



FM says Development Finance Institutions can drive growth of Pakistan's capital market

The caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has said the Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) having requisite expertise, efficiency and flexibility can be the potential drivers of growth and development of the capital market. (Details on Page 8)



Shavkat Mirziyoyev's address to ECO Summit

Today, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. At the beginning of his remarks, he underscored: "Even as we meet, the political architecture of the world is radically changing before our eyes and its global transformation is taking place. It is important that the countries of our organization, which have great influence in these complex processes... (Complete address on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

ECO summit

TASHKENT: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the 16th ECO Summit on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Kakar urges for economic cooperation among ECO member countries

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the 16th ECO summit said that economic activities could usher the region on the path of progress. Pakistan's Caretaker PM was addressing the summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He said the ECO member countries are rich with mineral resources and it has been key forum for development of the

region. Anwaar-ul-Haq said that the ECO region required more economic corridors, which will play pivotal role in relations between the regional countries. He told the forum that Pakistan has constituted a special for promotion of investment adding that there are huge investment opportunities in various sectors in Pakistan. Kakar lamented the bombing of hospitals and the killing of innocent civilians in the besieged enclave of Gaza. He demanded an immediate

halt of hostilities in Gaza and urged all ECO member states to push for a ceasefire in Gaza, support the call for the provision of humanitarian assistance and rally efforts to hold Israel to account. Talking about the summit, PM said it was important to realize the goals and objectives of the regional grouping. The region if well-connected, could bring colossal economic and peace dividends, he said. In his address, the Prime Minister reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to promotion

of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity. Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar earlier held a meeting with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Tashkent and reviewed the progress in bilateral relations especially in the domain of trade, defence and energy. The Prime Minister welcomed the announcement of direct flight operations of Azerbaijan Airline (AZAL) to

Pakistan terming it a positive development in people-to-people exchanges and to advance two-way business and tourism. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President Aliyev discussed common challenges including Islamophobia and climate change and the critical role of ECO to promote regional cooperation and collective prosperity. Global and regional developments including the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and persistent Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir were also discussed.

Four terrorists killed, several injured in Tank

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: On Thursday, security forces and Tank police conducted a joint operation in Tank district and adjacent areas of Wazir Kaley, Ghandai Kaley, Bilton abad, Chisan Kutch, Mazli Kaley and area customs office Dabra on a tip-off. During the operation, Wazir Kaley ambushed the movement route of the terrorists near Gundai Kaley Dabra and targeted them when they were on their way to carry out terrorist activities. Four most-wanted terrorists were killed and several others injured in the fierce exchange of

fire and two battles, who were involved in several terrorist activities against the state. One of the terrorists has been identified as Shoiab son of Ali Marjan caste Kundi resident Pai District Tank while the other terrorist has not yet been identified. Although they took the dead bodies of the remaining 02 terrorists with them. During the operation, three SMGs and a large amount of ammunition were also recovered. A joint search operation of security forces and tank police is going on to arrest the injured and escaped terrorists.

Pakistan's position on Palestine 'consistent & crystal clear': Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said that Pakistan's position on Palestine was "consistent and crystal clear". The minister wrote this on the social media platform sharing a video clip of Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's address at the Economic Cooperation Organization Summit in Tashkent in which



he strongly denounced the Israeli bombardment of Gaza. PM Kakar drew a historical comparison, highlighting similarity between Israel's barbaric bombardment of Gaza Strip and Pharaoh's brutalities with children becoming their main casualty.

PM Kakar, President Aliyev discuss bilateral, regional matters including Gaza, Kashmir

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on Thursday, wherein they discussed bilateral cooperation and regional issues, including the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).



The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization being held here. The two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations, especially in the domains of trade, defense, and energy. Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the announcement of direct flight operations by Azerbaijan Airline (AZAL) to Pakistan, terming it a positive development in people-to-people exchanges and advancing two-way business and tourism. Prime Minister Kakar and President Aliyev discussed common challenges, including Islamophobia and climate change, and the critical role of ECO to promote regional cooperation and collective prosperity. The global and regional developments, including the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and persistent Indian atrocities in IIOJK, were also discussed. Prime Minister Kakar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, especially with respect to Karabagh.

Over two lac illegal immigrants return to Afghanistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The repatriation of illegal foreigners mostly Afghans continued to their home countries as 207,758 immigrants have returned till November 09. Yesterday 4,119 illegal Afghan immigrants returned to their homes. Afghan nationals' 702 families travelled to Afghanistan in 251 vehicles. Undocumented Afghan immigrants returning in droves to their home country daily, authorities said. Illegal immigrants, mostly Afghans, returning via Chaman border and Torkham border crossings to Afghanistan.

Israel to begin daily four-hour fighting 'pauses' in Gaza: US

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The White House has announced that Israel to begin daily four-hour pauses in fighting in northern Gaza to allow people to flee hostilities. US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby termed it a step in the right direction. He said the first humanitarian pause would be announced on Thursday, adding that Israel had committed to announcing each four-hour window at least three hours in advance. The pauses would allow people to flee along two humanitarian corridors and were significant first steps, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said. "We've been told by the Israelis that there will be no military operations in these areas over the duration of the pause, and that this process is starting today," Kirby said. The pauses, which would be announced three hours in advance, emerged out of discussions between U. S and Israeli officials in recent days, including talks U. S. President Joe Biden had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Kirby added.

'PML-N ready to talk to PTI except May 9 suspects'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior leader and former interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that PML-N is ready to talk to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) except the May 9 violence suspects. As per details, the former Interior Minister said that there is no hurdle in PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's participation in the upcoming elections. He said that Nawaz Sharif will soon meet senior politician and PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain whereas the former prime minister to meet other political parties' chiefs as well. Rana Sanaullah stated that Asif Ali Zardari has the right to stop someone from Lahore from becoming prime minister and make a prime minister from Larkana. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser said that Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan under a new "deal." "This is the only strategy which elder Sharif had always adopted in his entire political career, adding that PML-N would not come into power win under free and fair elections."



Pakistani delegation visits SCO platform in China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: A Pakistani delegation led by Ali Hussain, vice president of the Pakistan House Economic and Business Advisory Committee, visited the Trade and Economic Multifunctional Platform for SCO Countries in Chongqing, China. Hu Kaiqiang, the Secretary-General of the Platform, received the delegation and held a meeting. During the meeting, Hu Kaiqiang introduced the Platform's 16 industry working committees covering sectors such as culture, tourism, education and healthcare. Ali Hussain hailed the Platform's efforts in facilitating international collaboration in different sectors and expressed the intention to cooperate. "As a research institution specializing in international affairs and policy, we have extensive connections with international think tanks that can provide

valuable expertise and insights for collaboration. We also seek to establish connections with the Platform's think tank, fostering exchanges and cooperation in international affairs." Following the constructive discussions, Pakistan House and the Platform reached an agree-

ment to further promote cooperation in cross-border settlement and precious metal. Both parties also pledged to facilitate nongovernmental exchanges between China and Pakistan, as well as among other SCO member states.

IMF demands 'Do More' from Pakistan for tax recovery

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded 'do more' from Pakistan over tax recovery. International lender has demanded more recovery of income tax from retailers and real estate sectors, while increasing income tax recovery on agriculture income, sources said. IMF has urged federal government and provinces to take joint efforts for taxes recovery. "A fixed tax on retailers can be imposed after December in case of shortfall in tax collection,"

sources said. The FBR has been empowered to introduce a scheme for imposition of tax on retailers. The IMF has also demanded consultation with provinces for imposing tax on agriculture and real estate sectors. The IMF mission has also extended proposals to the FBR for amendments in tax policy and addressing flaws in taxation. The monetary fund has suggested an effective taxation policy and enforcement in sectors with lesser tax recovery, sources said.

AJK PM says constructive criticism, positive journalism help in reformation of society

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that constructive criticism and positive journalism play a significant role in the reformation of any society.

While talking to a delegation of the TV Journalists Association of Azad Kashmir here today, the PM, while stressing the need for responsible journalism, said that constructive criticism by the media always plays a vital role in improving governance and the government's performance.

The media, he said, was free to criticize the government but the criticism must be on the basis of concrete facts.

He said that the system could be strengthened only by demonstrating collective responsibility. In order to move forward collectively with a positive state of mind, he said, showing collective responsibility was the need of the hour.

The PM said that he was the minis-



ter in charge of 29 departments for 6 months and not a single financial scandal of any kind occurred during that time.

He said that the government would

utilize every single penny of tax money on the welfare of its people. "Every penny of the state exchequer is being spent with a sense of responsibility", he said.

The PM said that he did not believe in issuing empty statements or making hallowed announcements.

Referring to the reforms undertaken by his government, the PM said, "Under the reform process, important decisions were made to improve the overall performance of the government institutions and departments, including bureaucracy, forests, food and electricity department, education, health and other state-owned institutions".

He said that biometric systems were introduced to ensure full attendance of employees at government offices, hospitals, schools and colleges.

He said that electricity, flour and other matters were resolved on a priority basis.

He said that it was for the first time in the AJK's history that the govern-

ment, in light of the Cabinet decision, suspended the notification regarding the increase in electricity prices. "As the issue stands resolved now, there is no justification, whatsoever, to carry on the protest", he said, adding that the government was going to enforce the Special Powers Act in Azad Kashmir that empowers the government to fire or suspend a doctor or teacher if found absent from duty.

Access to information, he said, was a fundamental right of every citizen. All government institutions, he said, were duty bound to provide information to citizens.

The delegation was comprised of Asif Raza Mir the President TV Journalists Association, Imtiaz Awan, Muhammad Arif Arfi, Sardar Raza, Naeem Abbasi and others.

The visiting delegation, on this occasion, invited Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of the elected body of the organization, which he accepted.

Directors Conference of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Punjab held in Multan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Director's Conference of Department of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Punjab was held on 8th November, which was presided over by DG Excise Punjab while Director Excise Multan Abdullah Khan Jalbani participated through video link. The directors complained about the closure of the portal of motor branch that due to this, everyone including the citizens and staff are facing problems and there is a clear reduction in the government revenue, on which the DG Excise Punjab issued a directive to the IT department. They should work with the officials of Punjab Information Technology Board to make the motor branch portal fully functional as soon as possible.

In the directors' conference, it was decided to activate the department for drug prevention, it was decided to activate excise check posts and create a new mechanism of check posts, new double cabins for officers and personnel for drug prevention operations. It was also decided to buy bullets, weapons and bulletproof jackets, similarly it was decided to install cameras on the vehicles of the road checking teams and to install cameras on the officials who will go for checking. In the directors' conference, it was decided to gradually give official motorcycles to the constables across the province including Multan. Initially, 5 motorcycles will be given to the constables in Multan, while new vehicles will be provided to the regional directors soon after 2007. It was also decided

Road Accident in Lodharan: 7 died and three injured

Asim Tanveer

LODHARAN: A family traveling from Shujaabad and Lodharan to Bahawalpur to attend a wedding Party with a traffic accident near Chuck 100 M. Lodharan. According to the Rescue 1122 emergency service, seven people including children and women died on the spot while three were seriously injured. The deceased were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Lodharan while the seriously injured were shifted to Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur.



According to Rescue 1122 Lodharan officials, four members of the same family, residents of Shujaabad, left home on their rickshaw for Participating marriage in Bahawalpur and took six more people including their relatives residing in Permit Chowk Lodharan He also made them sit in the rickshaw with him. The speeding trawler driver coming from behind near Chuk 100 m of Lodharan showed gross negligence.

The trailer driver coming from the rear near Chak 100 M showed serious negligence and rammed the uncontrolled trailer onto the rickshaw due to which seven people including two children and two women were severely crushed on the spot while three were seriously injured and were taken to the district hospital. One of the injured, a ten-year-old girl, has been referred to Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur in critical condition.

State Bank's Hasnain visits Abbas Farms, speaks to local farmers

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Syed Samar Hasnain, Executive Director State Bank visited Attock and Abbas Farms and met local farmers.

He told that Agriculture is backbone of Pakistan economy as it provides not only food security but also generates huge export inflows. Agriculture also employs a very significant amount of workforce.

It is an area where women participate equally.

He underscored importance of access to finance for agriculture in general but small farmers in particular.

He mentioned that people of underserved areas and underserved provinces are being focused through number of State Bank's initiatives.

He also highlighted very good schemes and results of PPM Kissan Package.

Finally, quoting example of Abbas Farms, he appreciated efforts of Syed Arif Naqvi, Pakistan based American National, that such activities will not only encourage local farmers community but will also attract foreign investment in Agri sector.



Inaugural session of the 2-day performance-based budgeting workshop held

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The inaugural session of the 2-day performance-based budgeting workshop was held under the chairmanship of Fayyaz Ali Abbasi Additional Chief Secretary Development & General with partnership Of Planning Department and UNICEF In which Secretary P&D Dr Mr Idris Abbasi, Secretary Sports Youth and Culture Ms Mudhat Shehzad, Secretary Local Government Shahid Mohiuddin, Secretary Agriculture Javed Ayub, Secretary Forest Ansar Yaqoob Secretary PPH Bashir Mughal, Secretary Food Chaudhry Muhammad Raqib, Secretary Social Welfare and Population Attaullah Atta, Secretary Environment Muhammad Naeem Bismal, Secretary Information Ms Tehzibul-Nisa, Secretary Liberation Commission Javed Al Hasan Javed, Secretary Industries and Crafts Tahir Mehmood Qureshi, Secretary SDMA Amir Mahmood Mirza, Secretary IT Razaqat Hussain Khan, Special Secretary Health Abdul Sattar Khan and Dr. Sadaf Zulfikar Chief Social Policy UNICEF, Syeda Asma Andrabi Donors The consultant along with the Prime Minister and all the chiefs of the Planning and Development Department and other important government officials were attended. The main objective of organizing the inaugural session of the 2-day performance-based budgeting workshop was to inform the participants about the financial difficulties faced by Pakistan and their perception. Apart from this, through this interactive budgeting session, the system of government in Azad Kashmir can be improved by making the budget of Azad Kashmir in a better way for the next fiscal year, FY 2024-25. This performance based budgeting session organized in collaboration with UNICEF aims to increase the revenue of the Government of Azad Kashmir and produce effective results for sustainable development. This two-day workshop is being organized at the Kashmir Institute of Management on November 8 and 10, in which UNICEF's Special Representative for Social Policy, Dr. Asim Bashir Khan, will provide awareness for improvement in all modules of Performance Based Budgeting as a trainer workshop.

Hail-storm

RAWALPINDI: A man walks in a street during heavy hail-storm in the city on Thursday night.



Photo: Online

Int'l Day for Preventing the Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict celebrated

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the auspices of the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Women's University, Multan, the International Day for Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was celebrated. The ceremony was held in which Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha was the chief guest while Registrar Maimona Khan was the guest of honor. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha said that every moment due to war and conflict in different parts of the world there is a large amount of violence. But lives and property are being lost. Meanwhile, natural resources such as forests, different species of animals, water sources and fertile lands are destroyed on a large scale.



For the protection of all this, the world day is celebrated to stop the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict. War is not only human but also causes the destruction of the system created by nature

i.e. the environment. Since the ongoing war in Palestine, thousands of people have died, houses, hospitals have been destroyed. Likewise, in the Syrian war, a third of the houses have been destroyed in just 3 years. At the time

of the terrorist attacks on the center, more than 1,000 people around the building were diagnosed with cancer. Although mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, cities and livelihoods destroyed.

New technologies used for warfare cause more serious environmental damage and may have worse long-term consequences. The chairperson of the department, Dr. Asma Akbar, said that in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly declared November 6 every year as the International Day for the Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

How the environment can be saved in war and how all efforts should be made to limit the environmental destruction caused by conflict. On this occasion, Dr. Asma Akbar (Chairperson Political Science and Interna-

DFP concerned over surge in state terrorism in IIOJK, plight of Kashmiri prisoners

Bureau Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has voiced it's serious concern over the rising incidents of state terrorism, killings of Kashmiri youth and plight of the Kashmiri prisoners languishing in jails in and outside Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal said that the Indian occupation forces have turned the Kashmir valley into a slaughter house where innocent and educated youths were killed in fake encounters after being labeled as "terrorists".

He said that human rights defenders have time and again raised their voice against the continued bloodshed and violence in the region but India's human rights abusing regime



has turned a blind eye towards the plight of Kashmiris.

The spokesman said that it was quite unfortunate that the Indian occupation forces have been murdering innocent Kashmiris to fulfill their desire for material gains, seeking incentives and promotions.

He said that extermination of Kashmiri employees from government services was yet another tool the occupation authorities have

been using to strangulate Kashmiris economically.

Expressing his party's grave concern over the continued detention of the party president, Shabir Ahmed Shah and other Kashmiri political leaders, including Musrat Alam Bhat, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Aasiya Andrabi and others, said that the profreedom leadership was being punished and persecuted for raising their voice

for the voiceless people and India's brutal suppression against Kashmiris.

He said that along with political leadership, human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society were being victimized for documenting and reporting serious human rights violations.

He said that it was quite alarming that illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and rights activists were being extended every now and then by India's kangaroo Courts.

Arresting Kashmiri human rights defenders and journalists, he said, was part of the BJP government's clamp-down campaign to suppress the dissenting voices and make sure that no one raises his/her voice against the brutalities inflicted upon Kashmiris.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:08 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:31 pm
Maghrib 5:09 pm
Isha 6:34 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Mega City project will transform Gujjar Khan into modern city, Sheikh Tayyab Zahid

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The completion of the mega city project will solve health, education and unemployment problems of the people of Potohar region said Director Mega City Sheikh Tayyab Zahid. He said that when the need for satisfactory housing is not met, the welfare of both individuals and families is greatly affected. Apart from being a basic need of an individual, housing is an economic engine for low-income families as it plays an important role in the development of the family, community and country. He added that the project is also unique in that the plots here are available on easy instalments that will fulfill the dream of a house for the jobperson. He said that some elements are engaged in unsuccessful efforts to put obstacles in the completion of the project, are spreading false and baseless information to damage the project, but the promises we have made to our allottees will be fulfilled within the stipulated period. Lastly, he appealed the government that only the housing sector can bring the country out of economic crises so maximum relief should be provided to this sector, so that along with providing good living standard, employment opportunities can also be created.

IIUI 12th Convocation

Pro-Chancellor confers gold medals and degrees on female students

By Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. E. The Pro-Chancellor of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) and President of Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad Al-Ameri conferred gold medals and degrees on female students in the second session of the 12th convocation of university.

On the second day 147 gold medals were awarded to the female students by the chief guest. In the 12th convocation of IIUI, as many as 26992 graduates received the degrees that included 12817 male and 14715 female graduates. The University conferred 739 PhD degrees on the male and female students, while a total of 484 students were awarded gold medals in the two-day long mega event.

In his speech, Worthy Pro-Chancellor congratulated the new graduates and said by obtaining degrees, they were stepping into their practical lives. He appreciated the initiatives of President IIUI, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi saying that the university was heading to the right direction in his leadership. He also mentioned that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz and His Royal Highness Princess Mohammed Bin Salman give



great importance to ties with Pakistan. He also told that the Saudi Government has been keen to introduce the scholarships through a detailed program.

Rector IIUI Dr Samina Malik while congratulating the students said that "My warmest congratulations to our graduates on this celebratory day. Your hard work, commitment, and efforts have led you to earn your degrees". She said that the IIUI was imparting education in hundreds of

professional disciplines making it one of the best institutions in the world. She said to fulfil our mission of equipping our students with the emerging knowledge, we have revamped entire curriculum across 11 faculties and introduced the modern branches of sciences.

The IIU President Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi highlighting the 2022-26 Strategic Plan, said the university had taken multiple initiatives to modernize the

teaching process. He thanked the Saudi government for supporting the institution adding more details he informed that under this continuous support teachers from Saudi Arabia have arrived and teaching at the varsity, while more will come to join us for same purpose. He told the ceremony that work on Campus Management Project had been completed to convert the varsity on electronic system and that quality department had been

transformed into quality and development directorate. He thanked H. E. Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad Al-Ameri for his visit to IIUI from Saudi Arabia for the convocation of university.

On the occasion, Vice President Academics, Prof Dr. Abdul Rahman thanked IIUI leadership, efforts of all the teams, faculty, officers, staff members and students for untiring efforts to make this convocation memorable and exquisite.

Kalam-e-Iqbal, Speech and Tableau competitions held to mark Iqbal Day

By City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association organized Kalam-e-Iqbal, Speech and Tableau competitions to mark Iqbal Day in befitting manner. Naheed Manzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the chief guests of the competitions. While Member DRA Rawalpindi & President APPSMA Malik Ibrar Ahmad Khan and Divisional President APPSMA Aamir participated in the ceremony as guests of honors. Addressing the ceremony, Naheed Manzoor said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal's poetry is a bright chapter in the history of Urdu language. Allama Iqbal gave the Muslims of the subcontinent political backing through his speech.



He woke up the nation from the dream of neglect and awakened the spirit to decide their own destiny, she added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Allama Iqbal gave a message of unity to the Muslim Ummah through his poetry. He is considered as a modern Sufi. His main tendency in poetry was towards Sufism and revival of the Islamic Ummah. His

philosophy is recognized all over the world. City Lyceum School won first, Rising Stars Public School second, Brightland Secondary School third and Umbreen Educational Hub won fourth position in tableaux competitions. In speech competitions, Kanwal Nazir, Hadiya Noor, Tahmi Abid and Manahil Riaz were awarded the first, second, third and fourth prizes respectively.

In the Kalam Iqbal competition, Ayesha Lathani School got the first position, Umbriaan Educational Hub got the second position, AIMS School Girls got the third position and Paradise Public School got the fourth position. At the end of the competitions, shields and certificates of appreciation were distributed to the schools and children who secured positions.

Sales Partners Summit organized by CBD Punjab

By Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), organized Sales Partners Summit. The aim of the summit was to create awareness about the projects of CBD Punjab. Members from the real estate and business community participated in the summit. COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Executive Director Commercial CBD Punjab, Mohammed Omer, Executive Director Legal CBD Punjab, Barrister Bilal Afzal Khokhar, Director Marketing CBD Punjab, Waseem Siddiq, Director Operations CBD Punjab, Colonel (R) Fazeel Ghumman and other officials of CBD Punjab attended the event. While addressing the event COO CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua welcomed all partners to CBD Punjab. He



said that CBD Punjab is making a business district on an international scale, which will pave new ways for the development of Punjab and provide new business opportunities. Executive Director Commercial CBD Punjab, Mohammad Omer gave a briefing about the projects of the authority. He

shed light on CBD Punjab projects like Axis, Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, CBD Punjab Bab District, Walton Road Upgradation and Ghora Chowk Flyover. CBD Punjab onboarded 38 partners. The summit was concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony.

VC AIOU visits Mazar e Iqbal



By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood visited mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal on 146th birthday of the great philosopher and poet of East. Dr Nasir paid homage to the national poet and offered Fateha. Dr. Nasir said that there is a way forward in Iqbal's philosophy and we must read and understand his philosophy and poetry. He added that Iqbal was a great poet and thinker who stressed upon the establishment of a society based upon the human values and Islamic ideology.

Dr Nasir emphasized on the actualisation of Iqbal's dreams and advises, and concept of Khudi for youth. He added that "Iqbal Corner" has been established in central library of AIOU. Dr Nasir wrote his impressions in visitor's book.

Regional Director AIOU congratulates to new Vice Chancellor

By Maryam Siddiq

RAWALPINDI: Regional Director Rawalpindi Allama Iqbal Open University Mrs. Nasreen Hameed Khan congratulated Dr. Nasir Mahmood as Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad from the bottom of her heart and welcomed his appointment.



Regional Director Rawalpindi Allama Iqbal Open University Mrs. Nasreen Hameed Khan expressed her happiness on the appointment of Dr. Nasir Mahmood as the Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University. And she said that President Dr. Arif Alvi approved the appointment of Dr. Nasir Mahmood as Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University. Which is a source of pride for all of us. We Welcome to Dr. Nasir Mahmood. We all have complete faith in their educational policies, for the promotion of which we stand with them. We are hopeful that with the appointment of Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the institution will create a new chapter of success in the field of education.

Experience Unparalleled Vlogging with Infinix ZERO 30 4G -

By Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Infinix, Pakistan's leading smartphone brand, is now taking pre-orders for ZERO 30 4G - the ultimate vlogging phone that transcends beyond ordinary selfies via 50 MP 30 FPS front vlog camera. Priced at Rs 59,999, Infinix ZERO 30 4G empower young individuals and content creators to capture and share their stories with the world. 2k video recording outcomes effortless and convenient framing along with real-time adjustments while vlogging on the go. Infinix ZERO 30 4G is now available to pre-order online on Xpark and also on outlets nationwide along with exclusive pre-order gifts.

Simon Feng, CEO of Infinix Pakistan, shared his views saying: "Through the ZERO 30 4G, we are democratizing high-quality video production, allowing individuals to share their personal stories and narratives. We believe this device will empower the youth to express themselves in ways they never thought possible."

But the ZERO 30 4G is more than just a camera powerhouse. Its stunning curved display offers a 60° Golden Curve for a reassuringly solid feel. Crafted with drop-resistant Corning Gorilla Glass, the smartphone is built for durability by all means. Additionally, the flagship-grade 6.78-inch AMOLED display provides an immersive viewing experience, complete with a rapid 120Hz refresh rate and lightning-fast 360Hz touch sampling rate.

Powered by a high-performance octa-core processor and an impressive 16GB of Extended Memory, the ZERO 30 4G ensures seamless performance for all your needs. In short, Infinix ZERO 30 4G is a well-rounded smartphone for content creators and performance seekers.

A Salute to an honest Officer

Celebrating valor and dedication

By Marium Rauf

ISLAMABAD: In the fabric of every community lies the invaluable thread of selfless service, unwavering dedication, and courage. Today, I wish to shine a light on an individual who embodies these virtues in the most exemplary manner—Mr Abdul Razzaq. In an era where the responsibilities of a police officer are both demanding and diverse, Officer Abdul Razzaq currently working as a SHO Sialkot police station Murad pura stands as a beacon of exceptional service and unwavering commitment.

With each dawn, Officer Abdul Razzaq steps onto the streets, ready to embrace the day's challenges. His performances in the line of duty have not just been commendable; they have been exemplary, setting a standard of

service that inspires and reassures the community.

In the face of uncertainty and danger, Officer Abdul Razzaq remains steadfast and resolute, showing an exceptional blend of compassion and courage. Whether responding to emergencies, diffusing tense situations, or going above and beyond to assist those in need, his dedication to upholding the values of justice and safety is unparalleled.

Officer Abdul Razzaq's performances stand out not just for their professionalism but for the empathy and kindness he demonstrates in every interaction. He is a testament to the fact that law enforcement is not merely about enforcing the law; it's about serving and protecting the community with an understanding heart and a strong resolve.



Abdul Razzaq is a SHO of Sialkot Police Station and has a positive repute with so many academic achievements. He is adorned with 80+ certifications, few of which are from IGP, PRO and DPO. This shows how nicely and from what solid grounds he was educating

us for rights and laws. With a history of bravery He was awarded with "Ghazi Medal" while countering mega road robbery where he was badly injured but successfully caught three robbers. He has solved 100 murder cases successfully including the blind murders.

With all this background and the effort he is making to present the impression of His Police department more n more positive, friendly and trustworthy.

One incident, among many, that embodies officer Abdul Razzaq exceptional performance was his recovery of a merchant who was abducted for a ransom amount 1 billion. He cracked this case in a jiffy. In this particular situation, his quick thinking and courage saved the day, illustrating the true essence of his commitment to public service.

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IS 'The Secret War'

'Public Interest Vs Official Secrets Act 1923'

Syed Aun Mohammed Bokhari

On 11th November 1940, Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, had been given at least "forty-eight hours" warning through secret cipher that Coventry would be hit. He could have warned the people of Coventry of the impending attack. Yet Churchill determined that any advance warning to the people of Coventry would have enabled the Germans to deduce that their top-secret code had been broken. The coded intercepts provided evidence of the conspiracy of the Holocaust in progress through Airel bombing. The Official Secret Act 1911 was enforced in England therefore the only other way to reveal that coded information to the public at large which could have bypassed the coded system, was to provide warning to the public while maintaining a strategic advantage. Although on 14th November 1940, German Air Force bombarded Coventry but Winston Churchill after consulting with his fellow parliamentarians, warned the public beforehand by disclosing the contents of the secret cipher and successfully managed to avert the massacre at Coventry blitz.

In 1971, a landmark decision was held by the United States Supreme Court in US vs The Times on the Espionage Act 1917 which was severely scrutinized by the Court. A secret project was launched by the then US Minister for Defense which was completed in 1968 and was classified as "Top Secret". Daniel Ellsberg, an employee, secretly made copies of the documents pertaining to the US Military involvement in Vietnam war and

passed them to reporters of the New York Times. On 13th June, 1971, "The Times" began to publish these so-called "Pentagon Papers". After the first three installments were published, the Nixon Administration, citing national security concerns, obtained a restraining order under the Espionage Act 1917 barring further publication of the Papers. "The Times" made an emergency appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case the next day (26th June 1971). The Court issued its opinions on 30th June 1971. In a 6-3 decision, the Court dissolved the restraining order and allowed "The Times" to continue with the publication of the "Top-Secret Official documents". It was held by the US Supreme Court that "any system of prior restraints comes to this Court bearing a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity" and "the Government thus carries a heavy burden of showing justification for the imposition of such a restraint." In this case, the government had failed to carry that burden. Secrecy in government is fundamentally anti-democratic, perpetuating bureaucratic errors. Open debate and discussion of public issues are vital to our national health. On public questions there should be "uninhibited, robust, and wide-open" debates.

On January 1970 William Owen, the then Member for Morpeth, UK was arrested and charged with communicating evidence useful to the enemy, under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911. On 6th May, 1970 he was found not guilty. In another case in 1985, Clive Ponting MP (UK Parliament) sent two documents about the sinking of the ship "the General Belgrano" to Labor MP Tam Dalyell. Ponting was prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act 1911. Ponting's defense was that the disclosure had been in the public interest, and that the

information was privileged as it was to a Member of the Parliament. Jury found him not guilty.

On 2004, an employee of GCHQ, UK, Katherine Gun admitted to leaking an email calling for British help in spying on UN diplomats in January 2004. The Attorney General of UK announced in February 2004 that a prosecution against Katherine Gun an employee at GCHQ, for violation of the Official Secret Act 1989 would not proceed. It is also vital to place on record that in another case in 2005, Derek Pasquill, UK Foreign Office official accused of leaking confidential documents to the New Statesman and the Observer newspapers. The documents were pertaining to the UK Government's views on secret CIA rendition flights and contacts with Muslim groups in Iraq. As the leaks of the official documents were so damaging, the case was abandoned on 9th January 2008 when prosecutors said that the documents to be disclosed as part of legal proceedings would undermine their case.

As held by the US Supreme Court in US vs The Times 1971, the guarding of military and diplomatic secrets at the expense of informed representatives, government provides no real security for our Republic. Following the footsteps of Winston Churchill, Ex Prime-Minister, Imran Khan on 27.03.2022 made a speech to the public and warned the nation of the potential conspiracy being hatched in a foreign land regarding overthrowing his government without declassifying and decoding the cipher received to him in an official capacity. Secondly, cipher codes were never disclosed to the nation rather warning statements were made to the public to be alert and vigilant without disclosing the actual contents of the cipher. Thirdly, being a member of the Parliament and an Ex-Prime Minister, it was his legal duty

to warn the nation through his speeches for any potential threats which were being faced by the Pakistani Nation as warning statements of any possible threat does not come within the ambit of section 5 of the Official Secrets Act 1923.

It is strange rather ironical to mention here that throughout the world, official confidential information's are leaked and contents of the secret ciphers and intercepts are disclosed to the nations in the public interest, as evident from the above mentioned cases like UK or USA but these nations diplomats were never let down by the international diplomatic circles neither they created any strained relations with any other country nor these nations sovereignty was compromised rather judicial interventions were made to complete the due process of law.

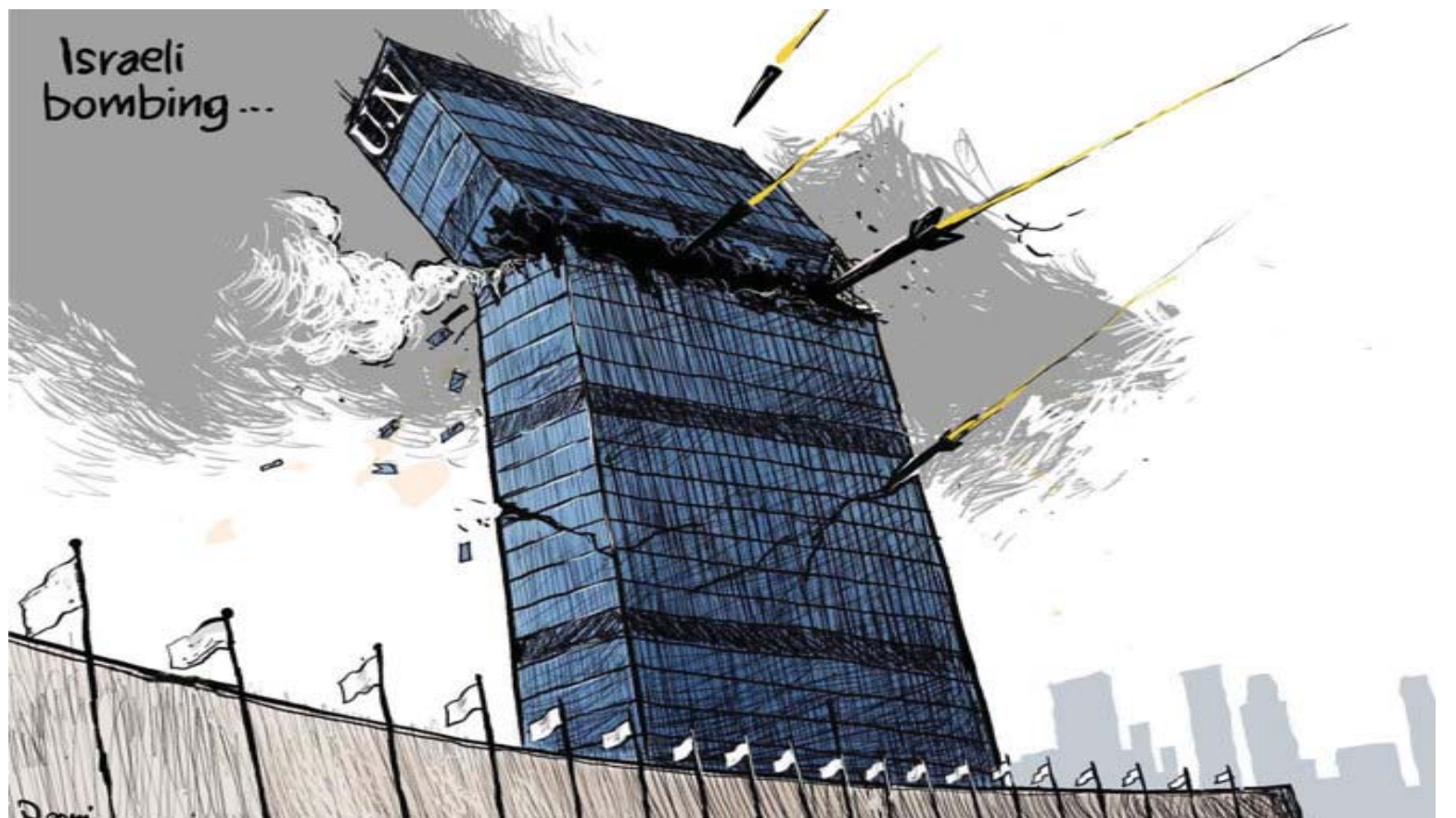
Being a member of the Parliament, having parliamentary privileges, it was alleged that the contents of the cipher was discussed by the Ex Prime Minister of Pakistan among other parliamentarians at Bani Galla for political motives. But on the other hand, it is obligatory upon the Prime Minister, being member of the parliament to discuss among other parliamentarians the potential threat to Pakistan. In the end, I would like to say that the only effective restraint upon executive policy and power in the areas of national defense and international affairs may lie in an enlightened citizenry-in an informed and critical public opinion which alone can protect the values of democratic government. For this reason, it is perhaps here that a nation that is alert, aware, and free most vitally serves the basic purpose of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. For without an informed and free press there cannot be an enlightened people.

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Gaza hospitals at 'breaking point', WHO

Hundreds of thousands of besieged Palestinians still in northern Gaza face unprecedented hardship after being isolated by deadly Israeli military operations, while a medical convoy sent by the United Nations and partners was fired on in Gaza City, according to UN humanitarian officials. The development came as foreign ministers from the G-7 group of countries joined international calls on Wednesday for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting to protect civilians, help bring in aid and support the release of more than 240 hostages held captive in Gaza since October 7.

No bakeries are functioning in the north because of a lack of fuel, water and flour, and no food or bottled water has been distributed there in a week, according to OCHA, the UN humanitarian affairs coordination office. In a statement, the head of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, together with WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it was only the second delivery of lifesaving supplies to the hospital since Israel's total siege of Gaza began. "While welcome, the quantities we delivered are far from sufficient to respond to the immense needs in the Gaza Strip. The medical conditions at Al-Shifa - the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip and one of the oldest Palestinian health institutions - are disastrous," said the heads of WHO and UNRWA. "There are currently almost two patients for every bed available. The emergency department and wards are overflowing, requiring doctors and medical workers to treat wounded and sick patients in the corridors, on the floor, and outdoors," they added. Tens of thousands of displaced people have sought shelter in the hospital's parking lots and yards. "Al-Shifa Hospital has traditionally been the most important health facility in Gaza. Its doctors, nurses and other workers have responded heroically to the current desperate situation. But they need more support. "The northern areas of Gaza cannot and should not be isolated nor deprived of the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Patients there cannot be denied the healthcare to which they are entitled and urgently need. Aid should reach the whole of Gaza," the top UN officials said. Briefing journalists in New York, UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said the number of UNRWA staff who have been killed during the continuing Israeli bombardment, has reached 99 - most of them Palestinians. Responding to questions, Dujarric said that "when this conflict ends there will need to be accountability" for the deaths. As deaths and injuries in Gaza continue rising, intense overcrowding and disrupted health, water, and sanitation systems pose an added danger: the rapid spread of infectious diseases, said the UN health agency in a statement, adding that "worrying trends are already emerging." "Lack of fuel has led to the shutting down of desalination plants, significantly increasing the risk of bacterial infections like diarrhoea spreading as people consume contaminated water. Lack of fuel has also disrupted all solid waste collection, creating an environment conducive to the rapid and widespread proliferation of insects, rodents that can carry and transmit diseases." The situation is particularly concerning for almost 1.5 million displaced people across Gaza, especially those living in severely overcrowded shelters with poor access to hygiene facilities and safe water, increasing risk of infectious diseases transmission, WHO noted. Meanwhile, Israeli bombardments continued across the Gaza Strip while Palestinian fighters continued launching projectiles toward Israel. Israeli troops are reportedly inside Gaza City in pursuit of Hamas fighters. OCHA said that the Israeli military reiterated its evacuation orders to residents in the north and on Tuesday, for the fourth consecutive day, opened a "corridor" along a main traffic artery, giving residents a four-hour window to move southwards. UN monitors estimate that up to 15,000 people may have used this route. OCHA stressed that "the majority, including children, elderly people and people with disabilities, arrived on foot with minimal belongings".



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

Myths Surrounding Pak Army's Recruitment and Promotion System - III

The Pakistan Military Academy, often referred to as PMA, is an officer training establishment located near Kakol village in Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Established in October 1947, it is the sole service academy in Pakistan responsible for training cadets to serve as army officers. For educational training, the institution is accredited by NUST (National University of Sciences and Technology). Cadets undergo two years of demanding military training to attain officer status. PMA provides training to Gentlemen Cadets (Officer Cadets) from the Pakistan Army and allied countries. The academy is divided into four training battalions and 16 companies. Each year, around 2,000 invited guests from over 34 countries visit the institution. Many of Pakistan's close allies send their own cadets and officers to receive top-tier training in contemporary military doctrine at PMA.

Now, let's delve into the training regimen at PMA. Upon reporting to the Pakistan Military Academy Kakul on the first day, selected candidates arrive with aspirations of becoming future Generals. However, their dreams quickly face a rude awakening as they are welcomed by senior cadets at the academy. The initial six months involve rigorous discipline and cadet punishments. The luggage and suitcases carried by new cadets soon become a burden. Their first interaction with the senior cadets is an attempt to make friends, but they soon discover that these seniors are going to subject them to rigorous training. The senior cadets at PMA are renowned for their intense and demanding approach, which is aimed at instilling discipline and helping the cadets acclimatize to the environment, shedding their shyness along the way.

The initiation of a cadet's journey at PMA is marked by the iconic Army/Fauji haircut, a symbol of their transition into military life. The academy

ensures that the cadets receive a proper haircut and provides them with the essential uniforms and accessories needed for their two years of training. In addition to administering disciplinary actions, the senior cadets take on the role of mentors, offering guidance to the newcomers regarding academy life and regulations. Throughout their entire two-year training period at PMA, every cadet undergoes a weekly haircut. Physical training (PT) is a mandatory part of the daily routine at PMA Kakul, serving as a warm-up for the extensive activities scheduled throughout the day. The day kicks off with PT sessions conducted by the experienced physical training staff of Kakul academy. First-term cadets are required to complete a 1-mile run within 6 minutes and 30 seconds, followed by a series of exercises that include chin-ups, pushups, sit-ups, rope climbing, and horse jumping.

While many might assume that physical training is the sole focus at PMA Kakul, this is not accurate. Cadets also engage in academic learning during these two years. Major subjects covered include Computer Science, Mathematics, Political Science, and History. At the conclusion of each semester, examinations are held, which contribute to the cadets' attainment of a BS degree, awarded before the passing out parade day.

Military training is imparted to the cadets through a combination of indoor tutorials and outdoor exercises. The drill is a critical component aimed at instilling discipline among the cadets. In the initial six months, cadets are introduced to basic drill, often referred to as a Parade. The concept of a parade is familiar to most individuals from their school days, as well as from observing passing out parades on television.

The salute holds a special significance for many individuals aspiring to join the Pak army. It symbolizes the respect and recognition received from juniors

in the army, instilling a sense of pride for being one of the leaders in one of the world's premier armies. Experienced PMA drill staff provide instruction on the proper way to execute a salute. Adjutants, typically officers with the rank of major, are responsible for overseeing the disciplined and organized training of the cadets at the academy, which includes evaluating their salute performance.

Patrolling and navigation are fundamental military tactics that are crucial for cadets aspiring to become proficient officers. In patrolling exercises, cadets are divided into small groups and learn how to conduct combat patrols in a simulated war-like setting that includes tanks.

In navigation exercises, cadets gain knowledge in map reading techniques and the use of navigation tools such as compasses, which equip them with the skills needed to navigate from one location to another. A platoon commander (usually a major) is responsible for overseeing the military training of the cadets and briefs them on military tactics and exercises. Mostly a platoon consists of 25-30 cadets. During the initial six months, cadets are instructed on the proper handling of small arms by the experienced weapon training staff at the Pakistan Military Academy.

The second term at PMA offers a more adventurous experience, with activities like boxing and Yarmouk exercises providing a thrilling dimension to the cadets' training. As the first term concludes, a term break allows cadets to unwind, as the upcoming second term is expected to be more demanding. Military training intensifies in the second term, with cadets delving into higher-level academic subjects compared to the first term. This term is packed with numerous activities, and physical training (PT) remains a constant. In the second term, cadets are required to complete a 1-mile run within 6 minutes, along with an increased number of chin-ups, pushups, and sit-ups.

To be continued

Seasonal fresh fruits, water consumption necessary to maintain healthy skin in winter

PNP

A health expert on Saturday stressed public awareness for extra care for sensitive skin in winter and recommended the public to add seasonal fresh fruits and ensure adequate water consumption to maintain healthy skin to get that glow.

A renowned Dermatologist Dr Sayed Ghulam Abbas Shah talking to a PTV news channel stressed that the winter seasonal fruits not only give you the right nutrition but can also do wonders for your skin, adding that vegetable markets nowadays are flooded with a variety of seasonal fruits and these tasty delights are brimming with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals which keep human body and skin well hydrated.

He further explained that among many other nutritional benefits that fruits offer, they are also particularly beneficial for the health of one's skin and hair.

During the winter season, our skin needs extra care and attention, he said, adding that dry skin is one of the common problems during the winter season.

The cold weather results in dry, itchy, and scaly skin. Many also experience sensitive skin during this season, he mentioned.

Simple modifications in your skin-care routine, lifestyle, and diet can help you ensure healthy skin this winter, he added.

He also suggested that prolonged hot showers dehydrate your skin, use a hydrating cleanser on your skin, and try to oil your skin with warm coconut oil pre-shower.

Moisturizers are a must in winter. Skin needs moisturizing, as much as your body needs hydration, he added.

To a question, he replied, that drinking water is essential for everyone, especially those who have dry and dehydrated skin, adding, a diet with nutrients your body needs during this time of the year.

To another query about Skin cancer, he replied having a dermatologist inspect the skin is the best way to detect potential problem spots and ensure early treatment.

Remember that skin cancer is highly treatable when detected before it has had the opportunity to spread to internal organs, he added.

Early diagnosis and treatment is essential to avoid its spread to surrounding tissue, nerves, and bones, he highlighted.

As part of a complete early detection strategy, we recommend that the public should consult a dermatologist once a year for a full-body, professional skin exam or more often if you are at a higher risk of skin cancer.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev's address to ECO Summit

Spokesman Report

Today, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. At the beginning of his remarks, he underscored: "Even as we meet, the political architecture of the world is radically changing before our eyes and its global transformation is taking place. It is important that the countries of our organization, which have great influence in these complex processes, act unitedly and harmoniously, and jointly search for effective responses to emerging threats and challenges."

Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that despite the global crisis, the economies of the ECO states are demonstrating sustainable rates of development. Over the past six years, the gross domestic product in Uzbekistan has increased 1.5 times. By 2030, the country, according to the head of state, plans to double this economic indicator. It is planned to achieve this goal primarily through the creation of a "green" economy, modern infrastructure, new jobs, stimulation of the private sector and active attraction of foreign direct investment.

"In this regard, we are ready to work effectively with all members of our organization. Because the economies of our countries, which are close and good neighbors—can complement each other. Our countries are connected by common trade and transport corridors and energy networks. Thanks to the joint search for new "points of growth" in the future, we will definitely achieve even more significant results," the President of Uzbekistan expressed confidence.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev highlighted that Uzbekistan supported summing up the implementation of Perspectives 2025, the main document of the ECO. He also outlined the country's proposals for the new document "Strategic Goals for Economic Cooperation—2035."

Stimulating trade

Last year, trade between ECO countries amounted to \$85 billion.

"This is only 8% of the total trade of the organization's member states. Unfortunately, many years of attempts to finalize a preferential trade agreement have not produced the expected results. There are still many restrictions and challenges in creating unimpeded trade.



H. E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

We must openly acknowledge this in order to take a fresh look at the situation and change it for the better," said the President of Uzbekistan, calling for the adoption of the ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement, developed by experts.

In this document, he said, special attention is paid to facilitating trade in goods and services, preventing technical and non-tariff barriers, digitalization of customs, phytosanitary and veterinary rules, and the development of e-commerce. According to preliminary calculations, these measures may allow us to achieve at least a twofold increase in mutual trade volumes by 2035.

Strengthening transport and communication interconnectivity

Most member states do not have direct access to the sea. "At the same time, we must take full advantage of the potential of transcontinental transport corridors connecting with large markets in the Asia-Pacific region, South Asia, the Middle East and Europe and passing through our territories," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The launch of multimodal corridors along the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan route and the Trans-Afghan Road in the future is in the interests of all member states, he added.

He called on other members to join the document adopted on November 2 in Tashkent at a meeting of transport ministers on the development of the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey transport corridor and the optimization of mutual tariffs and fees.

The head of state noted that Uzbekistan had carried out digitalization of cargo transportation data with Azerbaijan and Turkey, and similar projects are being implemented with other states.

For widespread implementation and effective coordination of such systems, the President of Uzbekistan proposed creating an ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent.

Stepping up industrial cooperation, business contacts and the formation of industrial hubs

The Uzbek leader said that the country had developed and submitted to the ECO secretariat

a program of joint actions to increase the flow and protect mutual investments and deepen industrial cooperation. This document outlines the goal of promoting new joint projects in the fields of chemistry, energy, geology, textiles, leather and footwear, food, pharmaceutical and construction industries. "In this direction, we stand for expanding partnerships with the Bank for Trade and Development of the organization," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

He noted that the fifth business forum held the day before in Tashkent with the participation of heads of chambers of commerce and industry and numerous companies demonstrated the great potential of the private sector of the ECO.

"We are initiating the creation of an Interregional Industrial Exhibition within the framework of the organization and the holding of its first event in 2024 in our country," said the Uzbek president.

Guaranteed energy security

The president noted that Uzbekistan has set a goal of

creating renewable energy sources with a capacity of 25 GW by 2030 and increasing their share in the balance to 40%. This year alone, the country is launching large wind and solar power plants with a capacity of 2 GW and taking its first steps in the field of green hydrogen production.

"We are ready for an open dialogue and exchange of experience in these areas with all states," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

For a detailed discussion of issues of cooperation and work on a systematic basis, he proposed establishing a separate Council of Energy Ministers within the ECO.

Strengthening ties to counter climate change and protect the environment

"Currently, our states are faced with the dire consequences of these acute problems. Processes such as melting glaciers, water shortages, desertification, dust storms, soil erosion and the disappearance of biological diversity are of serious concern," said the President of Uzbekistan.

"I express my gratitude for the support of our idea to create

a High-Level Platform on Environmental Issues within the ECO. We are ready to hold the first conference of the platform within the framework of the upcoming Samarkand Climate Forum in 2024," said the head of state.

The president also called for the active participation of representatives of the ECO countries in the meeting of the Committee to Review the Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, which will be held in Uzbekistan this coming week. "In order to combat dust and sand storms, which now pose an increasingly serious problem, we urge support for the Samarkand Declaration," he added.

Strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism

In the ECO space there are about 90 monuments included in the UNESCO World Heritage List; the country is visited annually by about 80 million foreign tourists. "Given the growing popularity of cross-border destinations, I propose to introduce joint tourist routes and increase common tourism programs

under the Silk Road brand," the president said.

The leader of Uzbekistan also proposed creating a separate Advisory Committee on Tourism at the ECO secretariat, consisting of tourism administrations and leading experts from member countries. Its first meeting, according to the president, could be hosted next year by Shakhrisabz, declared the tourist capital of the ECO.

Further rapprochement of friendly peoples through deepening cultural and humanitarian cooperation

"The annual holding of alternate weeks of culture, art and cinema in our countries, the establishment of youth creative festivals and an innovative cooperation platform, strengthening interaction in fundamental scientific areas will give a strong impetus to the development of our ties," the president expressed his opinion.

Separately, he touched upon the Palestinian-Israeli war in the Middle East.

"Unfortunately, the victims of the bloody conflict are primarily numerous members of the civilian population, especially women, children and the elderly. The threat of war spreading throughout the region is becoming increasingly real. We must not allow this confrontation to turn into a large-scale conflict. We call on the parties to immediately cease hostilities, begin peaceful negotiations, and achieve a reasonable compromise," Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized.

"Once again we express our firm position—the people of Palestine have the right to create their own independent state, which is confirmed by UN resolutions," he said.

The President of Uzbekistan drew the attention of his colleagues to the fact that today's summit is taking place without the participation of Afghanistan, one of the members of our ECO.

"We cannot allow the multi-ethnic people of Afghanistan, who have been our closest neighbors for centuries, to be left alone with the current complex problems. The active involvement of this country in regional integration processes is an indispensable and necessary condition for our sustainable development. I urge all of you to increase humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, to solve the acute socio-economic problems existing in this country on the basis of collective responsibility and acceptable mechanisms," the head of the state emphasized.

ECO Tashkent Summit

A new basis for developing common approaches to addressing issues of relevance to the vast region

Spokesman Report

For the first time in history, Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, will host the Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. It will be held on 8-9 November, 2023.

Our country has been a member of the organization since November 1992, but this is the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan and this association that a multilateral summit within the framework of the ECO is being held on Uzbek soil.

The Economic Cooperation Organization is a regional interstate organization founded in 1985 in Tehran (Iran).

The goals and objectives of ECO – development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and regional interaction in transport and communication sphere fully meet the interests of our republic.

At present, the ECO members are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Since 1995, the ECO has had observer status in the UN and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The ECO activities are coordinated and monitored by the organization's Secretary General, who is elected and appointed by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the ECO member countries for a period of three years.

In 2022, Uzbekistan chaired the ECO for the first time. Speaking at the 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat on 28 November 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward proposals for cooperation in trade, investment, transport and "green" economy. "We need to more fully utilize the significant potential of our countries, which have a huge market with a population of over 500 million people, in the spheres of trade and investment," the head of our state stressed at the summit. Accepting the chairmanship, the President said Uzbekistan favors the development of comprehensive relations within the ECO framework.

Our country considers ECO as a platform for discussing ways to improve development and promote trade and investment opportunities in South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East.

Within the framework of ECO, Uzbekistan



Group photo of Heads of State of the on the occasion of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit Held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan

advocates the creation of interregional transit hubs, the development of modern transport and road infrastructure, the optimization of transport and transit tariffs, the simplification of conditions for international freight and passenger traffic and the introduction of digitalisation in the transport industry.

In addition, at the summit in Ashgabat, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward an initiative on active joint development of "green" economy, wide introduction of resource-saving technologies in industrial sectors, and achievement of carbon neutrality.

Uzbekistan is also in favor of joining efforts to develop common approaches and provide necessary assistance to Afghanistan. In this regard, the head of our state has put forward an initiative to consistently continue the implementation of major trade, transport and energy projects of regional significance jointly with Afghanistan in order to promote the economy of this country and support its people.

Today, the ECO countries are the largest trade

partners of Uzbekistan. According to the results of 2022, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and ECO countries totalled \$12.3 billion, and in January–July 2023—\$5.8 billion.

Since May 2018, there has been an intensification of Uzbekistan's cooperation with ECO. In particular, since 2018, ECO Secretaries General Khalil Akca, Hadi Soleimanpour, Khusrav Noziri, as well as Deputy Secretary General Hussein Burchakli have visited Uzbekistan.

At the same time, the participation of the Uzbek side in international events held under the auspices of ECO has been considerably intensified.

Official delegations of Uzbekistan take part in the meetings of Prosecutors General, Heads of Maritime Organization s, Ministers of Transport, Tourism and Agriculture, as well as meetings of the ECO Expert Group on Mineral Resources and Heads of Veterinary Organization s of the ECO Member States.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, many events were held online, including a virtual

meeting of the ECO Member States, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and ECOLONER, an international energy consultancy, to discuss the ECO Clean Energy Centre project, the ECO Virtual Conference on "Prospects and Challenges of Regional Electricity Markets: Exploiting Trade and Investment Opportunities", the first virtual meeting of the Working Group on Civil Aviation (November), the first virtual meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (November), and the first virtual meeting of the ECO Working Group on Trade and Investment (November).

As a result of the virtual meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the ECO Member States in December 2020, Uzbekistan's initiative to include road and rail transport corridors "Central Asia-Afghanistan-Pakistan", "Central Asia-Afghanistan-Iran", "Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran" into the transport arteries of the ECO region was supported by all member countries of the organization and included in the final Declaration.

In January 2021, the first meeting of the Heads

of Special Economic Zones of the ECO Member States and the 31st meeting of the Regional Planning Council were held.

At the regular meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council chaired by Uzbekistan on 17-26 January 2022, on the initiative of our country, 2022 was declared the "Year of Strengthening Connectivity".

It should be noted that more than 25 events were held during Uzbekistan's chairmanship in ECO.

Thus, on 5-6 July 2022, the 7th meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the ECO countries was held in Tashkent. The event was also attended by the organization's Secretary General Khusrav Noziri.

On 13 December 2022, the fourth meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers was held online, during which Shakhrisabz was selected as the ECO Tourism Capital in 2024.

On 5 December 2022, the President of Uzbekistan signed the law "On Ratification of the Treaty of Izmir", strengthening the legal basis for full membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as expanding opportunities for comprehensive cooperation with the Organization's Member States.

On 24 January 2023, the 26th meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA) was held in Tashkent, which was attended for the first time by the foreign ministers of all member states of the organization. As a result, the Tashkent Communiqué was adopted. On the same day, the President of Uzbekistan received the ECO Secretary General.

It is also worth noting that ECO Secretary General Khusrav Noziri participated as an international observer at the presidential elections in October 2021, as well as at the Constitutional Referendum held in Uzbekistan on 30 April this year.

There is no doubt that holding the next summit of the organization in Tashkent will give a new impetus to Uzbekistan's interaction with the ECO member states, create a new basis for the development of common approaches to addressing issues relevant to the association and determine further key priorities of the organization on developing and strengthening regional economic cooperation for the benefit of all peoples inhabiting the vast ECO space.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
54,261.42	53,735.73
Day's High	Day's Low
54,419.65	53,720.45
Index Value	Change
15,717,969,536	+525.69
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	8 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,455.67	+53.95
Percentage	Time
+0.73%	9 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,980.39	-131.88
Percentage	Time
-0.39%	9 Nov, 1:10 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,646.46	+479.98
Percentage	Time
+1.49%	9 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	758.95	766.95
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.32	39.72
Danish Krone	40.89	41.29
Euro	307	310
Hong Kong Dollar	36.49	36.84
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.74	1.82
Kuwaiti Dinar	924.09	933.09
Malaysian Ringgit	61.21	61.81
New Zealand \$	169.25	171.25
Norwegians Krone	25.46	25.76
Omani Riyal	741.17	749.17
Qatari Riyal	78.4	79.1
Saudi Riyal	76.75	77.6
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	26.09	26.39
Swiss Franc	316.92	319.42
Thai Bhat	8.03	8.18
U.A.E Dirham	80.75	81.5
UK Pound Sterling	354.5	358
US Dollar	286.5	289

NPO international workshop

Promote Mechanization in Agriculture Sector: Speakers



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Four days international workshop on improving agricultural productivity through mechanization concluded here on Thursday.

The international workshop was arranged by the National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan.

International participants from APO member countries including Turkey, Mongolia, Fiji, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal and Bangladesh and along with local participants attended the workshop while resource speakers Mr Takashi Fujimori from Japan, Mr. Isara Chaopisit from KASETSART University, Thailand, and Engr. Mahmood Riaz Director Design and Development at Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute Multan, Pakistan.

The workshop was aimed at promoting understanding of the latest technologies and measures for mechanization in agriculture, policies and frameworks to support mechanization 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.

The speakers addressing the closing ceremony of the event were of the viewpoint that it is timely to identify how Agriculture can benefit from private and public support mechanisms to attain sustainable long-term growth.

Agricultural mechanization plays a strategic role in improving agricultural production and productivity in developing countries.

Indonesia and Pakistan have ample potential to enhance bilateral trade ties: Adam M. Tugio

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) organized a farewell dinner in honor of H. E. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan. Additional Secretary Foreign Affairs Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, High Commissioner of Malaysia H. E. Muhammad Azhar Mazlan, Ambassador of Azerbaijan H. E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Philippines H. E. Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, Ambassador of Nepal H. E. Tapas Adhikari, dignitaries, journalists and a large number of the business community attended the dinner.

ICCI and the business community proposed to give the highest civil award of Pakistan to the Ambassador of Indonesia for his extraordinary services to strengthen the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Indonesia in economic, trade, political, diplomatic and other fields.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Indonesia H. E. Adam M. Tugio said that Indonesia and Pakistan have huge potential to increase their trade and economic ties and the role of business communities of both sides is significant in this regard. He said that there are many potential sectors in both the countries including tourism, trade, technology, energy and agriculture through which both countries can expand their relations. He said that Indonesia and Pakistan are connected by historical religious ties and we



have to transfer this legacy to our next generations. He said that the best memories of his life are associated with Pakistan. This country is extremely hospitable and it is unparalleled in its natural beauty. He said that his experiences as the ambassador of Indonesia in Pakistan were wonderful. The business community here has a lot of potential, and it is hoped that the leadership of Pakistan's business community, especially the ICICI, will play an active role in further strengthening the economic and trade relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. He is grateful to the ICICI for organizing such an excellent farewell function in his honor. There are strong possibilities of Pakistan-Indonesia direct flight being operational and by finalizing it soon, direct air connectivity will be established between the two countries. The free trade agree-

ment between Pakistan and Indonesia will be finalized soon after which mutual trade between the two countries will increase further.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce said that Indonesia should promote Pakistan as a full dialogue partner in ASEAN in order to enhance the economic and trade ties between both sides. He said the role of the business community is very important in increasing trade relations between Indonesia and Pakistan and assured that ICICI would play a significant role in this regard. Tourism, IT and textiles are important sectors for strengthening mutual economic and trade relations in both countries. The mutual trade between Pakistan and Indonesia, which is \$4.5 billion dollars, needs to be further increased, for which ICICI will play its important



role. The trade between ASEAN and Pakistan is currently \$11 billion, which is very less than its potential and more work is needed to improve it. He hoped that Adam M. Tugio will play his best role to improve the image of Pakistan in future.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICICI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that direct flights and free trade agreement between Pakistan and Indonesia is the need of the hour and its implementation is inevitable. He said that the economic and trade relations between the two countries will increase with the direct flights while the mutual relations would also be further improved.

Additional Secretary MOFA Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said that Pakistan and Indonesia can help each other in providing trade corridors. He said that the geo-strategic loca-

tion of both countries can strengthen their geo-economic benefits. He said that Indonesia can play a key role in facilitating Pakistan to get full dialogue partner status with ASEAN and the membership of ASEAN Regional Forum.

Senior Vice President, ICICI Faad Waheed said that Pakistan and Indonesia have huge potential to explore new sectors to further strengthen bilateral economic ties.

ICCI Goup Leader Khalid Malik said that Indonesia and Pakistan are connected in historical and religious relations, and we want to further deepen these relations between them to achieve mutual benefits.

Vice President ICICI Engineer Azharul Islam said that he recently visited Indonesia with a trade delegation and there are plenty of opportunities to increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

Group Photo

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

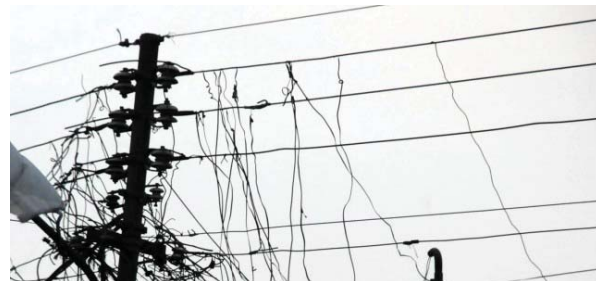


LESCO detects 254 power pilferers on 62nd day of anti-power theft campaign

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 254 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 62nd day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Thursday that the company has also submitted



FIR applications against 251 electricity thieves, out of which 131 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations,

while 19 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity

thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

EIGHTEEN refutes PRA's allegations of tax evasion and affirms unwavering commitment to legal and tax compliance

Abid Saeed

ISLAMABAD: EIGHTEEN is the project of Elite Estates Private Limited (EEPL). Majority shareholding (80%) in EEPL is owned by one of the world's leading development entrepreneurs, Mr. Naguib Sawiris. Being a project of renowned international real estate developers, EIGHTEEN follows all the applicable laws, rules and regulations. EIGHTEEN is an active and responsible taxpayer and diligently pays all applicable taxes, whether federal, provincial, or local, and is committed to full compliance in term of taxes.

In 2019, the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) approached EIGHTEEN for analysis and scrutiny of its tax documents. At EIGHTEEN, we

maintain an open and transparent relationship with the tax authorities and therefore, we fully cooperated with PRA's audits and inquiries, providing all necessary documentation to support our tax compliance. PRA accordingly gave its clearance to EIGHTEEN's tax submissions to the PRA until 30 June 2021. Even after that, EIGHTEEN has continued to deposit all taxes, whether to the FBR, the PRA, or other tax authorities.

On 7 November 2023, PRA's officials came to EIGHTEEN's offices, without any prior notice and on the next day, issued a Show Cause Notice to EIGHTEEN alleging that EIGHTEEN had not paid certain taxes to the PRA. Even though the said Show Cause Notice gave EIGHTEEN until 22 November 2023 to reply to the

allegations, the notice was leaked on the same day to various media outlets along with allegations from the PRA that EIGHTEEN is involved in tax evasion.



We believe that these allegations of tax evasion are unfounded and even based on PRA's own records. Our team has conducted a thorough internal review, and we are confident that we have adhered to all applicable tax laws and regulations.

EIGHTEEN is a responsible orga-

nization and is always open to oversight by the relevant regulatory bodies, including PRA. However, the manner in which the PRA leaked the show cause notice and made statements in the media is wrong. This can prejudice the outcome of any proceedings and such heavy handed tactics and scaremongering will not only discourage foreign investors from coming in Pakistan but will also create distrust among stakeholders in and outside of Pakistan.

EIGHTEEN is bringing huge investment into the country to help the economy grow while doing business but such unreasonable conduct from authorities like PRA can hurt future investments in Pakistan. We believe in ethical and responsible business practices and will approach

all the relevant forums for redressal of our grievances and to rectify the damage done to our business and reputation by PRA's actions.

We believe in the importance of maintaining trust and credibility in the business community, and we are fully committed to addressing any concerns that the government authorities, including PRA may have. If there are specific issues or questions regarding our financial practices, we are ready to engage with any government authority to clarify the matter and to comply with any legal requirements, however releasing stories and notices in the media, without concrete evidence, and before conclusion of any proceedings, can cause serious damage to the business and investment environment of Pakistan.

Jazz CEO commends SBP and PTA for Driving Digital and Financial Inclusion at World Economic Forum Webinar

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Amir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz and Chairman of Mobilink Microfinance Bank (MMBL), expressed high praise for the pivotal roles played by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in propelling digital and financial inclusion across the nation through enabling policies. He also lauded the successful implementation of the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA), citing it as a shining example of the cooperative efforts among industry stakeholders to combat challenges posed by a cash-based economy, unbanked population, and limited credit access for small businesses.

Aamir made these remarks during the 'Spotlight Pakistan Day' webinar, hosted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Virtual Remittance Gateway (VRG), where VRG serves as Pakistan's partner in the Edison Alliance - a WEF initiative dedicated to advancing digital inclusion and supporting underserved communities globally. Dignitaries at the webinar



included Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, VRG and Pathfinder Group Chairman Zarrar Sehgal, and VRG CEO Muhammad Salman Ali. They all shared valuable insights on the progress of financial inclusion in Pakistan.

During the event, Amir Ibrahim reaffirmed Jazz-Cash's commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of lives and livelihoods in Pakistan, especially for women and marginalized communities. He highlighted how the platform, boasting a user base of 44 million, is actively reducing women's financial exclusion and providing them

8th Thal Desert Jeep Rally will start from 9th to 12th Nov in Layyah Desert Area: Mohsin Naqvi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: 8th Thal Desert Jeep Rally will start from 9th to 12th November. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi approved, best arrangements are directed.

More than 100 amateur and professional drivers will participate in the Thal Desert Jeep Rally, women will also participate in the Thal Desert Rally in the district of Kot Addu and Layyah.

The Thal Desert Rally will start from the Chaubara, a desert area of Layyah district. More than 100 amateur and professional drivers will participate in the Thal Desert Rally. Women will also participate in the Thal Desert Rally. Dirt bike and quad bike riders will also participate in the desert Jeep rally. There will



be registration, medical check-up and vehicle inspection of the participants of the Thal Desert Rally on 9th November at Morning Time. Folk Dance (Jhomar)

kabaddi, cultural show and fort stalls will also be installed in the Thal Desert Jeep Rally.

Puppet show, magic show, historical

plays, mystic kalam, qawwali will also be presented in the Thal Desert Jeep Rally events.

A meeting was held in the Chief Minister's Office under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in which the arrangements for organizing the Thal Desert Rally were reviewed. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed to make the best arrangements for the Thal Desert Rally. Police and other agencies were entrusted with the responsibilities. Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Aamir Mir, Provincial Advisor Sports Wahab Riaz, Secretaries Information, Tourism, DG Sports and related officials attended the meeting while Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan, RPO Attended the meeting through video link.

Al-Khidmat Foundation organises second Shaheen Sports Festival for orphan children

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Shaheen Sports Festival 2 was organized for orphan children organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation North Punjab. Hundreds of children participated in cricket, football, table tennis, badminton, tug-of-war, karate competitions with great interest. Teams from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Bhakkar, Sargodha, Attock, Jhelum, Gujarat participated in the sports festival.

Islamabad won the cricket competition, Gujarat won the football, and Rawalpindi won the tug-of-war. In Shaheen Sports Festival, CO Chaklala Cantt Board Salim Vito, Vice President



Mirza Khalid, Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan President Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman, Members Chaklala Cantt Board Raja Irfan Imtiaz, Chaudhry Khurram Siddique, Yasir Qureshi, Raja Parvez Akhtar, Khalid Wara-

ich, Raja Yasir and others participated. Addressing the opening ceremony of the sports festival, Al-Khidmat Foundation North Punjab President Rizwan Ahmad said that the main objective of the festival is to provide positive entertainment and opportunities to bring smiles to the faces of orphans and destitute children and to develop their skills. He said that these children are full of abilities like other children of the society, they need to be provided with opportunities. He said that there is a lot of talent among these helpless children, if attention is paid to them, they can surely become heroes of the country and the nation. So that these orphans and helpless children get maximum opportunities to express their talents and have positive entertainment. At the end of Shaheen Sports Festival, trophies were distributed among the winning teams and prizes among the players.

Pakistan Women A and Thailand Women Emerging to play two T20s

Sports Desk

LAHORE: After defeating West Indies Women A in the T20 tri-series final held at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan Women A will play two T20s against Thailand Women Emerging at the same venue on 10 and 11 November. The toss will be conducted at 1030 PKT and the first ball will be bowled at 1100 PKT. Both matches will be live-streamed on PCB's YouTube channel.

Pakistan Women A remained unbeaten in the tri-series, beating Thailand Emerging once and West Indies Women A twice. Thailand Women Emerging lost both their matches in the tri-series.

Pakistan opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar was named the player of the tri-series for topping the batting charts with 106 runs in three games, including an unbeaten half-century. Wicket-keeper-batter Sidra Nawaz also scored an undefeated half-century, which came against West Indies Women A in the first game of the tri-series.



Omaima Sohail impressed with an all-round performance in the final and was the joint-highest wicket-taker alongside skipper Rameen Shamim in the series with five wickets each in three matches. Thailand Women Emerging captain Thipatcha Putthawong returned with four wickets in two matches. Pacer Humna Bilal

and left-arm spinners Anosha Nasir and Saima Malik have three wickets each in as many matches.

Rameen Shamim, captain of Pakistan Women A, while speaking to PCB Digital said: "The tri-series win has given us immense confidence. We are looking forward to the two matches against Thailand and we back ourselves to carry our unbeaten streak from the tri-series with contributions from our well-rounded line-up."

Thailand Women Emerging captain, Thipatcha Putthawong said: "Even though we lost our previous matches, we have learnt from the mistakes we made. It is a great opportunity for us to bounce back and we plan to win the upcoming matches against Pakistan."

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

New Zealand crush Sri Lanka to diminish Pakistan's semi-final hopes

BENGALURU: New Zealand's all-round brilliance propelled them to crush Sri Lanka by five wickets and bolstered their chances to reach the ICC World Cup 2023 semi-finals.

Chasing a modest 172, New Zealand achieved the total for the loss of five wickets and 160 balls to spare and further improved their net run-rate.

They strengthened their fourth position in the standings with 10 points in nine matches and a decent net run rate of 0.74.

Former champions Pakistan, who are in fifth position with eight points in as many matches will now need to win their last ICC World Cup 2023 fixture against England with a massive margin of as low as 287 runs to go past New Zealand in the standings.

If they bowl first then they would have to beat England with



284 balls to spare, which means they will have to chase down the target in just 2.4 overs.

But it was not the easiest of run chases for New Zealand as they lost five wickets to complete the pursuit despite a commanding start.

Glenn Phillips (17) and Tom Latham (2) then made sure there

were no more hiccups in the run chase and steered New Zealand over the line in the 24th over.

Opening batter Devon Conway remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with a 42-ball 45. He was followed by his opening partner Rachin Ravindra, who scored 43 and Daryl Mitchell (43).

Angelo Mathews led the bowling attack for Sri Lanka with 2/29 in his four overs, while Maheesh Theekshana and Dushmantha Chameera made one scalp each.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson opted to bowl first and his bowlers justified the decision reducing Sri Lanka to 70-5 inside the first ten overs.

Sri Lanka's opening batter Kusal Perera was the only batter who posed a threat to New Zealand's brilliant bowling, scoring a majority of the team's total.

He scored a blistering 51 run-knock from 28 balls, with the help of nine boundaries and two sixes.

Sri Lanka further slipped to 105-7, bringing Maheesh Theekshana to the ground with New Zealand eyeing to wrap things up quickly.

Watch ICC World Cup 2023

Live on ARY ZAP

Theekshana stood on the other end, as he lost two partners before Dilshan Madushanka joined him and together they knitted a cautious 43-run partnership for the last wicket from 87 balls.

Theekshana played his career-best knock in ODI cricket, scoring an unbeaten 38 runs from 91 balls with the help of three boundaries, while his partner Madushanka scored 19, his highest individual in any form of cricket.

Rachin Ravindra finally ended the frustrating partnership, as Madushanka got caught behind, thus ending the Sri Lankan innings at 171.

Trent Boult topped the wickets chart for New Zealand, while Ravindra, Lockie Ferguson and Mitchell Santner picked two wickets each.

Karachi Strikers won the Pakistan Women T-20 Cricket Cup, 2023



Tahir Amin Malik

Karachi Strikers won the Pakistan Women T-20 Cricket Cup, 2023 after defeated Punjab University Team by 7 wickets. Punjab University women team who was undefeated through out the tournament but lost the momentum in final. There were 6 teams took part in the tournament. The Winners Team Karachi Strikers was given 2 lac cash prize with Trophy. While 2nd team Was Punjab University was given runner up trophy and cash prize. The Shields, Medals and Souvenirs were given to others participants teams. The 6 teams took part in the tournament. The Chief Guests was Prof Dr. Zafar Iqbal Butt, Director Sports Punjab University distributed the prizes among the players, Mehmoob Butt, Chairman Kash Sports Management, Zubair Butt, Additional Director men PU, Sadiq, Ceo Pak Ams Travels, Miss. Hurria Hussain, Dy. Director PU Lahore and Kashif Butt Ceo Kadh Sports Management were also present on this occasion. Dua Majid PU, was top runs getter, Shabana Tariq Karachi best wicket keeper, Hurrain BSL Karachi best all rounder, Lubna PU best bowler, Esha Best player of the tournament from Lahore Dominators.

Pakistan more talented squad than their place on ICC CWC table: Sir Vivian Richards

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: West Indies legend Sir Vivian Richards believed Pakistan was a more talented squad than their place on ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 table. Richards, who scored 8,540 runs in 121 Test matches at an average of 50.23, said Pakistan could yet join India in the knockout stages.

"I can't help thinking that with the talent they have, they should have already sealed their spot," ICC quoted him as saying.

Richards, who scored nearly 7,000 runs in One Day Internationals, said he has seen up close in recent years through his coaching work in the Pakistan Super League how much ability exists Pakistan squad. "But they have made life hard for themselves - I think they are a more talented squad than their place in the table would suggest. They can beat the very best on their day so there may be some punches left in that team, he said. He said it was a shame for the fans in the West Indies that they have not had the opportunity to see their team in action. "I am hoping it acts as a wake-up call as it is a competition which means so much to us. The two World Cups we won in 1975 and 1979 remain the highlights of my career," he said. Richards, who was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009, said some of the pitches have been good for run-scoring in the World Cup and we have seen so many high-class performances. "There have been the record-breaking centuries from Aiden Markram and Glenn Maxwell, Quinton de Kock has had an amazing tournament and the young man Rachin Ravindra looks an exceptional talent," he said.

PCB accepts Inzamam-ul-Haq's resignation

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board has accepted Inzamam-ul-Haq's resignation as the chairman of the national men's selection committee and junior selection committee and will announce his replacement in due course.

Mr Inzamam-ul-Haq voluntarily stepped down from his position on 30 October 2023 in order to offer the PCB the opportunity to conduct a transparent inquiry about the conflict of interest allegations. A five-member fact-finding committee has been formed by the board to investigate allegations regarding conflict of interest reported in the media about the team selection process. The findings of this inquiry will be submitted to the PCB Management promptly. Mr Inzamam-ul-Haq was appointed as the chairman of the national men's selection committee on 7 August 2023 and was also appointed chairman of the junior men's selection committee last month.

PM Youth Talent Hunt Girls Badminton League begins

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Girls Badminton League got underway here at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsadda under the aegis of the Directorate of Sports Kohat University of Information Tech-

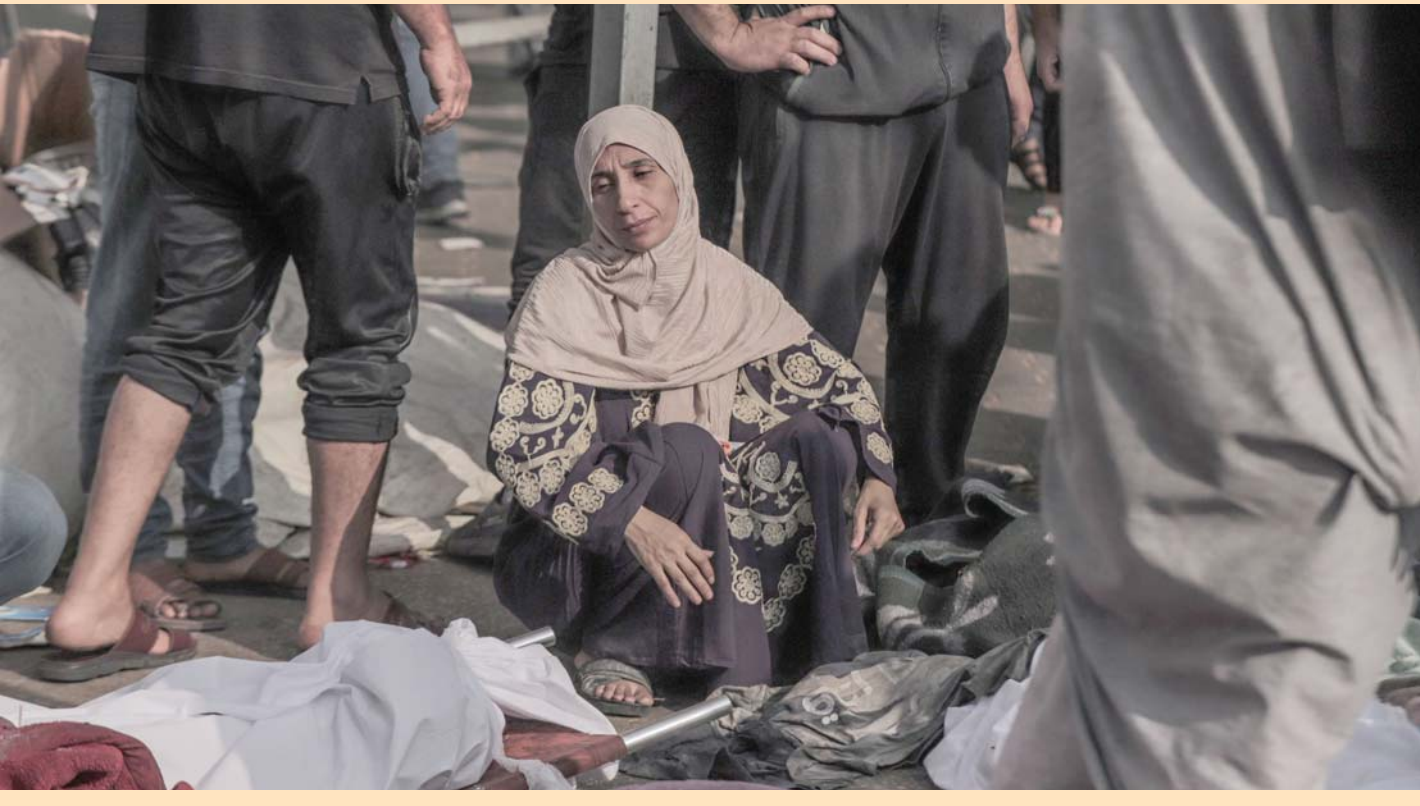


nology on Thursday. Former International Athlete Professor Muhammad Shah, two times Gold Medalist of the South Asian Games in Javelin throw Iltaf Hussain, international qualified IAAF Level-III Coach Muhammad Wajid, who is also Director Sports and Organizing Secretary of the Championship, two international coaches Muhammad Nadeem and Hayat Ullah, Female Coach Bushra Khan, District Sports Officer Charsadda Muhammad Imran, Chief Referee Pakistan Badminton Federation Muhammad Amjad, Professor Tahir Khan of Swat, players, officials and large number of spectators were also present during the opening ceremony.

Vice Chancellor of KUST Dr. Sardar Khan in his message to the players appreciated the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Program in which boys are taking part in 12 different Games while girls are competing in 10 different Games. Such an initiative carried out by the Higher Education Commission for the hunting of new talent in different Games would certainly improve the overall standard of the country at national and international level, Professor Dr. Sardar Khan said. He assured the players that all out efforts and resources would be utilized with the guideline of the Directorate General Sports Higher Education Commission Islamabad. He also thanked Director General Sports HEC Javed Mimon for his untiring efforts in facilitating the players, both male and female in different Games. VC Dr. Sarhad Khan said that KUST has a vital role in producing talented students and now sports is a key sector which needs more attention to motivate the students to take active part in healthy sports activities. Former International Athlete Muhammad Shah on this occasion appreciated KUST and HEC for selecting and short-listing the players through an open trials in each of the game and first they would compete at the provincial league and later form a team to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National League.

How the 'law of war' could apply to an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza

A Palestinian woman inspects the bodies of victims outside Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital who were killed in Israeli bombardment.



Killers of Gaza children following Pharaoh's path: PM

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday strongly denounced the Israeli bombardment in Gaza and drew a historical comparison, highlighting similarities between Israel's actions and those of Pharaoh in their tragic impact on children.

The prime minister, in his address at the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), urged the member countries to rally the efforts to hold Israel to account for its incessant and lethal bombing on the Palestinian people.

In his wide-ranging address, he raised the issue of Gaza humanitarian crisis

twice and reiterated condemnation of killing of children and women, and targeting the hospitals by Israeli forces.

"With the elimination of children, I recall in the history when Pharaoh, on the advent of the Moses' birth killed children. And now, unfortunately, the people who claim to be the followers of Moses, are following the path of Pharaoh," he remarked.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz, and Caretaker Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar accompanied the prime minister in the summit held at the Tashkent Convention Center.

He told the ECO leaders that the incessant and lethal



Israeli bombardment on Gaza was a deplorable act calling for international condemnation.

The prime minister said the situation needed to be addressed as per the resolutions of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and United Nations Security

Council (UNSC).

He urged the member countries to push for a ceasefire and support the call for the provision of humanitarian aid, besides rallying efforts to hold Israel to account.

Prime Minister Kakar also apprised the regional lead-

ers of the unabated Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and emphasised the ECO countries to support Kashmiris in achieving their right of self-determination.

He also touched upon the issues of intolerance, violence and xenophobia, and called upon the ECO members and international community to work for building legal deterrence against Islamophobia while maintaining mutual respect, and harmony and co-existence.

The prime minister is on a two-day visit of Uzbekistan mainly to attend the summit, besides engaging with the leaders of different countries to discuss mutual cooperation.

FM says Development Finance Institutions can drive growth of Pakistan's capital market

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has said the Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) having requisite expertise, efficiency and flexibility can be the potential drivers of growth and development of the capital market.

She was chairing a meeting with the Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the heads of DFIs to review the progress made by the DFIs on the establishment of a Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE & VC) Fund. The DFIs while re-affirming their commitment also apprised the Finance Minister about the progress and impediments faced in the process. Earlier, in a meeting held on September 30, 2023, the DFIs had committed to launch PE & VC Fund to serve as a catalyst for economic revival.

The Finance Minister said the



initiative is geared towards energizing the investment landscape and extending needed resources for startups and SMEs to grow their businesses, harnessing the potential of capital markets to diversify sources of financing, while also bolstering the country's economic prospects. She emphasized that the role of DFIs is distinct from commercial banks and this needs to be reflected in their business philosophy. Their investment policies and the manner in which these policies are regulated can have a powerful influence on the pattern of financial assets in the capital market, she added.

Dropping a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was one of the possibilities: Israeli Minister



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, addressed an urgent address to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, in the wake of the Nazi speech by the Israeli Minister, "Amichai Eliyahu, and his leaks of the idea taking place in the Israeli cabinet meetings to destroy Gaza and the genocide of the Palestinian people, where he confirmed Minister Al-Maliki said that "dropping a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was one of the possibilities" is completely consistent with the prevailing discourse in Israel, and that it constitutes an official recognition that Israel possesses nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

In his letter, Al-Maliki stressed that Israel, the occupying power, has illegally developed nuclear weapons, has refused to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has refused to submit to any monitoring or safeguards systems, and is now working to fuel the conflict and deepen its occupation through this threat to use weapons. Nuclear weapons against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In this regard, Al-Maliki recalled that the threat to use nuclear weapons against one country is a threat to all countries, and therefore requires immediate and urgent attention from the IAEA and member states.

Minister Al-Maliki also called on the IAEA and all member states to condemn the threats directed by Israel and its officials and to take all measures available at their disposal to neutralize this clear threat to the right to life of the Palestinian people and the surrounding countries.

First lady for improved rehabilitation action plan inclusive of differently-abled persons

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi on Thursday stressing the importance of rehabilitation services said their scope need to be extended to differently-abled persons. She was speaking at the closing ceremony of the Strategic Action Plans for the promotion of rehabilitation services in Pakistan. The five-year comprehensive and inclusive action plan is being developed by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Provincial Health Departments, World Health Organization, and ReLaB-HS at the levels of federal and provincial govern-



ments, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Begum Alvi said rehabilitation services play an important role in health sector and help the people, return to normal

lives who have suffered illness, accident or disability. She mentioned that although the scope of rehabilitation services was not limited to persons with disabilities, however

could be extended to accommodate them. These services, she said, include paying attention to speech and occupational therapy and vocational rehabilitation, including the provision of assistive technology.

Head of Mission WHO Dr Palitha Mahipala appreciated the First Lady for spearheading national awareness campaigns on breast cancer, and rights of persons with disabilities. He emphasised the need for improving people's access to rehabilitation services and embedding them into the health-care system for the welfare of people. He said that every person needed rehabilitation services to avoid further complications and recovering

quickly after treatment.

Technical Advisor of WHO Pauline Kleinitz informed the audience that rehabilitation optimises function and helps people perform daily activities besides improving the quality of life. She said that as per estimates, there are 2.4 billion people or one-third people with health conditions that could benefit from rehabilitation.

DG Health Dr Baseer Achakzai, Global Coordinator of ReLab-HS and Dr Zia Dawar also addressed the occasion. The representatives of WHO, and public health professionals from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and AJK attended the consultative session.

Solangi for following Allama Iqbal's philosophy, teachings

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday called for following the philosophy and teachings of Allama Iqbal.

In his message on the birth anniversary of the great philosopher and poet, while paying homage to Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said his philosophy and thoughts were a beacon of light for the entire humanity.

"Iqbal taught the young generation to create their own world instead of depending on others by giving a passionate message of independence", Murtaza Solangi added.

Iqbal made a practical effort to awaken the Muslims from their slumber for their true identity, Murtaza Solangi added.

"The solution to the multifaceted challenges we face today lies in the universal teachings of Iqbal", Murtaza Solangi remarked.

Iqbal gave the message of self-reliance to the youth and taught them continuous struggle and youth could truly serve Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah by adopting Iqbal's teachings, Solangi remarked.

Kunwar Dilshad blasts Article 63(A) as against spirit of Constitution

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister on Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Kunwar Muhammad Dilshad has said that Article 63(A) inserted under the Eighteenth Amendment is against the spirit of the Constitution and against the parliamentary traditions. Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Law and Parliamentary Affairs was addressing the participants of a dinner event hosted by German Political Foundation, Hans Seidel Pakistan at a local hotel in Lahore as a special guest. The gathering was attended by notable figures such as Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President



of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), Dr. Jonathan S. Adelson, Principal of FC College Lahore, along with esteemed faculty and students from various universities. During his address, Dilshad highlighted the challenges faced by both parliamentary and presidential systems in Pakistan. He

pointed out a significant flaw in the parliamentary system, noting that members of parliament are often bound by party lines rather than being able to vote according to their own conscience, as stipulated by Article 63(A). Deviation from party policy can lead to a mandatory resignation from membership, even though this contradicts the oath taken by the Members of Parliament to uphold the Constitution at all costs. This power has effectively shifted from the individual parliamentarian to the party leader, a shift also attempted in previous amendments such as the Thirteenth and Fourteenth.

Huawei leads peers in next-gen WiFi communication

Commerce Desk

BELJING: Chinese tech giant Huawei is leading the WiFi technology race, especially when it comes to speed. Tolly, a third-party verification service provider said in a report that Huawei's AirEngine series WiFi-7 device performance exceeds 13 Gbps, the fastest access point it has ever tested, while the peak performance of a single terminal hits 4.33 Gbps, also the fastest end-device in real world it ever tested.

WiFi-6 is the sixth generation of the WiFi standard, which is widely used in the world today, CGTN

reported on Thursday.

WiFi-7 is the new wireless standard which is a major evolution of WiFi-6 and 6E, sharing much in common with those earlier standards but with some significant improvements to meet people's growing requirements - faster speeds, lower latency and higher capacity. The speeds of WiFi-7 will be 2.4 times faster than WiFi-6. WiFi-7 is expected to be used in emerging applications that require high bandwidth, such as streaming, online meetings, real-time online collaboration and AR/VR applications.

Russian fuel export ban to be lifted next week

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Russian fuel producers have been told by the government to prepare for the scrapping of all remaining restrictions on the export of diesel and gasoline, three industry sources told Reuters on Thursday.

Russia, the world's top seaborne exporter of diesel, introduced a ban on fuel exports on Sept. 21 to tackle high domestic prices and shortages.

The government eased restrictions on Oct. 6, allowing the export of diesel by pipeline, but kept measures

on gasoline exports in place. Overseas supplies of gasoline by trucks and railways are also prohibited.

Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov on Wednesday said that Russia was considering lifting the export ban on some grades of gasoline.

"They told the producers that exports will be opened up from next week," said a Russian oil company source who spoke on condition of anonymity owing to the sensitivity of such decisions. Another industry source said the ban would be lifted next week.