. Meanwhile, the Poonch independence movement gained strength and demanded the joining of Pakistan. The state forces started massacring the Muslims.



Muhammad Javed Malik



*Structural reforms must for sustainable economic growth: PIAF Chairman*

PNP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said the real answer to country's problems lies in the structural reforms, as there are a number of inefficiencies in tax collection, which must be removed.



In a statement, the PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol observed that the tax compliance should be improved and tax base should be enhanced, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but through a systemic approach. He said that businesses are already in a complicated state-of-affairs, while anti-business actions against business community will not only add to the miseries of the business community but also promote trust deficit between the government and the business community.

He said that in the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the FBR seems to be inclined to pressurize registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target.

*Stable monetary policy leads to sustainable growth, attracting foreign investment: Meher Kashif*

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said stability in monetary policy is a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth and an indispensable factor in attracting foreign direct investment. Speaking at a conference on "Stability in Monetary Policy Pays Dividends" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said by maintaining a consistent and transparent monetary policy framework, nations can create a robust economic foundation, stimulate investment, and foster innovation, ultimately leading to shared prosperity for their people, said a news release here.

He emphasized the critical role that stability in monetary policy plays in fostering economic growth and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). In today's interconnected global economy, maintaining a stable monetary policy framework is essential for promoting sustainable development and creating a favorable environment for both domestic and international investors, he added. He said stability characterized by consistent interest rates, controlled inflation, and prudent fiscal management, provides a solid foundation for economic growth. He said when foreign and local investors anticipate stable economic conditions, they are more likely to make long-term investments, expand their operations, and create job opportunities. He said this confidence in the economic environment stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation, leading to increased productivity and overall economic prosperity. Meher Kashif Younis said further more, a predictable monetary policy framework enhances a country's attractiveness to foreign investors and a stable monetary policy signals the government's commitment to economic stability and creates a conducive atmosphere for foreign businesses to invest with confidence. This, in turn, leads to the infusion of capital, technology transfer, job creation, and the development of local industries.

**Dependence on direct taxes necessary for national development: Atif Ikram Sheikh**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday that reliance on indirect taxes should be reduced to push the country towards rapid development.

Dependence on direct taxes is necessary for national development, but progress towards this is very slow, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA, and President ICCI, said in a statement issued here today that reforms should be introduced in the tax administration to improve its workings.

Reliance on indirect taxes and withholding taxes are damaging; therefore, basic structural changes are needed for documenting the economy to increase revenue, he said.

The business leader stressed that the policy measures would expand the tax base, eliminate tax gaps, and enhance the efficiency of the tax system.

the tax system.

Many hurdles in tax collection can be overcome by employing technology, as is being practised in other countries where tax collection is satisfactory.

The use of information technology is necessary to maximize tax compliance, enforcement, tax base broadening, facilitation, and transparency, he said.

He noted that indirect taxes disproportionately impact vulnerable segments of the population. They take away a larger proportion of income from lower-income individuals compared to those with higher incomes.

Direct taxes contributed 37.2 percent of total FBR tax collection, while indirect tax contribution was 62.8 percent, and within total FBR collection, sales tax remained the top revenue-generating source with a 41.2 percent share, customs duty 16.4 percent, and FED 5.2 percent, respectively. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that a substantial



portion of the population is engaged in the informal economy, where incomes are irregular and often insufficient.

Indirect taxes, being consumption-based, affect these individuals more because their entire income is spent on necessities, and they

may not have the financial buffer to absorb the impact of increased prices.

Indirect taxes can limit the capacity of the poor to save and invest in income-generating opportunities. With a significant portion of their income going towards indirect taxes and basic expenses, they have less room to save and invest in education, skills development, or small businesses.

The FBR should prioritize bringing untaxed sectors within the purview of taxation rather than further burdening the poorer segments that are already subject to indirect taxation.

He demanded that the government expand the tax base by bringing more people into the tax net and move towards the policy of progressive taxation for higher-income groups.

Our taxation structure favours the rich and leaves the poor behind, while reforms can ensure the economic safety of the poor class.

**Appreciations**

JAKARTA: A memento of Appreciation to Mr. Shamoan Zaki, Chairman Zaki Industrial Corporation from the platform of KHA Business and International Relations in presence of many honorable national and international dignitaries.



**Chairman PHHSA highlights urgent need for agricultural sector**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday said in emerging global challenges, it has become increasingly evident that the diversification of our agricultural sector is the need of the hour to meet ever increasing food staple needs in the wake climate change.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said, "The world around us is changing rapidly and climate change, population growth, and shifting people demands are reshaping the landscape of agriculture," said a news release issued here.

He said, "As agriculturalists, we are well aware of the challenges we face, from unpredictable weather patterns to the depletion of natural resources."

"Embracing diversification in our agricultural practices is not just a choice; it is a necessity," he added.

He said, "Diversifying our agricultural sector can provide a multitude of benefits. By cultivating a variety

of crops, we can mitigate the risks associated with climate change and pests."

"Moreover, diversification enhances soil health and fertility, reduces the dependency on chemical inputs, and promotes biodiversity. Moreover, it opens up new avenues for economic growth, enabling farmers to tap into niche markets and increase their income," he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik Sitara-I-Imtiaz said, "As we stand at the crossroads of traditional practices and modern innovation, it is essential to explore diverse crops, sustainable farming techniques, and integrated approaches."

He said, "Collaboration between farmers, researchers, and policymakers is crucial to identify suitable crops, promote research and development, and create supportive policies that incentivize diversification efforts." He said let us work hand in hand to transform our agricultural sector. "By embracing diversification, we can create a resilient and sustainable future for ourselves and the generations to come," he added.

**South Korea to re-impose stock short-selling ban through June to 'level playing field'**

Commerce Desk

SEOUL: South Korea from Monday will re-impose a ban on short-selling shares at least until June to promote a "level playing field" for retail and institutional investors, financial authorities said on Sunday.

The ban was lifted in May 2021 for trades involving the shares of companies with large market capitalisation included in the KOSPI200 and KOSDAQ150 share price indices. The restriction has remained in place for most other stocks.

Short-selling involves selling borrowed shares to buy back at a lower price and pocket the difference.

"The measure is aimed at fundamentally easing 'the tilted playing field' between institutional and retail investors," Financial Services Commission (FSC) Chairman Kim Joo-hyun told a news briefing.

"Amid continued uncertainty in financial markets, major foreign investment banks have been engaged as a matter of practice in unfair trades...and we determined that it



would be impossible to maintain fair trading discipline," Kim said.

The FSC will review market activity in June to decide whether there is significant improvement to allow the ban to be lifted, he said. The regulator last week said it would establish a team of investigators to probe

short-selling by foreign investment banks for illegal activity including so-called naked short-selling.

Naked short-selling—in which an investor short-sells shares without first borrowing them or determining they can be borrowed—is banned in South Korea.

**Foreign remittances flow crucial to curb CAD amid lower FDI, weak export: BMP**

PNP

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports. He said that overseas Pakistanis living in Gulf should further be motivated to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contrib-

uted more than 60 percent of the total inflows during last couple of months.

FPCCI former president and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments but also in foreign debt repayments, suggesting the government to focus on structural reforms, which can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers.

**Employers demand immediate solution of economic issues**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Employers' Federation of Pakistan Industrialists representing Industrial Town Associations and Trade Associations deliberated and discussed the prevailing economic scenario and expressed their deep concern on its negative impact on employers and workers at the Consultative Session organized by Employers' Federation of Pakistan with the support of ILO on the economic crisis and its impact on industry. The emphasis and focus were on minimum wage, labor inspection, retrenchment of workers, industrial relations, enterprise sustainability, and social protection of workers.

Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General EFP, while moderating the session, gave an overview of the situation faced by workers and employers, asked participants to highlight the economic issues, and requested the 30 plus participants to suggest a pragmatic way forward.

Majid Aziz, Former President of EFP, who

chaired the meeting, said that Pakistan's dire economic, financial, and political situation has resulted in a serious challenge to the sustainability and stability of the country. He said that high inflation, supply chain disruption, back-breaking increases in the rates of gas and electricity, currency devaluation, declining exports and remittances, have all substantially increased the cost of production.

He advised all trade bodies to unite and raise a common voice instead of devoting their time, money and efforts in elections in their organizations and issuing negative statements. The absence of a strong national business leadership has created many mini leaders and has diluted the voice of the private sector.

Engineer M. A. Jabbar, VP of FPCCI, said the political instability is creating an anti-investment environment and both local and foreign investors are hesitant to make substantial investments because the policies, programs, taxation system, and infrastructure is not indus-



try friendly. Riazuddin, Former President SITE Association of Industry said that industry and indus-

trialization in the country are not the priority of political parties. There is no industrial policy and program to support the local industry.

Kalim Farooqi, Former President of Pakistan Japan Business Forum, advised industrialists to first get their own organizations in order and also called for collective action rather than each Association going solo. Khalid Riaz of SITE Association pointed out that the law and order situation is also an issue. SITE industries are paying for their own security, using their own energy and water.

Asif Zuberi, Chairman WEBCOP Sindh, agreed with the points and suggestions raised by the participants and said most of the suggestions are very important and the government needs to shift focus for the development of local industry.

Mr. Zuberi pointed out the need of a Social Contract between workers and employers and said a bilateral relationship based on respecting the rights of each other is the only solution to many problems raised by the participants, particularly about various worker welfare institutions.



# Bannu wins Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Men Badminton title

## Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Remained unbeaten Bannu clinched the trophy of the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Men Badminton Championship played at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex on Sunday. Muhammad Asfandyar Khan Khalil, Registrar/Treasurer University of Swabi graced the occasion as prize distribution ceremony. Director Sports and Organizing Secretary University of Swabi Iltaf Hussain, District Sports Officer Charsadda Muhammad Imran, players and officials were also present.

Bannu after securing victory against the strong Peshawar team in the League matches recorded victories against Hazara, Mardan and Swat as well and remained unbeaten in the League by winning the trophy. Bannu took first position, followed by Peshawar with a loss against Bannu secured victories against Hazara, Mardan and Swat took second position while Swat, lost matches against Peshawar and Bannu and victo-

ries against Hazara and Mardan got third position respectively. In the last league round match Swat beat Hazara by 3-0, as in the first singles Hanain Swat beat Ahmed Hazara by 2-0, the score was 21-19 and 21-18, Shahid of Swat beat Sami Hazara by 2-0, the score was 21-16 and 21-19, and in the doubles Hanain and Shahid beat Ahmad and Sami Hasnain by 2-0, the score was 21-19, 21-18. In the second match Mardan beat Hazara by 3-0, in the first singles Bilal (Mardan) beat Sami Hasnain (Hazara) by 2-0, the score was 21-18 and 21-16, in the doubles Bilal and Khalifan (Mardan) beat Hamza and Ahmad (Hazara) by 2-0, the score was 21-17, 21-16, in the second singles Faiz of Mardan beat Abdur Rehman of Hazara by 2-0, the score was 21-15 and 21-19. In the other match Afnan of Bannu beat Kilfan of Mardan by 2-0, the score was 23-21 and 21-19, Hamza and Afnan beat Bilal and Faiz of Mardan by 2-1, the score was 21-23, 23-21 and 21-19 and Fahad Bannu beat Falak of Mardan by 2-0, the score was 21-19 and 21-19.



All five Regions host Peshawar, Bannu, Swat, Mardan, and Hazara, took part in the League. A selection committee headed by Muhammad Nadeem Khan and Hayatullah monitored the performance of the players during the Provincial League would short-list a team to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the national league, for which date and venue would be announced later on by Director General Sports Higher Education Commission Javed Mehmood and other committee members. Muhammad Asfandyar Khan Khalil, Registrar/Treasurer University of Swabi was of the view that work should be

needed at the grassroots level for searching out talent and new faces and that talent hunt through open trials could be provided facilities of playing, diet, physical endurance under qualified coaches and above all provided them best equipment for playing. He thanked HEC for reposing confidence in University of Swabi and granted Men Badminton Championship to organize and involve players from all the five regions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said a team among them could be selected from the ongoing PM Talent Hunt Men Provincial League Badminton by the selection committee to represent KP in the National League. Hopefully a strong and good team out of the Provincial League would be selected by giving opportunities to the talented players on merit and merits only. At the end, the chief guest gave away trophies and cash prizes to the winners, runners-up and third position teams. He also hailed Director Sports University of Swabi and former international athlete Iltaf Hussain for his excellent organization.

# Afghanistan won the 5th Combaxx Asian Open Taekwondo Championship

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan won the fifth COMBAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship by winning 2 gold and 2 silver medals.

Pakistan came second with 2 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze medals, while the Kazakhstan team came third with 1 gold and 4 silver medals.

In the women's event of the championship, Kazakhstan came first with 4 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals, Great Britain came second with 1 gold and 2 silver medals whereas Iran came third with 1 gold and 1 silver medal.

In the prize distribution ceremony of the championship, the distinguished guests were the President of the Asian Taekwondo Union Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, Squash legend Jahangir Khan, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan



Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikaw, President of PTF. Colonel (retd) Waseem Janjua, Technical Delegate of the Championship Kook Hyun Jung, and CEO Umar Saeed distributed the prizes. Earlier, On the last day of the 5th COMBAXX Asian

Taekwondo Open Championship Kyorugi event, four different weight category competitions were held.

In the men's -58kg final, Kazakhstan's Zhavokhirkhon Islamov performed brilliantly and won the gold medal by defeating Lev Korneev of Serbia 2-1 in an interesting

match.

Muhammad Nadhim of Iraq won the bronze medal while Samikhon of Kazakhstan won the fourth bronze.

In the men's -80kg category finals, Korea's Geon-Woo Seo won 2-0 against Serbia's Rustam Odinaev to win Gold while Iraq's Saif Taher Habeeb won the bronze, while Pakistan's Mazhar Abbas won the fourth.

In the women's -62 kg category final, Serbia's Nadja Savkovic won gold with a 2-1 victory over Pakistan's Zoza Sabir, while Pakistan's Sara Rehman and Hajra Shakeel took bronze and fourth respectively.

In the women's +73 category final, Kazakhstan's Cansel Deniz won 2-0 against Pakistan's Manisha Ali. Pakistan's Hira Khan won bronze and Pakistan's Nuzrat Mumtaz won the fourth bronze medal.

# Virat Kohli equals Tendulkar's record of most ODI centuries

## A Sports

KOLKATA: India's batting maestro Virat Kohli on his 35th birthday equalled legendary Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record of most ODI centuries in the ICC World Cup 2023 fixture against South Africa.

Kohli conceded 119 deliveries to reach the record-equalling hundred, getting to the landmark in the 49th over of India's innings by working Kagiso Rabada's length delivery to cover for a single at the iconic Eden Gardens.

India's batting great Tendulkar took 451 innings to score his 49th ton while Virat Kohli achieved the feat in 277th innings in his 289th



match.

Notably, this was his 79th international century overall, taking a step closer to Sachin Tendulkar's record of 100 centuries across formats.

Furthermore, Virat Kohli has thus far scored two centuries in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 and is

the second leading run-scorer of the tournament behind South Africa's Quinton de Kock.

Kohli has thus far enjoyed a purple patch in this year's global event, where the right-handed batter averages more than hundred and has a strike rate of around 85.

He has also scored more than 500 runs in an ODI World Cup for the first time in his prolific career.

Virat Kohli's record century came in what has been a successful year for the star batter. He has scored more than thousand runs with the help of five tons in 2023, at an average of more than 70 and a strike rate of nearly 100.

It is the eighth time in Kohli's career that he has scored more than thousand ODI runs in a year, surpassing Tendulkar's record of seven.

Virat Kohli's unbeaten 101 turned out to be the centrepiece of tournament hosts India's 326/5 in their 50 overs.

# School Olympics games Season 3 to begin today



## Sports Desk

MULTAN: School Olympics games season three organized by School Education department, South Punjab would start tomorrow November 6 from Bahawalpur.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of South Punjab, Saqib Zafar, will inaugurate the games.

The opening ceremony will be held at Four Wall Stadium Bahawalpur in which hundreds of students from public and private schools will participate.

Over 2100 athletes were participating in the School Olympics games to win medals.

Provincial level teams from Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab were also participating in the games.

# PCB Management Committee gets three-month extension



## Sports Desk

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Saturday granted a three-month

extension to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee.

The tenure of 10-member PCB Management Committee led by Zaka Ashraf was due to end on November 5.

Zaka Ashraf-led PCB Management Committee was formed in July 2023 for a four-month period. The Caretaker Prime Minister, using his prerogative as Patron of PCB, has given a three-month extension.

# Lahore Lahore Aye Kabaddi Festival ends with Pakistan White winning the title



## Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Veteran international kabaddi star Musharraf Janjua's team Pakistan White defeated Pakistan Green team by a margin of 37-24 in a thrilling 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival Kabaddi Taakra title clash at Punjab Stadium on Sunday.

It is worth mentioning that Sports Board Punjab is holding sports events of 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, DSO Lahore Rana Nadeem Anjum, Secretary Punjab Kabaddi Association Tahir Waheed Jatt, Kabaddi World Cup winning captain Irfan Mana were also present on this occasion.

Dr Asif Tufail distributed shields among the technical officials and prizes among the participating kabaddi teams. The winning team was awarded a cheque of Rs 2 lakh while the runners up pocketed a cash prize of Rs one lakh.

Talking to media, Dr Asif Tufail said that 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival sports events are being staged for the promotion of sports culture among the youth of the province. "Kabaddi is our traditional game and most popular sport among the young generation of our province".

He said Sports Board Punjab and Sports Department are striving hard for the growth of sports among the youth as per the vision of Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi. "All the top position holder teams in 'Lahore Lahore Aye' Festival sports events are being given plenty of cash prizes".

He said that after the kabaddi event, the exciting taekwondo competitions will be conducted at NPSC Gymnasium Hall on Nov 7 and Rustam-e-Punjab Dhangal at Punjab Stadium on Nov 12.

# ITF Pakistan Juniors Leg-1: Main Draw matches to start on Monday

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The main draw matches of the ITF Pakistan Juniors Leg-1 Tennis Championships 2023 will start on Monday (November 5) at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad.

A Large number of junior tennis player boys and girls from, Pakistan, Turkey, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Japan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka are participating in the championships.

In the boys' singles final qualifying round, Nabeel Ali Qayum (PAK), Zaidh Zihar (SRI), Rayyan Khan (PAK) and Takuto Fuke (JPN) beat their opponents and moved into the main draw. The Opening Ceremony and the main draw matches will commence tomorrow Monday 6th November 2023.

Boys' Singles (Qualifying Round-II):

Nabeel Ali Qyum (PAK) beat Inam Qadir (PAK) 7-5, 6-0; Takuto Fuke (JPN) beat Abdullah Khan (PAK) 7-5, 6-2; Rayyan Khan (PAK) beat Mohammad Yahya (PAK) 6-1, 6-2; Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Mohammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) 6-3, 6-4

# TDCP finalizes Thal Desert Jeep rally's preparations

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) has finalized the preparations for conducting four-day Thal Desert Jeep Rally scheduled to be held from November 9-12.

Talking to APP, a TDCP official said that the rally would attract over 100 male and female drivers across the country.

The advisory had already been issued the drivers to facilitate them, he added.

He said the administration was utilizing all possible resources to ensure the success of the rally, adding that all stakeholders were working together to make the event a memorable experience for participants and spectators.

He said the rally would start from Changa Manga tail-head Muhammadwala and cover a distance of 200 kilometers through Layyah, Muzaffargarh, and Kot Addu. The middle section of the track is located in Chobara Tehsil Layyah (South Punjab area).

The official said, "A drivers/navigators conference and draws will be held on November 9."

He said that the rally would feature a qualifying round and races in 11 categories, including a stock category race, women's categories, and a bike race. Cultural fair and other programs would also be part of the event, he added.

# Haseebullah's ton in vain as Peshawar edge Multan to stay perfect in Pakistan Cup

## A Sports

LAHORE: Haseebullah's brilliant 116-run knock went in vain as Multan succumbed to a four-wicket defeat against Peshawar in the third round of the Pakistan Cup 2023/24.

After being put in to bat first by Peshawar, Multan scored 257-3 in the stipulated 45 overs. Haseebullah produced his sixth List A century, hitting 116 from 123 including 12 boundaries.

Zain Abbas (55, 75b, 6x4s) and Mohammad Shehzad (48, 51b, 2x4s, 1x6) added useful runs as well.

Right-arm pacer Abbas Afridi took two wickets, while off-spinner Sajid Khan claimed one wicket.

Adil Amin (74 not out, 64b, 7x4s, 1x6) was the top performer as Peshawar cruised to 258 in 43.5 overs with four wickets to spare.

Zain Khan (63, 83b, 5x4s, 2x6s) was the other contributor with the bat. Zahid Mehmood got a four-fer and Sharoon Siraj registered two wickets for Multan.

In another third-round Pakistan Cup fixture, Lahore Blues defeated FATA by seven wickets, on the back of a brilliant century by their skipper Imran Butt.

After winning the toss, Lahore Blues decided to bowl first against FATA at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium.

FATA scored 277-8 in the allotted 45 overs, on the backs of half-centuries produced by Samiullah Jnr (62, 64b, 9x4s) and

Mohammad Farooq (54, 50b, 6x4s, 2x6s).

Mohammad Nisar Afridi (41, 31b, 6x4s) was the other contributor with the bat.

Pacers Salman Irshad and Hunain Shah picked up two wickets, as did spinner Qasim Akram.

Lahore Blues skipper Imran Butt produced an outstanding century (128, 113b, 13x4s, 3x6s) that led the team to 281-3 in 41.5 overs.

Rizwan Hussain (83, 72b, 9x4s, 4x6s) and Ibtisam-ul-Haq (43, 46b, 4x4s) complemented their skipper's batting efforts, ensuring Lahore Blues got over the line with ease.

Maaz Khan and Khushdil Shah were the only two wicket-taking bowlers for FATA as both took one

wicket each.

In the 11th match of the ongoing Pakistan Cup, Rawalpindi chased the target of 202 against Lahore Whites in 35.1 overs with four wickets to spare.

After being put in to bat first, skipper Saad Nasim's unbeaten half-century led Lahore Whites to score 201-9 in the allotted 45 overs.

He hit 78 from 83 balls, including seven boundaries and two maximums. The second-best score of the innings came from Umar Akmal's bat, who produced 27 on 38 balls, including one boundary and two maximums.

Rawalpindi bowlers displayed an impressive collective performance; Kashif Ali grabbed three wickets while Mubasir Khan,

Bilawal Bhatti and Jahadad Khan got two wickets each.

Rawalpindi completed the target in 35.1 overs with four wickets to spare. Bilawal (69 not out, 51b, 9x4s, 2x6s) and wicket-keeper-batter Umair Masood (37 not out, 37, 3x4s) were involved in an undefeated 106-run stand for the seventh wicket. Skipper Umar Amin chipped in with 36 runs from 38 balls, including five boundaries.

Aamir Jamal was the most successful bowler for Lahore Whites, accounting for two wickets. Ahmed Bashir, Ahmed Daniyal, Kamran Afzal and Saad Nasim got a wicket apiece.

In the 12th match of the Pakistan Cup, Faisalabad defeated Karachi Whites by seven wickets,



courtesy of a solid batting effort by Mohammad Saleem and Atiq ur Rehman.

It took Faisalabad just 40 overs to get to their target of 255 against Karachi Whites at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

Mohammad Saleem (90 not out, 102b, 10x4s) and Atiq-ur-Rehman (74 not out, 64b, 9x4s, 1x6)

ensured that the game remained squarely in their control, maintaining a run-rate of 6.45 in the

chase. Danish Aziz took two wickets while Sohail Khan had one scalp to his name.

Earlier, Karachi Whites put up 254-8 in the allotted 45 overs. Danish Aziz (49, 63b, 4x4s, 1x6) and Azam Khan (40, 54b, 2x4s, 2x6s) were the top performers with the bat for the side.

Faheem Ashraf grabbed three wickets, while Mohammad Faizan had two wickets to his name.



## Awaiting assistance

APTOPIX Nepal Earthquake - A woman holds the lifeless body of her grandchild killed in earthquake in Jajarkot district, northwestern Nepal.



Photo: AP

# Thousands sleep under sky in Nepal after earthquake kills at least 157

## Spokesman Report

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Thousands of villagers in the mountains of northwestern Nepal slept outdoors Saturday night in the bitter cold after an earthquake killed at least 157 people and damaged or destroyed most homes.

Most of the houses in villages in Jajarkot district either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake Friday night, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged.

"We are waiting to cremate the bodies of our villagers and have been trying to take care of the people who were injured

in the earthquake," said Lal Bahadur Bika, a resident of Chiuri village, pointing to 13 bodies wrapped in white cloth awaiting cremation on Sunday morning.

Most houses in Chiuri village collapsed.

People used whatever they could find to set up shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

Most of those killed were crushed by debris when their houses — usually made by stacking rocks and logs — crumbled under the force of the earthquake, local media

reported.

While rescuers were scrambling to rush aid, operations were hampered by the fact that many of the mountainous villages could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear the blocked roads.

The government is trying to get aid to the affected areas, Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha said on Saturday. Tents, food and medicine were flown in as thousands became homeless overnight.

Local television aired footage of troops recovering bodies while others helped dig out and

carry the injured.

The US Geological Survey said the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 and occurred at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometers). Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center said its epicenter was in Jajarkot, which is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of the capital, Kathmandu.

In Jajarkot district, a mostly agricultural area, at least 105 people were confirmed dead while 52 were killed in the neighboring Rukum district, officials said. Another 184 were injured.

At the regional hospital in the city of Nepalgunj, more

than 100 beds were made available and teams of doctors stood by to help the injured.

Apart from rescue helicopters, small government and army planes able to land in the short mountain strips were also used to ferry the wounded to Nepalgunj.

The quake, which hit when many people were already asleep in their homes, was also felt in India's capital, New Delhi, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away.

Earthquakes are common in mountainous Nepal. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 killed some 9,000 people and damaged about 1 million structures.

# President directs State Life to pay insurance claim to nominees of deceased policyholder

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay death insurance claim worth Rs 300,000 along with profit to the family members of the deceased policyholder, who were not being paid the claim for almost three years. The President further asked State Life to form a panel of doctors for devising a policy on pre-insurance tests of proposed policyholders.

The President gave these directions while rejecting a

representation filed by SLICP against the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

Saad Taheer (the complainant) had alleged that his father had purchased a life insurance policy from the agency in 2013 for the sum assured of Rs 300,000/- with annual premium of Rs 18,406. His father died in 2020, and he filed the death insurance claim which was repudiated by SLICP on the ground that the deceased had a pre-insurance ailment of hepatitis-C, which he had deliberately hidden. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib which asked



SLICP to reconsider the matter and provide appropriate relief to the nominees of the deceased policyholder. SLICP, then, filed a representation with the President against the Mohtasib's

order.

The President, therefore, rejected State Life's representation and directed it to pay the insurance claim along with the accrued profit within 30 days

to the nominees. He further asked State Life to constitute a panel of doctors to advise it on a policy regarding pre-insurance medical tests. "This panel of doctors would suggest as to what are the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be included before issuance of the policy", he added. The President also advised that the company may devise a risk assessment about different diseases and modify premiums accordingly, if they want to issue policies to patients with mild and very prevalent diseases like diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis etc.

# Kashmiris to observe Jammu Martyrs' Day today

## Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over will observe the Jammu Martyrs' Day, tomorrow on Monday to reaffirm the resolve to continue the martyrs' mission till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were massacred by the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian army and Hindutva forces in different parts of Jammu region while they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947.

The APHC leaders and organizations in their statements in Srinagar, while paying tributes to the Jammu martyrs, said that their blood

would not go waste. They said that the martyrs of Jammu had laid down their lives for a sacred cause and their unprecedented sacrifices would not be forgotten. The leaders and organizations said that the heart-breaking genocide of the Muslims of Jammu in 1947 was one of the biggest tragedies in the world in which lacs of Muslims were killed. They said that the best way to pay homage to the martyrs was to continue their mission till it reached its logical conclusion. Meanwhile, pro-freedom organizations displayed posters in Srinagar and other parts of the territory, paying tributes to the victims of Jammu massacre. People have been asked to observe the Martyrs' Day, tomorrow, with full devotion.

# WFP chief urges for safe, expanded humanitarian access to Gaza as food runs out

## News Desk

CAIRO: The UN World Food Programme's Executive Director Cindy McCain issued an urgent plea on Sunday from the Rafah border crossing for safe, expanded humanitarian access to Gaza as humanitarian needs skyrocket and critical food supplies reach dangerously low levels.

Entry points into Gaza have been virtually sealed except through the Rafah border crossing point. While there has been a steady increase in aid entering Gaza, it is nowhere near enough to meet the exponentially growing needs.

Since the beginning of the current escalation of hostilities

in the Gaza Strip, the number of internally displaced people has reached 1.4 million, according to UN refugee agency UNICEF. Children and families have practically no access to water, food and medicines, and the whole Gaza Strip is living with very little or no electricity, the humanitarian agency reports.

"Right now, parents in Gaza do not know whether they can feed their children today and whether they will even survive to see tomorrow. The suffering just meters away is unfathomable standing on this side of the border," McCain said as she returned from the Rafah border crossing in Egypt.

"Today, I'm making an urgent plea for the millions of people

whose lives are being torn apart by this crisis," she added.

McCain is concluding a two-day visit to Egypt, during which she met with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and senior government officials and visited the Egyptian Red Crescent's humanitarian staging hub in Al-Arish.

"We appreciate all efforts to facilitate a steady flow of humanitarian supplies through its border with Gaza, and the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent is remarkable. We need to continue to work together to get safe and sustained access to Gaza at a scale that aligns with the catastrophic conditions facing families there," McCain noted.

# Lebanese PM calls for urgent Gaza ceasefire in Amman talks with Blinken



## News Desk

BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati called for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza when he met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Amman on Saturday.

Blinken, in turn, emphasized the importance of containing the conflict. "He stressed the importance of ensuring the Israel-Hamas conflict does not spread elsewhere," spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

The talks took place as the Israeli military said it had struck "two terrorist cells" and a Hezbollah post in response to fire from Lebanon.

It said it had also responded to mortar strikes from Lebanon into northern Israel, where no casualties were reported.

The latest skirmishes came a day after Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, warned in a televised speech that the war between Israel and Hamas could turn into a regional conflict.

After meeting with Mikati, Blinken said on X: "We must prevent the Israel-Hamas conflict from spreading to other regions."

He added: "Discussed with @Najib\_Mikati ways to keep that from happening and secure humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. We also discussed Lebanon's urgent need for a president."

Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Youssef Emil Raji, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, and Deputy Chief of Staff of the State Department Tom Sullivan attended the Blinken-Mikati meeting.

Mikati said that Lebanon remains fully committed to Resolution 1701.

He called for urgent efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and bring an end to the Israeli aggression.

Mikati also highlighted Israel's military strikes on southern Lebanon, which he said involved the use of internationally prohibited weapons that have destroyed towns.

He urged the international community to exert pressure on Israel to end its "daily encroachments and violations" of Lebanese land and sovereignty.

Mikati's second stop was Cairo, where he met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

# Warplanes strike Gaza refugee camp as Israel rejects US push for a pause in fighting

## News Desk

KHAN YOUNIS: Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 33 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strike came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite US appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.

The soaring death toll in Gaza has sparked growing international anger, with tens of thousands from Washington to Berlin taking to the streets Saturday to demand an immediate cease-fire.

The health ministry in Gaza Strip urged the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or Egypt on Sunday to ensure the safe exit of the wounded from the enclave.



"We call on the ICRC to provide a safe passage for the wounded, accompany them and ensure their safe arrival to the Rafah land crossing until they are discharged to hospitals in Egypt," the spokesman for the ministry of health, Ashraf Al-Qudra, said.

He said another option could be for Egypt to let Egyptian ambulances enter the Gaza Strip and transport the wounded from the enclave's hospitals to Egyptian hospitals "to ensure their safe exit".

# SC issues written order regarding general elections on Feb 8



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday issued a ten-page written order in cases seeking general elections in 90 days. The order said that the court facilitated the President and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in fixing the elections' date.

All parties agreed on the fixed date of elections on February 8, it said. The order said that the time has come that the courts should not unnecessarily become a part of disputes that waste time. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa wrote the decision. It stated that the ECP did not give any reply to the President's letter. It was not the authority of the SC to set the date of elections as per the constitution. If any institution interferes the constitutional limits of another, the consequences would be serious. The written order further said that the dispute between the President and the ECP was unnecessarily brought to the Supreme Court, adding that the court

did not interfere in the affairs of both institutions. It said that some people were worried that the elections might not take place. The president, chief election commissioner and the members are bound by the oath taken under the constitution, it said, adding that there is no excuse for a constitutional body or official not to be familiar with the constitution. The court stated that we must learn from history that violation of the constitution has a negative impact on the people and the country's geographical boundaries. The order said that Justice Mazhar Alam had left the decision. It stated that the ECP did not give any reply to the President's letter. It was not the authority of the SC to set the date of elections as per the constitution. If any institution interferes the constitutional limits of another, the consequences would be serious. The written order further said that the dispute between the President and the ECP was unnecessarily brought to the Supreme Court, adding that the court