



PM Chaudhry Anwar says November 6, darkest day in Kashmir's history

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that November 6 goes down in Kashmir's history as the darkest day. "More than two lakh Kashmiri Muslims were martyred in Jammu on this day by the activists of RSS and other Hindu extremist organizations...(Details on Page 3)



Pakistani scholars hail heroic character of Indonesian envoy

Education is a powerful catalyst for a nation's development, impacting economic growth, social well-being, and overall progress. Investing in education is essential for building a prosperous and inclusive society as it plays a crucial role in the development of a nation in several ways. It is often considered a cornerstone of social and economic progress. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding issues related to ICT, on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM orders strict action against drug dealers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered the police authorities to take strict action against the drug dealers supplying drugs and narcotics in and around the educational institutions. Chairing a meeting regarding issues related to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) here, he said protection of life and property of the citizens was the primary responsibility of the state. The meeting discussed in detail the ICT's administrative issues, law and order situation and anti-narcotics' issues. He also directed the concerned

authorities to take special measures for the protection of schools besides taking necessary steps on priority basis for the establishment of Dolphin Force in Islamabad. The meeting was briefed in detail about illegal encroachments, the development projects under Capital Development Authority, performance of the ICT Police and other issues. The prime minister ordered to immediately resolve the problems created by the showrooms established in various parts of the city to trade vehicles that cause problems of traffic and parking in the respective areas. A comprehensive plan of a Car City should be made at a suitable

location for the exhibition, auction and sale of vehicles in Islamabad, he instructed. PM Kakar also said that an effective strategy should be devised to reduce the traffic pressure in the city. The meeting was informed that 160 new buses would soon arrive in the city that would help making the public transport system in the city more effective. The prime minister directed that a central digital system should be made for registration of cars in all cities across the country including Islamabad. Fitness certificates should be issued for old vehicles based on the internationally accepted envi-

ronmental pollution standards, he said. He also directed to make the system of issuance of driving license more effective and transparent across the country. With respect to Margalla National Park, the prime minister said an indiscriminate operation should be conducted against illegal encroachment on Capital Development Authority lands including Margalla National Park. With respect to the law and order situation in the capital city, PM Kakar was told that during current year, crimes rate had reduced significantly. The prime minister directed to

divines an effective strategy to ensure protection of the citizens. The meeting was informed that the e-challan system had been fully implemented in Islamabad by using modern technology and safe city cameras. The meeting was attended by senior government officials including the caretaker interior minister. After the meeting, the prime minister wrote on X, formerly twitter that the sellers of narcotics were causing detriment to the future generation of the country. He said Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti would personally supervise the efforts to eradicate the use of narcotics at educational institutions.

Three terrorists killed, four soldiers martyred in Tirah operation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Security forces on Monday shot dead three terrorists and three others injured, while four soldiers also embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Tirah.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, the ISPR said four brave sons of soil: Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider (age: 43 years, resident of Islamabad), Naik Khushdil Khan (age: 31 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat), Naik Rafique Khan (age: 27 years, resident of District Charsadda), and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir (age: 33 years, resident of District Murree), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations, security forces carried out an operation in the general area Tirah in Khyber District Province on the reported presence of terrorists.

The military's media wing said that the sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

During the conduct of the operation, Pak Army troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell and three terrorists got injured.

"Security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism, and the sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

6,584 immigrants return Afghanistan in 24 hours

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Undocumented Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan as 6,584 returned to home in last 24 hours, authorities said. Thousands of immigrants, continuously leaving Pakistan from Chaman and Torkham border crossings with Afghanistan.



Mostly Afghan nationals staying in Pakistan as undocumented immigrants. Repatriation of the illegal Afghans through the Chaman and Torkham borders has been underway.

The authorities have established temporary transit camps for illegal immigrants in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. Hordes of Afghan immigrants crossed into Afghanistan on Sunday, while thousands present at Torkham border, waiting for their turn for entry in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the repatriation of foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan.

Pakistan's authorities after passing of the deadline of illegal immigrants stay in the country are facilitating safe exit of the foreign nationals. On Saturday 7,135 Afghan

citizens returned to Afghanistan from Torkham border crossing, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), earlier said in a statement.

Five more UNRWA staffers killed in strike across Gaza Strip

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Five more staffers of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) have been killed in Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours. "In the last 24 hours, [five] UNRWA colleagues were killed due to strikes in the North, Middle and South areas of the Gaza Strip," the UN agency said on X (formerly Twitter). According to a report issued by the UN agency, one staffer sustained serious injuries due to a strike that hit her home, wherein her husband and three children were killed. This brings the total number of confirmed UNRWA staffers killed to 88 and at least another 25 injured since the war began, the report added. The report further stated



that the confirmed number of UNRWA installations damaged since 7 October is 48. Israel has relentlessly bombarded the besieged Gaza Strip, leveling entire city blocks and killing thousands, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. In Gaza over 10,000 people, including women and children, have died since October 7, the Hamas-run health ministry reported. Almost 1.5 million people have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since 7 October. Nearly half (717,000) are sheltering in 149 UNRWA installations across all five governorates of Gaza, including in the north, the UN agency said.

Solangi assures all possible coop to Chinese enterprises

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi here on Monday said that as China-Pakistan cooperation was proceeding to greater depths, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding and cooperation on the areas of common interests. Delivering his speech at the launching ceremony of the report on ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor by All Pakistan China Enterprises Association and Pakistan China Institute, he said that the Ministry of Information and its associated organizations like Pakistan Television, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan were already engaged with their counterparts in a structured framework to enhance the media cooperation. Appreciating the Pakistan-China Institute for hosting such a timely



and important event, he said, "This event is important in the sense that it will highlight the significance and outstanding work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to the world". He said that the PCI's commitment to promotion of the sustainable endeavors of Chinese enterprises had been pivotal in enhancing the understanding of the public regarding the work of the Chinese enterprises. "Not even a day passes when we don't hear about development by Chinese enterprises on CPEC projects in the media", he said. The minister said that the professionalism and consistency through which Chinese enter-

prises continued work on CPEC despite a global pandemic when almost every project in the world had hit the snag, had been lauded by the governments of Pakistan and China as well as international media, which was flooded with stories regarding the resilience of a project of such magnitude. The minister noted that over 201-member companies of APCEA have so far, invested \$ 25 billion in Pakistan and employed over 85000 locals, which affirmed the notion of CPEC being a game-changer and demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative. He said in the report, he had also noted that Chinese enterprises had devised sustainable development strategies and have not only remained confined to brick and mortar projects like motorways and power plants, but have also contributed significantly to the empowerment of local communities in previously neglected areas like Thar in Sindh and Gwadar in Balochistan.

PML-N leader thinks PTI chief will not contest election

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Tanvir said PTI chief Imran Khan will likely not contest the upcoming general election. Speaking in ARY News programme "Khabar" the

PML-N leader said that he thinks Imran Khan will stay in jail during next elections. Rana Tanvir stated that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif wants a two-third majority in the upcoming election as it will be easy to make decisions when the ruling party has a clear majority in parliament.

PML-N supremo has planned to make amendments in the judicial system after coming into power as the country needs such amendments, Rana Tanvir added. He lambasted PPP saying that on one side they are complaining about no level playing field and also claimed that

Bilawal Bhutto will be the next Prime Minister of Pakistan. He wondered where will they get their votes from. It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) notified general elections on February 8, 2024. The notification said that in light of the Supreme Court's

order, the general elections will take place on February 8, 2024. The notification was issued by the ECP after, the Supreme Court declared February 8, 2024, as the date for holding general elections across the country after the ECP submitted the record of meeting with the president.

Pakistanis won't elect next PM from Lahore: Bilawal Bhutto

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Monday that Pakistan would not elect the next prime minister from Lahore. While addressing a press conference, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the local government (LG) by-polls results proved that people are supporting PPP from Sukkur to Karachi. He refuted the media reports about a telephonic conversation between Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and said that the media reports were old. He said that a contact was made between Sharif and



Zardari at the time of PML-N supremo's return to Pakistan. Bilawal said that PPP won't close doors for anyone. He claimed that February 8 would be the victory day for the People's Party. Commenting on the LG by-poll results, Bilawal asked opponents to stop launching criticism after the PPP's victory. He said that PPP will find a solution of water issue in Karachi soon. He criticised PML-N's demand for legal action against President Arif Alvi for dissolving the assemblies.

NPO international workshop

Improving agricultural productivity through mechanization

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan is organizing an international workshop on Improving Agricultural Productivity through Mechanization from 06-09 November, 2023. The opening ceremony was held in Lahore, at a local hotel. The said workshop will be attended by 19 overseas participants from 10 APO member countries, 07 local participants and sessions will be delivered by the international resource speakers from Japan, Thailand and Pakistan.

The main aim of this workshop is to promote understanding of the latest technologies and measures for mechanization in agriculture, policies and frameworks to support mecha-

nization on small farms. Farm mechanization is viewed as a package of technology to ensure timely field operations, increased productivity, reduced crop losses and improved quality of grain or product.

Mr Sikandar Mustafa, Chairman, Millat group of companies and Millat Tractors as Chief guest in his opening remarks on four Day International workshop improving agricultural productivity through mechanization appreciated the APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region. He further deliberated that it is time to revitalize our commitment and to strive to achieve APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific".

National Productivity Organization (NPO) is facilitating to complement and strengthen the Ministry's mandate through its

vision "Economically Productive and Globally Competitive Pakistan". NPO is solely responsible for Productivity & Quality enhancement in Pakistan.

Mr Toshinori Mitsunaga, program officer Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for their sincere efforts to continue Productivity Movement. He also appreciated the efforts of APO Country Director for his strong leadership and support; and NPO head for the keen interest. He also mentioned the APO & NPO team for their efforts for Productivity enhancement in the region. Mr. Mitsunaga, apprised the participants about the APO's Journey of success stories and major achievements in the region.

CEO NPO Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry thanked the

chief guest Chairman, Millat group of companies and APO Program officer for their presence and time. He welcomed all the participants, resource persons. He said that Vision of MoI&P is to "To Achieve Efficient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrial Development".

He said with an estimated 48 million hectares of arable land, there exists a sizeable potential for improving efficiencies, yield, and productivity of the agriculture sector with better farm equipment and machinery. The Government of Pakistan is committed to support this sector, with the hope that the country can increase yields and exports of primary crops, fruit and vegetables, poultry, and dairy products—and in doing so become an important supplier for the region. To achieve this objective, the government is encouraging increasing private-sector inter-



ventions, investment by offering several direct and indirect assistance programs.

INDIA prolonged air emergency levels must be addressed immediately

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: INDIA Prolonged air emergency levels must be addressed immediately

Reacting to the reports of air pollution level in Delhi remaining in "severe" category for over a week as toxic smog blankets the capital city of India, Ann Harrison, Amnesty International's Climate Advisor, said:

"The annual air emergency in Delhi is neither a

new problem, nor one that comes without warning. The government's repeated failure to protect people from exposure to hazardous air in Delhi and surrounding areas risk violating their human rights to life and health. The human cost of air pollution needs to be avoided at all costs.

"Climate change and air quality are inextricably linked as the same pollutants that cause climate change harm air quality - putting at risk people's rights to life and to

health, as well as the right to a healthy environment. Marginalised populations such as daily-wage labourers and those living in inadequate housing facilities and with reduced access to healthcare services are disproportionately impacted by pollution-related health risks.

"The government of India in collaboration with the respective state governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab need to

do much more to effectively operationalize their pollution action plan in order to adequately address such a severe public health crisis - one that endangers people's health and even their lives. "The issue is not limited to India as pollution levels in neighbouring countries are also rising with at least six cities from the sub-continent leading on the most polluted list globally.

"The international community must act and

support these countries to safeguard public health and human rights in the entire sub-continent, including by providing adequate finance for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage from high income countries, especially the G20 and high-income fossil fuel producers, particularly those with the greatest historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions which have greater obligations to provide finance."

Multan Police is fighting on the Front Foot Against Terrorists and Criminals: Sohail Chaudhary

Kiran Asim

Regional Police Officer and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Captain (Rtd) Multan Mohd Sohail Chaudhary Said Multan Police is fighting on the front foot against terrorists and criminals. RPO Multan after taking charge of his post on 30th January 2023 formulated an effective strategy regarding crime control administrative affairs and welfare.

Meeting regarding crime and administrative matters

Effective crime-meeting patrols and community policing were implemented to prevent crime in all districts of Multan region. Along with this, appropriate steps were taken to restore the confidence of the force and solve their problems and welfare, which reduced the distance between the force



and the officers and brought out a new spirit.

Multan Region Police, working day and night, traced 276 murders, 33 robberies, 14 kidnappings for ransom, 7 extortions, 5911 cases of theft, robbery, and kidnapping, in which about 1 billion 357 million 19 thousand

were recovered. Meanwhile, more than 4170 criminals wanted by the police were arrested.

A special campaign was launched to eradicate drugs and illicit arms. In which 5375 drug dealers were arrested and 2295 kg of hashish 82.240 kg of heroin

771 kg of cannabis 240.887 kg of ice 124 kg of opium 12.5 kg of poppy 178246 liters of alcohol while among illegal weapons 40 Kalashnikovs 293 guns 82 rifles 75 revolvers 21 carbines 7787 bullets fired.

Establishment of service counter 20 service counters were established across the region.

Establishment of protection center 3469 complaints received and four protection centers established across the region were redressed

Establishment of Covenant Centre 263 complaints received so far have been redressed and 5 Meesaq centers in Multan region has been set up.

Establishment of SIPS Police According to the vision of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, 13 SIPS police stations were established.

ADC SWL & Tehsil Chairman visits Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Kashmir Khan, Chairman Wana Tehsil Maulana Muhammad Saleh Wazir and Drug Inspector Sibghat Ullah Wazir visited Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana on Monday.

The distinguished guests inspected the various sections of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.

Duty Staff Officer Adam Khan Wazir gave a detailed briefing to the guests regarding the programs and issues of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan and Chairman Tehsil Wana Maulana Muhammad Saleh expressed satisfaction over the broadcast of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.

Drug peddler sentenced to nine years in prison

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS) in Attock on Monday sentenced nine-year imprisonment to an accused involved in a drug smuggling case. The accused Jamroz Khan - a resident of Fourmalli village was arrested by Rangoo Police during this year in the case registered under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997 after recovery of hashish from his custody. The additional Session Judge Attock Naeem Abbas after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of having drugs, subsequently awarded nine-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 80 thousand. During the proceedings, the public prosecutor for the state, argued that the accused was caught red-handed while smuggling the contraband and the evidence on record fully connected him with the commission of the offence. He maintained that the accused was charged for a heinous offence and he did not deserve any leniency.



Delegation of PPP AJK led by ex-Minister Information Sardar Abid Hussain Abid meets party President Ch Muhammad Yasin at his residence.

Wana police recovered 124 kg hashish, accused arrested



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the light of the special instructions of Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan and Regional Police Officer Dera Division Nasir Mehmood Satti, the police have tightened the crackdown against drug dealers.

According to the promises made by District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah Khan to the people, the series of anti-narcotics operations continues.

During the check, SHO Police Station Toi Khullah Inam Ullah Wazir along with Additional SHO Pehlwan Dottani and Niaz Wali took major action on the information of the special informant in the clean-up operation.

During the blockade, the police recovered 124 kgs of hashish from the secret boxes of Toyota Dala No. 2301G and arrested the accused, Gul Khan son of Abdul Ghaffar and registered a case under the Narcotics Act and handed him over while further investigation is going on.

DPO Farman Ullah Khan said that the strictest crackdown against drug dealers will continue, these operations will continue until Waziristan is cleared of the scourge of drugs.

DPO Farman Ullah said that we will not let our generation perish through this curse and indiscriminate actions against drug dealers will continue.

He said that drug dealers will not be spared under any circumstances and Waziristan will be cleansed from the scourge of drugs.

Muzaffarabad lab idle for over a year despite crores of rupees



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Due to the criminal negligence and indifference of the officials Industries and Commerce Department, the mobile lab purchased for checking the adulteration of petrol, diesel, oil and gas in Azad Kashmir has been standing idle for a year.

This lab worth crores of rupees is not benefiting the citizens while the citizens are sending requests to the higher authorities every day for checking non-food items, lack of measurement and adulteration of petroleum products. It is a pity that no one is taking notice of these matters even though there is a lab. The department has appointed a junior clerk as the inspector of weights and measures who can neither take any diploma from the any lab institution nor does he have any knowledge and experience about it.

The authorities are demanded to check the non-food items, cosmetics, petroleum products sold in the markets by using this mobile lab and take action against those selling substandard items.

PM Chaudhry Anwar says November 6, darkest day in Kashmir's history

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that November 6 goes down in Kashmir's history as the darkest day.

"More than two lakh Kashmiri Muslims were martyred in Jammu on this day by the activists of RSS and other Hindu extremist organizations who were aided and abetted by Maharaja Hari Singh and his administration", the PM said.

Commenting on the horrible incidents of bloodshed and violence that shook the entire region, the AJK premier said that the massacre of Kashmiri Muslims was a deep rooted conspiracy to turn the Muslim majority



into a minority.

Paying homage to the hundreds and thousands of martyrs who fell to the contrived machinations and ill plans of the Maharaja on the fateful day, the PM said that the martyrs' day was being observed on both sides of the LoC with a renewed commitment to fulfill the mission of martyrs.

He said that Kashmiris have made immense sacri-

fices for the ideology that led to the creation of Pakistan.

He said that this struggle of sacrifices that started decades ago was still going on in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the Indian army was involved in serious violations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

Terming occupied Kashmir as the world's largest militarized zone, he said, nine

lakh Indian troops deployed in the region have unleashed reign of terror by usurping the political, social and religious rights of the Kashmiri people.

He said that the Indian Army was hell bent on changing the ratio of the population in Occupied Kashmir.

He, however, maintained that the Indian government won't succeed in its nefarious designs.

He said that Kashmiris have made eternal sacrifices for the accession of Pakistan.

Referring to Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan, he said that the green flag hoisted in Occupied Kashmir was a reflection of their love for the state of Pakistan.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:06 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:34 pm
Maghrib 5:12 pm
Isha 6:36 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116

ICCI calls for immediate halt to genocide of Palestinians by Israeli

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation met with H. E. Ahmed Jawad A. A. Rabaei during a visit to Palestine Embassy and showed solidarity with the Palestinian people. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presented a cheque of Rs.2.0 million on behalf of ICCI as a token of support for the people of Gaza who have been destroyed by the Israeli bombardment.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the business community and the Pakistani nation is very concerned over the cruelties being committed by the Israeli forces against the innocent Palestinian. He said the whole Muslim

Ummah is standing along with the people of Palestine and urged that the Muslim rulers and the international community should make collective efforts to protect the Palestinians from the brutalities of Israel.

H. E. Ahmed Jawad A. A. Rabaei briefed the ICCI delegation about the details of casualties and destruction committed by Israel against the Palestinians. He said that about 10,000 Palestinians have been martyred so far by the Israeli forces in Gaza and other places out of which 80 percent are children and women. He said that out of a total 35 hospitals, 11 hospitals have been destroyed and Israeli forces are threatening Palestinians to evacuate the rest of the hospitals otherwise, they would also be killed. He termed it a brutal genocide of innocent Palestinians, which needs to be stopped by the world powers. He thanked

the ICCI delegation for showing solidarity with the Palestinians in this difficult time.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Israel's actions violate international humanitarian and human rights law and constitute war crimes as well as crimes against humanity. He stressed that the world community should play a role to stop Israel from these war crimes.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI called for an immediate ceasefire; an end to the siege of Gaza; and the facilitation of humanitarian corridors for unrestricted relief supplies to the affected Palestinians.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that the core issue behind the current war is the failure to implement the two-state solution. He stressed that the UN and other stakeholders should ensure an inde-



pendent and sovereign state of Palestine to end this conflict once for all.
ICCI Executive Members

including Maqsood Tabish, Hamayun Kabir, Aamir Hussain, Muhammad Rizwan Chheena, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Malik Jilil Ahmed Awan, Dr. Muhammad Usman, Khalid Mehmood and others were in the ICCI delegation.

Unity Foods Limited and Pakistan Environment Trust join Forces



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Unity Foods Limited (UFL) and its affiliated companies have embarked on a transformative journey towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future. In a landmark initiative, UFL has teamed up with the Pakistan Environment Trust (PET) to commit to achieving Net Zero emissions by the year 2050, solidifying their dedication to combat climate change and reduce their carbon footprint.

UFL and PET have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that encompasses a multi-faceted strategy to decarbonize their operations and foster responsible environmental practices. The strategy includes conducting a Comprehensive Emission Assessment to conduct a thorough evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all three scopes—Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3. This in-depth assessment will serve as the cornerstone of the decarbonization strategy, providing a clear and data-driven perspective on the carbon footprint.

The alliance between UFL and PET also extends to a steadfast commitment to Science-Based Targets (SBTi). By aligning their goals with the latest scientific recommendations and industry standards, UFL and PET aim to ensure that their decarbonization efforts are not only ambitious but also grounded in validated methodologies. Further, by embracing the SBTi framework, UFL and PET are laying the groundwork for consistent investments in decarbonization measures.

Golden flower

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the seasonal flowers on green belt along the Margalla Road, which increases the beauty of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Fostering Stronger Ties Between Pakistan and Spain Through Knowledge Exchange

City Desk

KARACHI: LUMS and IE University Spain formalised a Memorandum of Understanding, marking the initiation of a collaboration in the field of education. The high-level delegation was headed by H. E. Jose Antonio De Ory, the Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, accompanied by Dr. Manuel Muniz, Provost IE University, Dr. Angeles Figueroa, Executive Director for Partnerships and Mr. Jalal Salahudin, Honorary Consul of Spain for Punjab. They were welcomed by LUMS leadership including Mr. Shahid Hussain, Rector and Dr. Tariq Jadoon, Acting Vice Chancellor and Provost.

The MoU between LUMS and IE University aims to open avenues of collaboration for knowledge exchange. Dr. Muniz mentioned that IE University is currently undergoing a significant expansion and thus, opening doors to a number of collaborative opportunities including a possible exchange between the faculties of LUMS and IE University.

Reflecting on the collaboration, he further shared, "In the years to come, we will work together on joint research initia-



tives, visiting students, and visiting faculty programmes, among other projects. Special thanks are due to H. E. Jose Antonio de Ory, for making this possible."

Established as a teaching institute, IE University has evolved over the years into a comprehensive university with five schools and an increased focus on research. The University supports inclusivity and diversity and welcomes students from all over the world as demonstrated by 83 % international students. Dr. Muniz highlighted that Spanish is not mandatory to get into IE University. However, it is a requirement at the time of graduation, thus provid-

ing ample time for the students to learn the language. Dr. Figueroa added that IE University has a flexible learning system, tailored according to every individual student's needs.

Dr. Jadoon shared, "We extend our sincere gratitude to H. E. Jose Antonio De Ory for introducing IE University as a potential partner. The shared values and objectives between our institutions will ensure success of our initiative. We eagerly anticipate future collaborations, encompassing joint research and exchanges involving students and faculty. These will undoubtedly foster stronger ties between Pakistan and Spain."

Punjab folk night held at Lok Mela 2023



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Folk Night was organized in Lok Mela Islamabad in which traditional songs of Punjab were presented. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed participated in the folk night as chief guest. Nayyar Ali and Suleman Sunny performed the host duties in the Punjab Folk Night. Afshan Zebe, Nooran Lal, Aslam Lohar, Sain Riaz, Bashir Lohar, Shaukat Dholi, Rizwana Khan, Muhammad Hamza, Dr. Nagina and Shaukat Khan Simi Folk Dance Group performed in the musical night. Speaking at the event, Chief Guest Director Waqar Ahmed said that the folk songs of Punjab have their unique place in the culture of the entire country, in which the traditions, simplicity and sincere love of the people of Punjab are hidden. The artists of Punjab have preserved their folk songs, their tunes and unique accents in a rich way and are benefiting today young generation as well. Deputy Director Muhammad Shakur said that the Punjab Arts

Council is also playing a significant role in promoting the culture of other provinces and federal units and regular planning has been done. During the Lok Mela, the citizens expressed special interest in the Punjab Pavilion. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Muhammad Sulaiman said that it is the honor of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi to present the culture of the entire Punjab in the Lok Mela and this was possible only with the hard work of the officers and officials. Hundreds of people from twin cities participated in Punjab Folk night.

Aga Khan University faculty listed Stanford University's 2023 Global Scientist Ranking

City Desk

KARACHI: Two faculty members from the Aga Khan University, AKU, have been ranked among the world's top scientists for 2023 by Stanford University. A staggering 187 scientists hailing from Pakistan, representing diverse fields of specialization were also featured in the list. AKU Professor Zulfiqar A. Bhutta has claimed the top position amongst the Pakistani scientists, solidifying his reputation as a world-class authority in his field. Joining him in this lineup is Dr Salim Virani who secured a remarkable ninth place, alongside 17 other distinguished scientists from the AKU fraternity.

Dr Zulfiqar A. Bhutta is a distinguished university professor at AKU and the Founding Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development and the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at the university. Dr Salim Virani, on the other hand, serves as the Vice-Provost (Global Research) and Nizar E. Noor Mohammed Mewawalla Endowed Professorship at AKU, adding to the university's ever-growing list of accomplishments. Notably, Dr Virani's medical journey began at AKU, where he graduated with the Best Medical Graduate Award.



Less than 20% of Pakistan's issues find a spot in party manifestoes: PIDE

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestoes amongst three mainstream political parties - Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)—that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures. The aim was to evaluate if the manifestoes have any substance and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any homework for the future.

In this regard, PIDE has been proposing reforms in various dimensions for quite a long time. These targeted reform proposals are based on years of research and evidence and are in line with the global best practices. So, PIDE has picked 18 key issues/sectors

that it thinks are fundamental. These include: local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and internet. Each indicator has a maximum of 100 score. PPP scored zero in 17 indicators, PTI in 13 and PML-N in 12.

Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20%, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20% of the key economic and policy issues of Pakistan. Further dissecting the figure 20% tells us out of the country's key issues, only 12% of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7% in the PPP manifesto and 1.5% in PTI.

This demonstrates that manifestoes don't have any substance at large on key issues of the nation.

This means that political parties don't have any concrete blueprint to work on

if they come into power.

The lack of substance in manifestoes leads to a myopic approach to governance, ad-hocism and serving vested interests only, without any regard for doing something for the long-term development of the country.

For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property tax regime to serve as the primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, this point had been given a 25 score.

How did PIDE arrive at such a score? PIDE summarized its proposals in four points for each theme, having equal weightage for each point i.e. 25%, making it 100% for all four points. It then compared it with what each political party proposes against the same theme. If the manifestoes propose one of the points that PIDE proposes then the score will be 25/100 and if their proposals include all that PIDE

proposes, then that manifesto will get full marks i.e. 100/100. It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform intervention, not mere promises, slogans and sweeping statements.

Besides, the Institute, in another research product, has also compared if there is any convergence between what is mentioned in manifestoes and the digital narratives by the party leaders. The stark disparity between pre-election promises and the reality of online discourse in the post-election landscape, as unveiled by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), reveals a critical disconnect. PIDE's analysis reveals a concerning neglect of fundamental issues like economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, healthcare, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights on digital narratives by party leaders, which are pivotal for the country's progress.

Twitter, identified as a significant influencer in shaping political conversations, remains largely underutilized in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges. Leveraging Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) to analyze aforementioned party leaders' tweets from 2018-2022, PIDE found no convergence between the vision chalked out in manifestoes and the propagation or discourse on Twitter.

The comprehensive analysis shed light on a worrying trend in the online discourse of opposition leaders:

PPP and PML-N leadership focused mostly on family legacies and political conflicts

PTI's leader's discussions primarily revolved around Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir overshadowing other essential national concerns

This underlines the lack of focus as well as commitment from the country's top political leadership.

PIDE's call for realigning political

discourse with manifesto commitments echoes the urgency for leaders to prioritize substantive policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Manifestoes shouldn't remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, providing a clear roadmap for governing parties and feasible policy alternatives for the opposition.

The institute stresses the need to shift conversations from personal grievances, familial legacies and political mudslinging to tangible policy matters, urging leaders to re-center discussions and leverage social media tools like Twitter for more focused, relevant, and policy-based communication, to address the perpetual challenges faced by Pakistan.

Both research products i.e. "Manifestoes without Substance" and "Digital Dialogues vs Paper Promises: Manifesto Alignment" in the form of knowledge briefs can be assessed on the PIDE's website (www.pide.org.pk).

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Armed forces' Vow to Protect Motherland - I

Once more, the valiant armed forces of Pakistan have demonstrated unwavering resolve, unyielding commitment, and unflinching determination to eradicate every manifestation of terrorism and extremism from our homeland.

In the pursuit of this noble mission, our fourteen courageous and highly skilled soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in Pasho. Their convoy fell victim to a treacherous ambush by those cowardly and heartless terrorists and extremists who, despite their Pakistani origins, are evidently manipulated and puppeteered by sinister masterminds based not within our borders, but in India, Afghanistan, and possibly beyond.

Yet in another unyielding display of courage and professionalism, our soldiers thwarted a meticulously coordinated terrorist assault, including a suicide attack on Airforce base in Mianwali. The Pakistan Air Force, with remarkable operational readiness, bravery, skill, and expertise, not only repelled the attackers but also safeguarded our invaluable air force assets. In a resolute response to this heinous act, all nine terrorists behind the attack met their deserved fate.

In fact, our valiant armed forces have been proving their mettle since the inception of Pakistan. They liberated a significant portion of Jammu and Kashmir from the oppressive grip of India. Today, the liberated Kashmiris lead lives free from fear, intimidation, abductions, and

extrajudicial killings, a stark contrast to the hardships endured by their counterparts in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The mettle and unwavering professional competence of our armed forces faced yet another formidable test when the Soviet Union, having conquered Afghanistan, loomed on Pakistan's borders, endangering our safety and security in pursuit of warm waters. The USSR was not only defeated but was shattered to pieces.

Our armed forces stood resolute once more as the region transformed into a focal point of international security dynamics, particularly in the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11. Just as the USSR had previously occupied Afghanistan, this superpower, too, threatened the very essence of our country's safety and security.

Within this intricate web of political and security dynamics, other powers, unfriendly to Pakistan, especially India, seized the opportunity to consolidate its presence in Afghanistan and extend its influence far and wide within Pakistan, employing a combination of kinetic and soft power tactics. The ensuing acts of terrorism martyred our over 70,000 civilians and security personnel and inflicted material losses of over US\$ 50 billion.

India, using Afghanistan as a base, especially penetrated deep into Balochistan. It employed an insidious propaganda machine to cultivate toxicity in the minds of the Baloch people, propagating a distorted narrative that falsely portrayed the Pakistani government as an exploitative force and sowed seeds of discord and disillusionment among the Baloch population, instilling the misguided belief that the federal government was plundering the wealth of Balochistan while deliberately stunting the province's development, leaving its people impoverished.

It also lured the disgruntled elements in Balochistan to seek false refuge in Afghanistan by concocting unfounded allegations of persecution and aggression by Pakistan's security forces. Inside Afghanistan, they underwent a process of militarization and indoctrination, and were trained with modern and lethal weaponry.

Consequently, these individuals were reintroduced into Pakistan with clear-cut objectives, which include thwarting and sabotaging Pakistan's endeavors to develop Gwadar as a global maritime trade hub. They aim to impede the construction of an extensive network of educational institutions across the province and hinder the creation of an extensive road and highway infrastructure. Their

agenda was to disrupt the provision of affordable electricity, gas, and other utilities, while also working to impede efforts to bolster the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Balochistan. Above all, they sought to obstruct the unlocking of the hidden treasures of Balochistan, with the ultimate goal of undermining the prosperity and affluence of its people. Simultaneously, this elaborate strategy sought to thwart the armed forces' endeavors to integrate Baloch youth into their ranks.

As the adversaries of our beloved nation had been plotting against the very core of our existence, our resolute security apparatus had been quietly pursuing its well-considered strategy.

Operating in a realm of discreet and prudent actions, they were able to turn the tide which finally compelled the coalition members of the foreign forces, one by one, to commence their exit from Afghanistan. They witnessed the Afghan government allies flee the country in haste, followed by a humiliating evacuation by the USA in 2021 and its forces along with all Indian agents who hastily retreated from Afghanistan, leaving behind their physical and human assets.

This staggering humiliation and resounding defeat dealt a severe blow to India's pride, resulting not only in the loss of a safe haven for insurgents targeting Pakistan but also in the depletion of its human assets within our borders.

To be continued



Qamar Bashir

First BRI conference on sci-tech exchange held in Chongqing, China

The first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange started on Monday, and analysts said China will continue to attach importance to international cooperation on innovation exchanges, and let tech advances benefit more countries and people in the world. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference, which is taking place in Southwest China's Chongqing city from Monday to Tuesday.

Analysts noted that the conference sends a strong signal that China is a major advocate and practitioner of free trade and the country will continue to contribute Chinese wisdom to global sci-tech advances. The first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange will showcase more than 80 instances of cooperation in the sci-tech sector. The conference will focus on inter-governmental tech cooperation, people-to-people exchanges, and industrial innovation and development. This year marks the 10th anniversary of BRI. In the past decade, the mechanism of scientific and tech cooperation has been deepened, exchanges of researchers have been more frequent, and the achievements of scientific and technological cooperation have been increasingly fruitful. Zhang Guangjun, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, said on October 30. "The BRI made significant attainments over the past 10 years and has greatly aroused the enthusiasm of developing countries to join the initiative. As the high-quality development of the BRI enters a new stage, there are growing expectations among BRI partner countries to increase tech cooperation with China in order to boost their own development in smart manufacturing and the digital economy," Song Wei, a professor at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times on Monday. China and BRI partner countries should seize the opportunity to jointly find answers to challenges faced by the world, said Song, noting that China's rise in technology and innovation capability is a prerequisite for promoting technology cooperation with BRI partner countries. Song said that China and BRI partners could increase institutional support for cross-border technology cooperation, such as through setting up innovation bases. As a responsible emerging economy, China is boosting international science and tech cooperation with an open and inclusive attitude, in line with the trend of the times, Bao Jianyun, director of the Center for International Political Economy Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Monday. "The BRI is a public platform for the world to enhance cooperation and will provide new opportunities for tech advances," Bao said. China has signed intergovernmental agreements on science and technology cooperation with more than 80 BRI partners, jointly building an all-dimensional, multi-tiered and wide-ranging pattern of tech cooperation, said Zhang. A series of conferences facilitating exchanges in science and technology were held under the framework of the BRI. As one of the latest examples, the Belt and Road International Science Seminar held on October 21 gathered more than 100 representatives of scientific research, education and communication from 11 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Romania, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology. Bao said that China's move is in stark contrast to the US-led Western world's "small yard, high fence" approach to wall itself off from global cooperation. The first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange sends a strong signal that China is a major advocate of free trade and will contribute China's wisdom for global science and tech cooperation, Bao said.



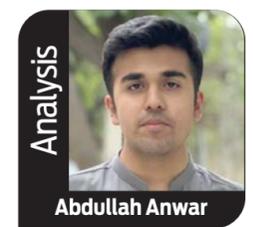
Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Azcat)

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

Moreover, we will talk about the social consequences of inflation: at first, inflation can exacerbate income inequality. Those with fixed or low incomes, such as pensioners and low-wage workers, may struggle to keep pace with rising prices, while those with assets that appreciate during inflation, like real estate or stocks, may see their wealth increase. Hence, inflation can push more people into poverty, especially if wages do not rise commensurately with rising living costs. Vulnerable populations are often hit the hardest. Most importantly, high inflation can strain public services like education and healthcare, making it more challenging for governments to provide essential services to their citizens.

Ultimately we will see the political consequences due to inflation: the first thing that is most likely to take place is public dissatisfaction which when inflation erodes purchasing power and living standards, can lead to public dissatisfaction and protests. Governments may face increased pressure to address inflationary concerns. Furthermore, managing inflation can be politically challenging. Tough measures to control inflation, such as raising interest rates or reducing government spending, can be unpopu-

lar but may be necessary to curb rising prices. Above all, persistent inflation can contribute to macroeconomic instability, affecting the overall economic environment and investor confidence. Understanding these consequences of inflation is crucial for policymakers in Pakistan to implement effective measures that strike a balance between economic growth and price stabil-



Abdullah Anwar

ity. Managing inflation is not only an economic imperative but also a key factor in ensuring social and political stability in the country.

Carrying forward from the last paragraph it is essential to manage inflation and it can be accomplished by effective policymaking as it can manage inflation, maintain economic stability, and enhance the well-being of the population. The most essential policies are the monetary policies for example the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) should adopt a vigilant monetary policy stance. Utilizing interest rates as a tool

to control money supply growth and inflation is imperative. When inflationary pressures emerge, the SBP should consider raising interest rates to reduce borrowing and curb demand, thus mitigating inflation. Effective management of exchange rates is pivotal. The central bank should aim for exchange rate stability to minimize the impact of currency depreciation on imported inflation. Timely intervention in the foreign exchange market may be necessary to achieve this stability.

Fiscal policies are principal as well such as the government should prioritize addressing budget deficits by focusing on revenue generation and adopting prudent fiscal management practices. Reducing the need for borrowing to finance deficits can help contain money supply growth and, consequently, inflation. While subsidies can serve as a short-term measure to alleviate the impact of rising prices on consumers, they should be targeted, efficiently managed, and periodically reviewed to minimize their fiscal burden. Gradual subsidy reform can help ensure fiscal sustainability. With fiscal policies supply-side policies are important too, for instance, infrastructure investment including transportation and logistics, should be a priority.

To be continued

Who is to enforce the Vagrancy Ordinance 1958?

In Pakistan due to beggars, every citizen is being affected. These professional individuals have adopted begging as a profession, even though there are lawful means for earning a living. Instead of doing labor, if people choose other ways, like begging, there are laws in place to address their misconduct. These laws are in place to discourage people from begging and encourage them to work through legitimate means so that they can become responsible citizens. For beggars, there is the West Pakistan Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958, in place.

Begging is increasing day by day in Pakistan. Professional beggars have even applied for visas from abroad with the intention of begging. Some members of a gang of former beggars have been arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). This gang included both men and women.

In the big and small cities and villages of Punjab, there are also people who have taken up begging as a profession, even though laws exist. Despite this, the administration and the police seem to have turned a blind eye. Under the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958, cases of begging can be filed.

The power of a police officer to arrest, search, and seize items from vagrants is governed by Section 7, Subsection (1) of this law. According to this subsection, any police officer, without a warrant from a magistrate, can arrest or search a person who appears to be a vagrant and may seize any item in their possession or any other item liable to confiscation under this law.

Sentence for Vagrancy: If it is proven that a person is a vagrant, they can be sentenced to up to 3 years in prison. However, if such a person has not been previously convicted under this law, the magistrate can choose to issue a warning instead of a prison sentence. If the vagrant is a child, a guardian or a personal surety may

be taken by the magistrate after instructing that they should not beg anymore.

The West Pakistan Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958, was a piece of legislation enacted in the region of West Pakistan, which later became part of Pakistan. The primary objective of this ordinance was to address the issue of vagrancy, defined as individuals who engaged in activities such as receiving alms in a public place or allowing themselves to be used as an exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms.

It also included those who entered private premises without the invitation of the occupier for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms.

The purpose of the ordinance was to regulate and control such behaviors to maintain public order and ensure the safety and security of private property. Vagrancy ordinances like this were common in various parts of the world as a means to address the challenges posed by individuals who depended on begging for their livelihood or engaged in other disruptive behaviors in public spaces.

The user's statement indicates that, at the time of their last update, the administration had failed to effectively ensure the enforcement of the Vagrancy Ordinance in West Pakistan. The Chief Secretary of Punjab had issued an order, but the provided text does not offer specific details about the nature of the order or its potential impact on the enforcement of the ordinance.

Efforts to address vagrancy ordinances often involve a balance between maintaining public order and the welfare of individuals engaged in such activities. Enforcement and the effectiveness of such measures can be complex and may require ongoing scrutiny and adaptation

to address the issue appropriately.

The task of apprehending beggars is squarely placed on the shoulders of the police force, primarily because begging is regarded as a criminal offense in many jurisdictions. In light of this, it becomes the responsibility of the police hierarchy, with the Inspector General of Police (IGP) at the helm, to ensure that their officers take resolute action against beggars.

Professional beggars, who engage in begging as a consistent source of income, often lead a lifestyle that extends beyond what might be expected. These peoples may possess their own homes, vehicles, and maintain bank balances. This financial independence raises concerns about the exploitation of sympathy and generosity in the name of begging.

To address this issue, it becomes imperative to enforce strict measures against professional beggars. By doing so, not only can the criminal act of begging be curtailed, but the underlying factors that contribute to this behavior can also be addressed, such as the need for social support, rehabilitation, or vocational training to transition individuals away from a life of begging. The police play a crucial role in maintaining law and order in society, and addressing vagrancy is an important aspect of that responsibility.

In every market, colony, and road of Multan city, you can see beggar women and men who openly violate the Vagrancy Ordinance. Police officers seem to be preoccupied with their own interests. Regional Police Officer (RPO) of Multan should instruct their Station House Officers (SHOs) to study the Vagrancy Ordinance 1958 within their jurisdiction.



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

IS A True Friend of Pakistan

Pakistani scholars hail heroic character of Indonesian envoy



Naveed Ahmad Khan

Education is a powerful catalyst for a nation's development, impacting economic growth, social well-being, and overall progress. Investing in education is essential for building a prosperous and inclusive society as it plays a crucial role in the development of a nation in several ways. It is often considered a cornerstone of social and economic progress. Considering the importance of education and advancing brotherly bilateral relationships with Pakistan, The Republic of Indonesia opted for an inimitable approach by offering fully funded scholarships to Pakistani youth in top-class universities of Indonesia.

Beasiswa Kemitraan Negara Berkembang, popularly known as KNB Scholarship, is a prestigious scholarship program offered by the government of the Republic of Indonesia to selected applicants originating from developing countries managed by the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. From 97 various countries across the globe, a total of 1,608 students have secured scholarships since 2006. The scholarship is central to supporting Indonesian higher education institutions in their striving for internationalization. The scholarship program is expanding every year by making new partnerships with reputable public and private



universities in the country. Amongst the scholarship holders from all over the world, Pakistani students have significant participation. About 300 Pakistani students qualified for Indonesian scholarships after fulfilling the laid down criteria in 2023 for different degree programs of Bachelor, Master, and Ph. D. levels in various top-ranked Indonesian universities. The unique point of Indonesian scholarship is enrollment options in public as well as private sector universities while many other countries including China offer admissions on scholarship only in public sector universities to the students. Indonesian ambassador

to Pakistan, H. E. Adam M. Tugio is playing a pivotal role in enabling Pakistani talented students to secure scholarship opportunities to pursue higher education in Indonesia. The scholarship holders of the year 2023 are thankful to the Indonesian envoy for his keen interest, kindness, and support during the application and selection process. The students are enrolled in top-ranked universities in Indonesia which have better rankings than Pakistani universities on the global index. These Pakistani students are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Interior Punjab, Malakand, and Swat areas. The scholarship includes a 100% tuition fee and stipend

coverage. Amongst the many Pakistani students in Indonesia, Mr. Amjad Jabbar Bughio from Dadu, Sindh has secured admission on scholarship in the Bachelor of Digital Business program at Politeknik Piki Ganesha Indonesia University in Bandung city. Mr. Danish Burhan Turk and Sher Gul Bughio from Karachi have secured admission to the Information system program on a fully funded scholarship. Mr. Danish from Islamabad got admission on scholarship to a master's degree program at Telkom University of Indonesia on KNB program 2023. Mr. Osman from Islamabad is enrolled in a master's degree program at the University of ITB in Bandung. Another student Mr. Aqib has completed a

master's program on scholarship and currently, he is enrolled in a Ph. D. program on a fully-funded scholarship program in Indonesia. Ms. Saba, Ms. Zunaira Javed from Lahore, and Ms. Sana (mother of two kids) from Multan are young female Pakistani scholars enrolled in various Indonesian universities and availing of fully funded scholarships. They are highly satisfied with the hospitality of host institutes. There are many other Pakistani students in various Indonesian universities with a ratio of 30% females and 70% males. The Indonesian government provides a conducive learning environment to Pakistani scholars. The government of Indonesia, the Ministry of Education, and the Indonesian embassy

jointly devised a friendly system for Pakistani students to access any concerned office for assistance. Additionally, the embassy has deputed a liaison officer to keep active contact with Pakistani students and resolve their issues on priority if they arise. The embassy website remains updated with the latest information for students and new applicants who are seeking scholarship opportunities in Indonesia. The government also assists graduates with employment opportunities in Indonesia. They introduced a friendly visa policy for Pakistani scholars and the business community as well while Ambassador Adam M. Tugio personally ensures the provision of quality cum friendly services to Pakistanis. "Bahasa" is an official language of Indonesia and Pakistani students are required to learn the language in their first year

of studies at Indonesian universities. Currently, there are no coaching opportunities to learn the Bahasa language within Pakistan to save the study period in Indonesia. Surprisingly, the Pakistani embassy in Jakarta does not even know that how many Pakistani students are enrolled in various universities in Indonesia. Students also complained at multiple forums that the embassy has no empathy to resolve their queries. The embassy staff does not bother to reply to students' emails while the embassy website is also not updated with current information. Pakistani scholars in Indonesia appreciated the heroic character of Ambassador Adam M. Tugio for his exceptional diplomatic services and promotion of education while enabling Pakistani young scholars to secure their admissions through scholarship programs.

Empowering Migrant Workers through the National Skills Passport Initiative

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (ILO NEWS): To many Pakistani migrant workers, the National Skills Passport initiative will prove to be a gateway to obtain recognition of their skills and ensure decent employment opportunities for returnee migrant workers, participants at a consultative dialogue concluded today in Islamabad. The National Skills Passport provides a comprehensive catalogue of an individual's skills, obtained through formal and informal channels, and provides a migrant worker with documentation of gained qualifications, skills, competencies, and experience in a systematic manner. The National Skills Passport is linked with the Recognition of Prior Learning platform, which

formally assesses, certifies, and recognizes the competencies, acquired through informal and unregulated processes. The consultation event was jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) in Islamabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development (MOP&HRD) and was attended by representatives from Government departments, employers' and workers' organizations, and development partners. The National Skills Passport initiative has been supported by the ILO project Governance of Labour Migration in South and Southeast Asia (GOALS), which is generously supported by the

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. "We are pleased to acknowledge that the Government of Pakistan has taken commendable steps to protect the rights of migrant workers through digital registration, licensing of overseas employment promoters, authentication of foreign employment, grievance redressal mechanisms and welfare programmes for migrant workers and their families," said Geir Tonstol, Country Director of ILO Pakistan. "Skilled labour is in increasing demand, including in the countries that received the largest share of Pakistan's migrant workers. It is important to equip aspiring migrant workers with the right skill sets to meet the demands of the international

labour market," he added. Speaking at the occasion, Majyd Aziz, former President of the Employers' Federation of Pakistan stated that the National Skills Passport is not just a card, it is the digital portfolio of an individual to find a decent work opportunity locally and internationally. "We are thankful to the ILO's technical support for piloting innovative approaches in Pakistan including National Skills Passport and South Asia Regional Qualifications Frameworks," he added. "The Government of Pakistan recognizes the increasing demand for skilled human resources in the international labour market and has been focusing on the local and international industry demand-driven



skills development programs," said Jawad Sohrab Malik, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Labour and Human Resource Development. He further emphasized

that the government of Pakistan has launched a digital 24/7 complaint cell called 'Call Sarzameen' to promptly address complaints submitted by overseas Pakistanis. He also

mentioned 'Naya Pakistan Calling,' a platform that facilitates the professional Pakistani diaspora in contributing their knowledge and skills towards national development.

UNDP urges swift action and new directions to advance Asia-Pacific's Human Development

The Asia-Pacific region is lurching towards an era of unmet aspirations, worsening inequalities, and a steady erosion of democratic spaces. Rising global tensions, new technologies, growing polarization, and existential threats linked to climate change threaten to disrupt improvements in well-being the region has seen in past decades, says a new report from the United Nations Development Programme. The 2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, launched today, paints a qualified picture of long-term progress, but also persistent disparity and widespread disruption, foreseeing a turbulent development landscape and urgently calling for new directions to boost human development. Titled Making our Future: New Directions for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific, the new report argues that unmet aspirations, heightened human insecurity, and a potentially more turbulent future

create an urgent need for change. It warns that the region faces three converging 'risk clusters', ranging from existential threats due to climate change and future pandemics, economic headwinds from shifting globalization patterns and automation, and a flagging pace of reform due to diminishing democratic spaces, rising populism, and polarization. While the region will account for two-thirds of global economic growth this year, income and wealth disparities are worsening, particularly in South Asia, where the wealthiest 10 percent control over half of the total income. More than 185 million people continue to live in extreme poverty - earning below \$2.15 a day - a number that is expected to climb higher following the economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, says the report. "The report underscores that to overcome existing challenges, we must prioritize investments in human development, with an understanding

that each nation will tailor its own pathways to do so," said Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. "By fostering a people-first policy and smart growth strategies that put a high value on natural assets, we can pave the way for a future that is not only more secure and peaceful but also sustainable and prosperous for many millions more." To bring about that change the



Report calls for three new directions in human development: to put people at the heart of development, to recalibrate growth strategies to generate more jobs and respect the environment, and to focus relentlessly on the politics of reform and the science of delivery to turn ideas into practice. It also provides a panoramic view of how in an uncertain future, countries can revitalize development strategies to close existing inequality gaps and reduce human insecurity. A people-centred strategy must start by expanding choice for everyone by, among other things, tackling structural exclusion, upholding human dignity, and building capability. Tackling structural exclusion is not only the 'right thing to do,' it could also produce large economic benefits. Promoting women's equality alone could boost the region's collective annual Gross Domestic Product by \$4.5 trillion by 2025, the report says. With external market conditions

becoming more competitive, a razor-sharp focus on competitiveness and diversification is essential. The Report highlights new areas of economic opportunity in the low carbon 'green economy' and in technologies, and the region's rich marine resources that can be optimized and sustained through new technology and investment as part of the blue economy, which is especially important for Small Island Developing States. "The call for economic growth should be louder, not quieter, as growth remains essential for human development," said Philip Schellekens, UNDP's Chief Economist for Asia and the Pacific, and the principal author of the Report. "Facing growing headwinds to growth and job creation and the prospect of further disruption, it is time to recalibrate both export-led and domestically oriented growth strategies," he said. The region's large informal workforce—about 1.3 billion people—is being left behind, with many workers

trapped in low-quality jobs because the formal sector has failed to offer decent employment opportunities. And the region has seen a steady reversal in democratic practices, to a degree last seen in the late 1970s, the report notes, with the pandemic enabling governments to further tighten restrictions on civil liberties. To chart a new course, governments would need to be future fit to combat the challenges to come. It unpacks how a greater focus on making change happen would be rooted in leadership and governance that is more anticipatory, more adaptable, and more agile. The full report can be accessed at this link: <https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/rhdr2024> UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and the planet.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
53,860.36	53,123.03
Day's High	Day's Low
53,944.89	53,166.85
Index Value	Change
11,190,670,143	+737.33
Percentage	Time
+1.39%	6 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,417.76	+0.03
Percentage	Time
0%	6 Nov, 4:27 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,106.29	+44.97
Percentage	Time
+0.13%	6 Nov, 12:15 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,708.48	+758.59
Percentage	Time
+2.37%	6 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	755.7	763.75
Canadian Dollar	209	211
China Yuan	38.65	39.05
Danish Krone	40.86	41.26
Euro	306.5	309
Hong Kong Dollar	36.11	36.46
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.74	1.82
Kuwaiti Dinar	918.19	927.19
Malaysian Ringgit	59.46	60.06
New Zealand \$	166.3	168.3
Norwegians Krone	25.76	26.06
Omani Riyal	734.36	742.36
Qatari Riyal	77.62	78.32
Saudi Riyal	76.3	77.1
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	25.38	25.68
Swiss Franc	316.1	318.6
Thai Bhat	7.85	8
U.A.E Dirham	81.25	82
UK Pound Sterling	353.5	357
US Dollar	285	287.5

Gohar Ijaz's hard work is paying off: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the efforts of the caretaker Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz are paying off and positive results are coming.

The growth in the stock market after several months is welcome, as it has crossed 53500 points, while the prices of essential commodities are also decreasing due to strict control on smuggling by the government, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that after a decline in textile exports in the last 12 months, October has seen an increase of five percent, while exports have seen an overall increase

of 14 percent.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that foreign remittances have also increased by five percent following the crackdown on illegal dollar trade.

The cotton production is also expected to be 11 million bales, which is double that of last year, but for long-term results, the government will have to get rid of the failed state-owned companies that are losing Rs 1200 billion annually, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that power companies are also losing 1000 billion rupees annually, and the IMF delegation has asked for a fresh report on the losses of government-owned companies.

The business leader said that now is the time to get rid of all these losses and provide



relief to the people. He said that apart from general inflation, house and shop rents are

also rising faster than people's income, which needs to be regulated.

Traders doing business in rental shops and millions living in rented houses are worried about rising rents. The income of the businessmen and people is continuously decreasing, but the expenses and rents are continuously increasing, which has taken away their peace of mind.

In order to improve the situation, an effective and efficient system of rent control should be introduced in the country.

There is a need for reforms in the power sector, a push for import substitution, and to increase in the share of solar power and wind power in the energy basket while reforming the agricultural sector and corporate farming. The import of palm oil should be reduced through sunflower production, he said.

SECP, FIA sign MoU to enhance mutual cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalize mechanism for information sharing and cooperation between the both organizations.

The MoU will serve as a foundation for future collaboration and capacity building to safeguard the country's digital financial system from cybercrime and fraud threats. The Director General FIA, Mr. Mohsin Hassan Butt (PSP) and the SECP Chairman, Mr. Akif Saeed inked the MoU at a ceremony held at SECP head office.

The Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed, appreciated the DG FIA for extending cooperation and sought FIA's assistance for the capacity building of its officers, especially with regards to forensic evidence collections. The DG FIA, Mr. Mohsin Butt, affirmed that the MoU will also facilitate the usage of shared resources and infrastructure, leading to a more efficient and effective disposal of investigations regarding illegal deposit taking and frauds that



affect the public at large. He agreed to the chairman's proposal to commence capacity-building training for SECP officers. Both heads agreed to appoint focal persons from the regional offices of FIA and SECP for

efficient sharing of information.

The SECP's head of Prosecution and Legal Affairs Mr. Muzaffar Mirza gave a detailed presentation on SECP's mandate and prosecution mechanism.

JazzCash Pioneers Responsible Nano-Lending with Free Life Insurance



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: JazzCash, in partnership with EFU Life Assurance Ltd., has marked a significant milestone by introducing free life and health insurance to ReadyCash, we are not just redefining lending; we are protecting dreams, securing futures, and prioritizing our customers' well-being above all."

Nilofer Sohail, DGM & Head Channel Strategy from EFU Life Assurance Ltd., said, "We are excited to mark this significant milestone as we enter into a partnership with JazzCash to offer insurance in conjunction with nano-lending. This groundbreaking collaboration will empower us to extend our services to millions of customers. By

harnessing the valuable insights we gather through this initiative, we will not only enhance our offerings but also continually optimize the customer journey. Together, we are poised to redefine the insurance experience for our customers, ushering in a new era of financial inclusion and security."

ReadyCash, the go-to solution for instant, short-term loans via the JazzCash App or USSD, simplifies how people manage their financial needs. With complimentary life and health insurance, customers are covered for unforeseen macroeconomic shocks, emphasising JazzCash's commitment to customer-centricity and well-being.

Continuing the Green Revolution

Int'l Industries Limited adds another 1 MW solar project



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International Industries Limited (IIL), Pakistan's largest manufacturer & exporter of steel and polymer pipes, is pleased to announce another major stride in its journey towards sustainability, self-sufficiency, and environmental responsibility.

Following the successful inauguration of its first 1 MW solar project at its Karachi factory, IIL recently hosted a commissioning ceremony for an equivalent 1 MW solar project at its Sheikhpura production facility. This significant initiative underlines the Company's firm commitment to harnessing renewable energy sources and reducing its carbon footprint. The significant landmark

of the commissioning was commemorated through a ceremony graced by the presence of Ms. Selina Rashid Khan, a member of the Board of Directors of IIL, who inaugurated the project, which reflects the commitment of IIL's boardroom leadership to promoting sustainable practices.

"These solar projects are a testament to our dedication to sustainability and responsible environmental stewardship," said Mr. Sohail R. Bhojani, CEO of International Industries Limited. "By embracing solar energy, we are not only reducing our ecological impact but also demonstrating our commitment to a cleaner and greener future for Pakistan and the global community."

RCCI delegation calls on Eduard-Robert PREDA Charge D Affaires of Romania

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President Saqib Rafiq called on H. E. Mr. Eduard-Robert PREDA Charge D Affaires a.i/ Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romania Embassy in Islamabad.

Charge D Affaires of the Romanian Embassy appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting trade and diplomatic ties. He urged Pakistani businessmen to explore trade and investment opportunities for mutual benefit of the both countries.

Mr. Eduard-Cristian SONEA Political Counselor, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad and Secretary General Irfan Manan Khan were also present in the meeting.

President Saqib Rafiq during the meeting urged for

opportunities in non-conventional sectors including Pharma, IT, Services, Surgical Goods, Machinery tools and parts. He said that Pakistan considers Romania an important country not only in the context of the EU but also in view of Romania's historical role as a supporter of multilateralism.

Matters related to enhancing the bilateral trade, investment opportunities, networking & chamber to chamber connectivity, exploring new markets and visit of trade delegation and information sharing from both sides to enhance trade relations and to explore the potential cooperation between both countries came under discussion.

President Saqib Rafiq also expressed deep sorrow over the death of Mr. Nicolae Goia (late) Former Ambassador of Romania in Islamabad.

Unbeatable deals await on TCL and iFFalcon this Daraz 11.11 Sale

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Get ready to revolutionize your shopping experience, with TCL and iFFALCON at the Daraz 11.11 Grand Sale happening from November 11th to November 21st. We are excited to announce the collaboration between TCL Pakistan, the leading LED TV brand in the country and Daraz Pakistan's premier e-commerce platform. During this event you can enjoy incredible discounts of up to 20% on a wide range of TCL and iFFALCON products. Discover the TVs and home appliances at prices that will surpass your imagination. Whats even better is that many items come with shipping, Easy Monthly Installments (EMIs) and Mega vouchers ensuring you save like never before.

"We are delighted to partner with Daraz again for the 11.11 Grand Sale. This partnership reflects our unwavering dedication, to providing our customers with deals and a seamless shopping experience." said Majid Khan Niazi, Head of Marketing at TCL.

MediaTek's New All Big Core Design for Flagship Dimensity 9300 Chipset Maximizes Smartphone Performance and Efficiency

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: MediaTek today announced the Dimensity 9300, its newest flagship mobile chip with a one-of-a-kind All Big Core design. The unique configuration combines extreme performance with MediaTek's industry-leading power efficiency to deliver unmatched user experiences in gaming, video capture, and on-device generative AI processing.

"The Dimensity 9300 is MediaTek's most powerful flagship chip yet, bringing a huge boost in raw computing power to flagship smartphones with our groundbreaking All Big Core

design," said Joe Chen, President at MediaTek. "This unique architecture, combined with our upgraded on-chip AI Processing Unit, will usher in a new era of generative AI applications as developers push the limits with edge AI and hybrid AI computing capabilities."

MediaTek's next generation APU 790 AI processor is integrated into the Dimensity 9300 and designed to significantly improve generative AI performance and energy efficiency for faster and more secure edge computing. The APU 790 doubles the integer and floating-point operations performance, while reducing power consumption by 45%. By adapt-

ing the Transformer model for operator acceleration, the processing speed of the APU 790 is 8 times faster than



the previous generation, with image generation within one second using Stable Diffusion. MediaTek has developed mixed-precision INT4 quantization technology, which when combined with the company's NeuroPilot memory hardware compression, can more efficiently utilize memory bandwidth and significantly reduce memory requirements for large AI models. The APU 790 provides support for NeuroPilot Fusion, which can continuously perform LoRA low-rank adaptation, and is capable of supporting large language models with 1B, 7B, and 13B parameters, with scalability up to 33B. As part of MediaTek's rich

AI ecosystem, the Dimensity 9300 will support cutting-edge mainstream large language models including Meta Llama 2, Baichuan 2, Baidu AI LLM, and more. This helps developers quickly and efficiently deploy multi-modal generative AI applications to provide users with generative AI experiences such as text, images, and music.

With Arm's latest flagship GPU, the Immortalis-G720, the Dimensity 9300 supercharges mobile gaming experiences. The Dimensity 9300 offers an almost 46% boost in GPU performance while at the same level of power consumption as the Dimensity 9200. Similarly impressive, the Dimensity

9300 provides a 40% reduction in GPU power consumption at the same level of performance as the previous generation chipset. This provides users with a big performance upgrade without sacrificing battery life. By combining the chipset's extreme octa-core CPU design with MediaTek's second generation hardware raytracing engine, smartphones powered by the Dimensity 9300 will deliver console-level global illumination effects at a smooth 60 FPS. Plus, this powerful chipset allows users to seamlessly multi-task so they can game and video stream at the same time or watch another video while they play.

PCB provides an update on Ihsanullah's injury

A Sports

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday, provided an update on right-arm pacer Ihsanullah's injury and rehabilitation progress.

Ihsanullah, who has featured for Pakistan in one ODI and four T20s, suffered an elbow injury. The 20-year-old has been ruled out from international cricket since playing for Pakistan in the ODI series against New Zealand at home this year in April.

Meanwhile, the PCB shared that the lanky pacer underwent surgery here in the first week of September and was placed in an elbow brace for four weeks.

"Ihsanullah is on road to recovery after spending 11 weeks in a post-operative care after suffering an elbow injury," said PCB in a statement.

"Earlier, a doctor was flown in from England to conduct the operation in the first week of September.



"After the operation, the fast-bowler was placed in an elbow brace for four weeks, with a doctor and physio attending him on a daily basis at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore.

The PCB further revealed that the doctors are confident that Ihsanullah will be able to begin functional training

after the completion of the 16th week of his recovery.

For the unversed, Ihsanullah is one of the three injured Pakistan pacers besides Naseem Shah and Mohammad Hasnain.

Hasnain sustained an ankle injury during the Lanka Premier League (LPL) in August and has been out of action since then.

He travelled to England from Sri Lanka and had an MRI. The scans revealed the fast bowler requires rehabilitation for his ankle, which has been under process since 13 September in England.

Whereas, Pakistan's first-choice pacer Naseem Shah, was ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023 in India due to a shoulder injury, which he sustained during the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023.

The right-arm pacer is undergoing rehabilitation in England and is expected to attain full fitness in a few weeks.

School Olympics to foster South Punjab's talent enrich region's future: Capt Saqib

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The School Education South Punjab marked the grand inauguration of School Olympics Games Season 3 in a spectacular event held at the Four Wall Stadium, Bahawalpur, on Monday. The occasion was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities, including the Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar, who officiated the opening ceremony, instilling the spirit of sportsmanship by administering the oath to the participating players. The fervor of the event was evident as thousands of students congregated to partake in this celebration of athletic talent.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtesham Anwar, Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa, and Administrative Secretaries from South Punjab also honored the event with their presence. Among the colorful spectacle, athletes from South Punjab schools paraded with pride, paying homage and igniting the ceremonial torch, symbolizing the unity and vitality of the games. Embracing inclusivity, special children and transgender teams were integral parts of the March Past, showcasing a commitment to diversity and equality.

Notably, an Olympic Village was



established in Bahawalpur, setting the stage for a week-long extravaganza from November 6 to November 11. Over 2100 athletes, representing both public and private schools of South Punjab, alongside provincial-level teams from Gilgit, Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab, have passionately entered the arena, including participants from religious seminaries and transgender communities, vying for Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.

Addressing the gathering, Captain

(Rtd) Saqib Zafar emphasized the relationship between sports and education, highlighting the pivotal role sports play in fostering a healthy body and mind. He underlined the virtues instilled by sports activities, nurturing self-confidence, social interaction, discipline, and sportsmanship. The School Olympics Games, he mentioned, serve as a springboard for budding talent, fostering the growth of potential international players.

Praising the exemplary performance of the School Education Department,

Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar lauded the establishment of transgender schools and the launch of the Green Book on climate change as pioneering initiatives. He commended the outstanding enrollment campaign results and the academic achievements of South Punjab's educational institutions, surpassing those across the province.

Commissioner Dr. Ehtesham Anwar acknowledged the School Olympics Games as a unique initiative, expressing confidence in its far-reaching implications and the pride for the region in hosting the prestigious event. Additional Secretaries Sehrosh Fatima and Khawaja Mazharul Haq highlighted the array of sports showcased in the games, from Table Tennis, Football, Hockey, Badminton to Cricket, Races, and various field events, demonstrating the comprehensive nature of the School Olympics. The unified support of all three education boards of South Punjab in funding these games reflects a collective commitment to nurturing sportsmanship and talent among the region's youth. The School Olympics Games Season 3 promises not just a display of athletic prowess but also serves as a beacon of inclusivity, unity, and the fostering of a brighter, more competitive future for South Punjab's budding talents, said officials.

Pakistan players to partake in one league apart from PSL, hints Zaka Ashraf

A Sports

BAHAWALPUR: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) head Zaka Ashraf on Monday hinted that Pakistan cricketers will be allowed to play only one franchise league apart from Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Talking to journalists here, the PCB head acknowledged that Pakistan cricketers were preferring to play franchise leagues across the world as "they were relatively underpaid".

"Our cricketers get very little money," Zaka Ashraf regretted, noting that the PCB was considering to raise payments so that they delightfully sign central contracts.

Earlier, the PCB announced central contracts, first time for a three-year period, with a significant increase in monthly retain-

ers as well as match fees for all four categories.

As many as 25 cricketers will be offered a momentous deal that will include a portion of ICC revenue. Unlike last year, red-ball and white-ball national contracts have been merged.

The list of players will be divided into four categories with significant increases in monthly retainers. Revenue from ICC will be incorporated in overall monthly remuneration.

Category A (3 players): 202 %
Category B (6): 144 %
Category C (2): 135 %
Category D (14): 127 %

Players' match fees will also see a major hike: 50% increment in Test, 25% in ODI and 12.5% in T20I. Centrally contracted players who are playing domestic cricket will be paid 50% of the international match fee.



Zaka Ashraf – while talking to journalists – pointed out that there was a proposal that the Pakistani cricketers will be allowed to play only one league apart from the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Responding to a question, Ashraf said that he had invit-

ed former chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq for a meeting but he resigned from the post before it.

The former cricketer stepped down last month from his post after "conflict of interest" allegations.

He also addressed a controversy surrounding a phone call of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, saying that he had no conversation with the batter.

Ashraf also expressed best wishes for Babar Azam, saying that he held a telephonic conversation with the skipper following the victory against New Zealand.

Appreciating the players, he said that the Pakistani openers put up a great show in the previous match of the World Cup 2023 against New Zealand. "I talked to the skipper and announced Rs1 million reward for Fakhar Zaman," he added.

When asked whether Babar would be removed as Pakistan captain if the team fails to qualify for the semi-final spot, Ashraf said the decision will not be made solely as the Cricket Technical Committee (CTC) is there to deliberate on the issue.

20 coaches attend modern pentathlon course

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Reputed international modern pentathlon coach Abdel Rauf Hossameldin of Egypt delivered insightful lecture on the second day of 7-day swimming, shooting, running and fencing coaching course at National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

As many as 20 national modern pentathlon coaches attended the high-profile course being held under the banner of Pakistan Modern Pentathlon Federation (PMPF) and with the collaboration of SBP.

Hossameldin imparted the latest techniques of swimming, shooting, running and fencing to coaches through multiple demos and videos.

He also taught the modern skills and methods to Pakistan coaches about how to train and groom a modern pentathlon player.

He said that Pakistan has great potential for the modern pentathlon game and this 7-day coaching course will play an important role in further polishing modern pentathlon skills of Pakistan players and coaches as well. "I'm quite upbeat that after learning modern playing techniques, Pakistan players will be able to win more laurels for the country in international competitions," he added.

Union Club OK Estate and Builders Tennis Championship start from 11th Nov

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Tennis Association will organize inaugural Union Club- OK Estate and Builders Tennis Championship from 11th November at the newly refurbished tennis courts of Union Club Karachi, OK State and Builders are the sponsor of this week long championship. The events are Men, s Singles and Doubles, Ladies Singles, Juniors Under 17 Singles, Unser 15 Boys Singles and Doubles, Girls under 15 Singles, Under 13 Singles, Under 11 singles Under 8 Singles and Wheelchair Open Singles.

9th November is the last date of entry, which can be sent to Muhammad Khalid Rehmani.

Zaka Ashraf dispels rumours of rift in Pakistan team



A Sports

BAHAWALPUR: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf opened up on the alleged rift within the Pakistan men's cricket team.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, the PCB head cleared the air on the ongoing controversy regarding the national team, who are participating in the ICC World Cup 2023.

Zaka Ashraf categorically denied any rift within the players and blamed "cricket enemies" for spreading the false rumours. "There is no infighting in the team," said Ashraf. "The whole team is united. These baseless stories are created by the enemies of the game."

For the unversed, it was reported in late September that Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi got into an argument when the captain expressed his disappointment with the senior players in the dressing room, after losing the deciding Super Four clash of the Asia Cup to Sri Lanka, which led to their elimination from the continental event.

Reports also suggested that things got pretty tense between Babar and Shaheen after the heated argument before wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan intervened to bring the situation back under control.

Later, the ace pacer Shaheen took to his Instagram account in the evening, sharing a picture with Babar. He captioned the solo picture from a chess game with "Family".

Babar, who was in Dubai, then flew down to Karachi to attend Shaheen and Ansha Afridi's wedding reception in the metropolitan.

It appeared that all was well among Green Shirts but their series of losses in the ICC World Cup 2023 reignited the rumours of a rift, especially among the three frontmen of the national cricket team – Babar, Shaheen and Rizwan.

Meanwhile, Zaka Ashraf then extended well wishes for the national team's ICC World Cup 2023 campaign.

Bangladesh knock Sri Lanka out of ICC World Cup 2023

DELHI: Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan scored half-centuries after a combined bowling effort to power Bangladesh to a sensational three-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the 38th match of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Bangladesh's three-wicket victory marked the end of Sri Lanka's semi-final hopes. Set to chase 280, Bangladesh scored 282 for the loss of seven wickets and 53 balls to spare, thanks to a massive 169-run partnership between Shanto and Shakib.

Earlier, Bangladesh opens Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das failed to give a steady start to the pursuit as they both perished within seven overs with just 41 runs on the board.

Shakib Al Hasan then joined Najmul Hossain Shanto at the crease and the pair launched an

astounding recovery with both scoring half-centuries.

The duo appeared to have settled down and were looking in control before Angelo Mathews removed both set batters in quick succession to cause a stir in the run chase.

Shakib scored a brisk 82 in 65 deliveries, laced with 12 boundaries and two sixes while Shanto smashed 12 boundaries on his way to a 101-ball 90 and top-scored for the side.

Mahmudullah (22) and Mushfiqur Rahim (10) then stitched a brief 38-run partnership for the fifth wicket before both perished in quick succession while Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3) also followed their footsteps.

Bangladesh, as a result, slipped to 269/7 in the 41st over and still needed 11 runs.

Fowhid Hridoy, however, held his nerves calm and steered his

side over the line with an unbeaten 15 off seven deliveries while Tanzim Hasan Shakib aided him with five not out.

Dilshan Madushanka led the bowling attack for Sri Lanka with three wickets while Angelo Mathews and Maheesh Theekshana bagged two each.

Bangladesh drew first blood after opting to bowl, as Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera on the last ball of their first over with only five runs on the board.

Sri Lanka's skipper Kusal Mendis then joined Pathum Nissanka and together they knitted a 61-run partnership, dominated by the latter before Bangladesh struck in back-to-back overs to leave the Islanders reeling at 72-3.

Mendis was dismissed by his Bangladeshi counterpart Shakib Al Hasan after his cautious 30-ball 19, while, Nissanka was

castled by Tanzim Hasan Sakib in the next over.

Nissanka played a quick knock of 41 runs from 36 balls with the help of eight boundaries.

Sadeera Samarawickrama and Charith Asalanka then added 63 runs for the fourth wicket before the former was out while attempting to hit Shakib Al Hasan out of the park after scoring 41 off 42.

With Sri Lanka stranded at 135-4, former captain Angelo Mathews came out to bat, however, he found himself in an unfortunate situation as he became the first batter to be given 'timed-out' in international cricket.

Charith Asalanka took charge and attacked Bangladesh bowlers, getting reasonable support from Dhananjaya de Silva (34) and Maheesh Theekshana (22).

De Silva added 78 runs with Asalanka during their sixth-wick-



et stand while Theekshana helped add 45 runs.

Asalanka completed his second ODI century in the 48th

over before getting out in the next over. His gusty 108, featured six boundaries and five sixes.

Bangladesh bowlers picked up

the final two wickets for a mere run, with Tanzim Hasan Sakib topping the bowling charts with three wickets.

Awareness campaign

First Lady Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo with medical professionals and survivors of breast cancer during an awareness seminar, at Behbud Association of Pakistan Rawalpindi on Monday.



Photo: PID

Women urged to practice 5-min self-examination every month to detect breast cancer

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan on Monday said a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country. She said 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease.

Speaking at an awareness seminar on breast cancer here at Behbud Association of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, she stressed the need to sensitize the gener-

al public about shunning the taboo about breast cancer. Samina Alvi mentioned that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the detection of malignancy at a late stage. She said women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were also being diagnosed with breast cancer. She urged the women and girls to learn the five-minute routine of self-examination and spread the word among at least 20 other women folks in their circle. For the Behbud Mother and Child Hospital,

Samina Alvi announced a donation of Rs 500,000 on behalf of her family.

Samina Alvi also emphasized the need to focus on the inclusiveness of persons with disabilities, and mental health and ensuring a harassment-free environment for women.

She called for accommodating the differently-abled persons with facilities of education and employment and mainstreaming them in society. Lt Gen (ret'd) Nigar Johar, the country's first three-star woman general in the Pakistan Army who belonged to the Army Medical Corps, said one in eight women died

of breast cancer in the world, which was a scary figure. She said the health services of Pakistan were focused on reducing breast cancer mortality by 25 percent as per the global health goal of the World Health Organization (WHO).

She highlighted that at the government level, there was an improvement in diagnostic modalities including radiography, mammography, and gene mutation testing.

However, she stressed the involvement of Lady Health Workers in the effective dissemination of the message among women residing in every nook and corner of the country. Presi-

dent Behbud Association of Pakistan Abida Malik said the non-profit organization had been supporting the generations of the country for over five decades through projects of economic empowerment through skill development, education, and health. She said the association was already providing outdoor medical services while a 100-bed hospital for the underprivileged was in the making. A panel discussion of doctors, psychologists, and a survivor of breast cancer highlighted the significance of early diagnosis, and dealing with the challenges of mental trauma faced by the patients and their families.

International Conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment'

Addiya wahaj

JEDDAH, KSA: Conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment' jointly organized by the OIC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has commenced in Jeddah, today.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushaal H. Mullick is heading the Pakistan delegation. She is being accompanied by the Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, and the Permanent Representa-

tive of Pakistan to the OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher at the Conference.

Former Foreign Minister and Minister of State Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar is also participating as a Panelist.

The three-day Conference that runs between 6-8 November 2023 is aimed at holding broad-based discussions on the role of women in an Islamic society. It would focus on the rights and responsibilities of women in Islam. In addition to Islamic scholars and official delegations from the OIC Member States, a large number of female heads of



State, Ministers, and representatives from various international and regional organizations are participating.

Researchers, think tanks, and research centers from around the world are also attending.

The Conference on Women is being held in pursuance of Resolution No.66/49-Pol adopted by the 49th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Mauritania earlier this year which called for holding an International Conference on Women in Islam.

The Conference would produce a comprehensive document titled 'The Jeddah Document on Women in Islam' at its culmination on Wednesday, 8th November 2023.

Jamal Shah reiterates pledge to preserve Pakistan's diverse culture



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah Monday emphasized Pakistan as a nurturing ground for a multitude of diverse and inclusive civilizations spanning over 9,000 years from Mehrgarh and mentioned his ongoing efforts to secure investments for the preservation of significant sites like Mehrgarh and Takht-e-Bahi. During a conference on the sidelines of a folk festival, held at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Herit-

age - Lok Virsa in collaboration with UNESCO, the minister, speaking as the chief guest, emphasized the importance of inviting artisans to such conferences to raise their awareness, stating that creating more opportunities for artisans and artists was essential.

The UNESCO representative also addressed the gathering, highlighting that the conference's objective was to emphasize the significance of living heritage.

She noted the abundant cultural heritage of Pakistan, which was widely recognized.

China's CIIE a big booster for int'l trade, investment, says Malaysian business leader

KUALA LUMPUR, (XINHUA): The China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides an important platform for other countries to promote their products and services, which can boost international trade, attract more investment and bring opportunities for economic partners, a Malaysian business leader said.

The sixth CIIE, scheduled to be held on Nov. 5-10 in the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai, signifies the event's first full return to in-person exhibitions since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Low Kian Chuan, president of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), told Xinhua in a recent interview that this year is the sixth consecutive year that ACCCIM has organized Malaysian companies to

participate in the CIIE. According to Low, Malaysian exhibitors will bring their food and agricultural products and consumer goods, including fruits, beverages, snacks, and cosmetics, to the CIIE.

"China has entered a new era of more diversified and personalized food consumption demands. There is an increasing demand from Chinese consumers for high-quality, natural and organic foods, and Malaysia has a wealth of agricultural and food resources such as frozen durian, bird's nest, coffee and more to meet the needs of the Chinese market," he said.

In his view, CIIE is not only a chance to bring Malaysian products to Chinese consumers, but also a platform for entrepreneurs to meet potential partners from various countries, brainstorm innova-

tion ideas and promote international cooperation in the food industry.

Low noted that the CIIE has set up an innovation incubation zone to invite global startups and partner institutions to bring the latest technologies to the exhibition, adding that "this highlights that CIIE attaches great importance to scientific and technological innovation, and the organizer's determination to help overseas small innovative projects enter China market."

"The size of China's market is huge, offering many growth opportunities for companies from other countries. By participating in the CIIE, international companies can gain easier access to the Chinese market, while China can also establish more trade partners with various countries," he said.

Sardar Attique says 1947 massacre of Kashmiris still going on today



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that in November 1947, the Indian army, Dogra forces and Hindutva forces illegally massacred millions of Muslims in Jammu region of Occupied Kashmir when they were migrating to Pakistan. The massacre of Muslims in Jammu in 1947 is the worst massacre in human history and the massacre of Kashmiris that started in 1947 is still going on today. He said that the massacre of Jammu in 1947 is the history of Kashmir. It is the

darkest chapter and the wounds of this brutal massacre are still fresh in the memories of Kashmiris. The purpose of massacre of Muslims was to change the population ratio in the area and this massacre will remind the criminal face of Hindutva powers. He was addressing a seminar held here under auspices of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Azad Kashmir chapter) which was also attended by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, Hurriyat Conference convener Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Dr. Raja Mushtaq Khan, Raja Najabat Khan, Hurriyat leader Syed Yusuf Naseem Shah

Advocate and Other distinguished speakers, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan further said that the brutal massacre by Dogra troops, Indian troops and Hindutva forces RSS and Jan Singh was only aimed at converting the Muslim majority into a minority in Jammu. The Dogra army massacred more than three lakhs of Muslims in Jammu in the first week of November 1947 as part of a conspiracy.

Funeral prayers of Tirah Operation martyrs held at Peshawar Garrison



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of valiant sons of the soil, who embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting against terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in the general area of Tirah, Khyber District, were held at Peshawar Garrison on Monday. The Corps Commander Peshawar, and a large number of serving officers and Jawans, civil officials and general public attended the funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haid-

er (age 43 years, resident of Islamabad), Naik Khushdil Khan (age 31 years, resident of Lakki Marwat District), Naik Rafique Khan (age 27 years, resident of Charsadda District) and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir (age 33 years, resident of Murree District), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The martyrs would be laid to rest with full military honours in their respective hometowns, it added "The Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs," the ISPR said.

Jammu's martyrs provide great courage to the Kashmir's freedom movement: Ali Raza

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Paying great tribute to the martyrs of Jammu of 6th November (of 1947), Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed said, the martyrs of Jammu provided a great courage and support to the freedom movement of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued from Brussels on the occasion of martyrdom day of Jammu (of 6 November 1947), Ali Raza Syed said, Kashmiri martyrs presented their life for the great cause of Kashmir.

Ali Raza Syed said, above seven and half decades history of Jammu and Kashmir is full of sacrifices especially people of occupied Kashmir are still



paying a huge price to freedom struggle for liberation of their homeland from Indian occupation. There is a less comparative example of genocide of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian occupation forces. Chair of Kashmir Council EU said, martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir have very important role in the freedom movement.

SIFC three-day Investment Road Show in Dubai to kick start from Nov 5

ISLAMABAD: The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is hosting the three-day Pakistan Investment Roadshow in Dubai from November 5-7.

The event is being held with a singular focus to project the latent potential of Pakistan and attract global investments in the key sectors of the economy, a news release said.

On the inaugural day, the roadshow attracted a large number of global businessmen and investors to the event. The officials of SIFC held extensive engagements with global investors, highlighting the immense potential and investment opportunities in Pakistan under the auspices of SIFC; projects under SIFC were pitched for attracting prospective investments in

the key sectors.

The SIFC initiative gained enormous traction and during engagements, the investors' community was given insights into transforming the investment climate in the country through the SIFC platform.

Utilizing the platform, 30 Pakistani firms presented their project proposals and growth strategies during pitch sessions (B2B) encompassing various domains including Agriculture, IT and Energy.

The event also included a structured Panel Discussion, involving public and private experts, to synthesize the investment landscape of Pakistan vis-a-vis emerging markets and the way forward to tap into the opportunities.