

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے مسودے بیان کیا انہوں نے کہا ہم سے عباد اور اس نے بیان کیا ان سے عبد العزیز نے بیان کیا ان سے اس بن مالک رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا ان سے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جب تم دعا کرو تو مزم کے ساتھ کرو اور کوئی دعا اس پر نہ کہے کہ اگر تو چاہے تو فلاں چیز مجھے عطا کرے کیونکہ اللہ سے کوئی بردہ سنی کرنے والا نہیں۔

(پیشگی صفحہ نمبر 7464)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Uzbekistan-Italy: historical dialogue filled with new content

Italian President Sergio Mattarella will pay an official visit to Uzbekistan on 9-11 November at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Italy is an important and reliable partner of Uzbekistan. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 24 March 1992. (Details on Page 5)



## Indonesian Corner inaugurated in National Book Foundation to mark Iqbal's birthday

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E. Mr. Adam Tugio, and Managing Director of National Book Foundation (NBF), Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed jointly inaugurated the first Indonesian Corner at National Book Foundation in Islamabad. In his remarks Ambassador Tugio said Indonesian Corner is not only a resource center with comfortable space for learning and open dialogue ... (Details on Page 8)

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## Migration

Palestinian families fleeing northern Gaza walk south along a highway.



Photo: Mohammad Zanoun/Middle East Images/AFP/Getty Images

## In call with Palestinian president, Alvi calls for 'immediate ceasefire' in Gaza

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi held a telephone call with his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, and urged the international community to make efforts for urgent ceasefire in Gaza, facing relentless bombing by Israel. The telephone call takes place as Israel relentlessly bombed the besieged Gaza Strip, levelling entire city blocks and killing thousands, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza has said that over 10,800 people in the besieged enclave have been killed in Israeli attacks since October 7. The figure includes over 4,200 children.

In the telephonic call, President Alvi expressed his heartfelt sympathies and grief on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan over the atrocities being committed by Israel against people of Palestine for over seven decades.

"What was happening in the Gaza was very painful and the entire Pakistani nation was deeply saddened by the brutalities and reign of terror unleashed the Israeli security forces," the President deplored.

He also condemned the lethal bombing by Israel that even did not spare schools and hospitals and its barbaric actions resulted in killing

of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare workers, journalists and UN aid workers.

Talking to his Palestinian counterpart, President Arif Alvi regretted over the lack of action on the part of the international community to stop Israel from its murderous campaign against the people of Gaza. He assured the Palestinian President that

Pakistan would continue to support resolving the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nation Security Council's (UNSC) resolutions.

Talking to his Pakistani counterpart, the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas said that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza.

He called for stopping Israel from fighting across the Palestinian territory. He also demanded for opening of a corridor to Gaza to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance as there was no food, medicine and electricity available to the people of Gaza.

President Mahmoud Abbas thanked Pakistan for supporting the Palestinian cause and sending humanitarian assistance.

# Pakistan focused to benefit from TAPI despite India's lack of interest: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that despite India's lack of interest, Pakistan is focused to reap the benefits from the long-pending four-nation energy corridor, TAPI. About the multi-billion-dollar project involving Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI), the prime minister said the corridor could prove as a source of cheap and sustainable supply of energy for the region.

"On TAPI, there is a lot of enthusiasm from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. But if India chooses to remain out of the benefit of this whole arrangement, they still can do it," Kakar said in an interview with Turkey's Anadolu news agency. Kakar said, "With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for the economic benefit of this



region, and we are very much focused on achieving that target." The \$7 billion project aims to bring natural gas from the Gylkynish and adjacent gas fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, the Anadolu reported. The Asian Development Bank is facilitating and coordinating the project, which is proposed to lay a 56-inch diameter

1,680-kilometer (1,044-mile) pipeline with a design capacity of 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per annum from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan up to Indo-Pak border.

On relations with Turkey, the prime minister called for enhanced coordination and cooperation, calling the bilateral relations "fabulous." He emphasized

improvement in areas including trade, agriculture, and defence between Pakistan and Turkey. Also, he said, developing connectivity corridors among Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran could offer many opportunities to these nations and the whole region. Regarding the situation in Gaza, the prime minister warned of a "spillover effect" of the catastrophe, which he said could extend beyond the region.

Kakar called for an "immediate" cessation of the hostilities and incessant attacks of Israel and stressed the need for establishing a humanitarian corridor for an uninterrupted supply of food, medicines, and other essential items.

He said Islamabad was looking forward to attending a forthcoming special session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, adding that the body should deliberate upon the situation,

and come up with a "collective response." On Pakistan's move to deport illegal foreigners, Kakar said the decision was meant to have a regulated movement across the borders. He mentioned that illegal immigration was never encouraged by any country in the world and Pakistan's step was in the same context.

About relations with India, he said the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was vital for the normalization of ties between the two neighbours. "Kashmir is an outstanding issue between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan's traditional position is that it should be resolved in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions," he said. "They (Kashmiris) have got every right to determine their future, their destiny ... and Pakistan would always stand, diplomatically and politically, to support that stance," he said.

## Nation desires President to 'work as symbol of federation': Solangi

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said President Dr Arif Alvi should play his role as the "symbol of federation" and fulfill his responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution.

"The entire nation desires that the President fulfills his responsibilities as the symbol of the federation and does not give the impression that associates him with a certain political party," the minister said in a post on the social media platform X.

He said the statements being made by the President especial-

ly in the wake of upcoming elections seemed to be in conflict with his constitutional role.

He said the Election Commission was carrying out its responsibilities with extreme diligence and responsibility. The election date had been announced, and all political parties were allowed to engage in political activities within the parameters of the Constitution and the law.

## Court issues order to unfreeze Nawaz Sharif's assets

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad accountability court on Friday ordered authorities to unfreeze former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's properties in the Toshakhana reference case. NAB Judge Mohammad Bashir issued the said order on the application of the PML-N supremo, requesting the court to unfreeze his properties attached by the provincial government of Punjab after he was declared a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana case.

In 2020, the accountability court in Islamabad ordered the forfeiting of assets and properties of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Toshakhana reference.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was declared 'proclaimed offender' in the Toshakhana reference by an accountability court and his permanent arrest warrant was also issued for his continued non-appearance. The accountability court's judge Asghar Ali released the orders to forfeit assets and properties including land, luxury vehicles, and accounts in local and foreign banks belonging to Nawaz Sharif.

## Bank deposits soar to new historic high

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Bank deposits have risen to a new historic high of Rs26.398 trillion, recording a 17.8% growth in October 2023 due to high interest rate.

The banking sector deposits recorded an all-time high growth of Rs3.986 trillion in October 2023 as compared to October 2022, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The SBP spokesperson said that the banking sector deposits reached to a new historic high, recording a surge of 17.8% to Rs3,986 trillion. The bank deposits reached a record Rs26.398 trillion as compared to Rs22.412 trillion in October 2022.

The economic experts said that the bank deposits witnessed a rise due to high interest rate of 22%. The investors were getting better profits from the banking system due to the interest rate.

They added that investors faced difficulties after massive crackdowns on gold and the US Dollar (USD) to curb smuggling.

Last month, the central bank clarified that the Pakistan banking system is safe and sound under a robust regu-

latory and supervisory framework of SBP with a layer of protection through insurance cover and all the deposits were perfectly safe.

The banking system in Pakistan is adequately capitalized, highly liquid and profitable and its ability to withstand a set of severe shocks has further improved while 94% of the depositors were fully protected under the Deposit Protection Act 2016, the central bank clarified through a statement issued here.

The SBP spokesperson said that certain sections of the media, on the basis of a statement given by Deputy Governor SBP, Dr Inayat Hussain during the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, were implying as if bank deposits above Rs500,000 in the banking system in Pakistan were unsafe.

The SBP categorically stated that the deposits were safe owing to a sound banking system in Pakistan that was working under a robust regulatory and supervisory framework of SBP while the sector was adequately capitalized, highly liquid and profitable with a low level of net non-performing loans, i.e. bad loans.

## Israel-Gaza war 'devastating' Palestine economy, UN warns

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The socio-economic "shock" of the Israel war on Palestine will force hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into poverty, a UN report on the conflict's possible long-term impacts on Gaza and the West Bank has warned. The assessment by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) said in the report that poverty could spike while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could plummet by 8.4 per cent, which "translates into a loss of \$1.7 billion".

Lamenting the loss of life, suffering and ongoing destruction, the UN agencies underscored the need for a ceasefire and sustained flow of humanitarian aid as a critical first step. "Although the conflict is occurring in Gaza, spillover effects are being felt in the West Bank and also in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt," the report said. Some 1.8 million people across the State of Palestine were already living in poverty before hostilities erupted on October 7. The figure could soar by 34 per cent if fighting continued through a second month, meaning that nearly half a million additional people would be joining them.

## IMF 'asks' Pakistan to implement anti-money laundering laws

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has 'asked' Pakistan to ensure strict implementation of anti-money laundering laws.

During talks in Islamabad for the next review for delivery of the \$700 million loan tranche, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) officials briefed the IMF regarding anti-money laundering and suspicious bank transactions.

SBP briefed the international lender on Pakistan's economic performance from July to March while the FBR officials briefed the visiting delegation about tax crimes and also presented a report, the sources said.

IMF staff directed Pakistan to devise a clear policy to detect

'suspicious transactions' in tax crimes and asked to pass clauses for strict punishment in the upcoming finance bill.

The delegation was briefed that Pakistan is already awarding strict punishment and blockage of bank accounts for money laundering.

The FBR was urged upon by the IMF mission for strict enforcement to end money laundering.

Earlier it emerged that the International lender has demanded more recovery of income tax from retailers and real estate sectors while increasing income tax recovery on agriculture income.

# Mohsin Naqvi Undertakes Third Inspection of Rawalpindi Ring Road

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi made his third visit to the Rawalpindi Ring Road Project in the past 25 days. Conducting an aerial tour of the entire 38 km route, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi meticulously inspected the Khasala Khurd Adiala Interchange site and assessed the progress of earthwork.

Subsequently, Colonel Ayaz of FWO provided a comprehensive briefing to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, highlighting that heavy machinery for the Rawalpindi Ring Road construction has arrived, and the project is advancing at a rapid pace. The construction of subways,



drainage channels, and roads section has commenced, with the allotted land for the project fully handed

over to the contractor. Nespak has also supplied the necessary drawings related to the ring road project.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi issued pertinent instructions to Commissioner Rawalpindi and FWO officials, emphasizing the need for the swift completion of the Ring Road project. He underscored that the expedited completion of the ring road would significantly enhance convenience for the citizens of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

During the briefing, it was informed that the Rawalpindi Ring Road spans 38.3 km with six lanes. The construction has commenced on the Banth and Chuck Bailey Interchange of the Ring Road. Present on the occasion were Rawalpindi Commissioner, RPO, CPO, Deputy Commissioner, and FWO officials.

*Inauguration of Gallery 21 in Islamabad was enthusiastically attended by high-profile artists*



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Inauguration of Dr. Farrukh Seer's Gallery Art Gallery, called Gallery 21, in DHA Phase 2, Islamabad, was enthusiastically attended by a large number of well-known and new artists from different regions of Pakistan. Gallery 21 artists and A forum for art lovers to showcase their creativity. It serves the community by welcoming everyone to discover and experience participating artists in the arts. Gallery 21 is a great opportunity for young emerging artists to showcase their art. The ceremony attended by Taiba Aziz, Banda Ali, Ajab Khan, Ejaz Khan, Khalid Saeed, Arif Khan, Sabir Nazir, Parvez Khan, Saira Amjad, Mah Jabeen Atif, Nighat Aziz, Muhammad Tahir, Rafat Khattak, Samra Malik, Manza Razzaq, Sajjad were present in the opening ceremony. Ahmed, Fareeha Usman, Nauman Khan Noomi, Azza Ghafoor, Shahid Iqbal, Ali Raza, Shoaib Nawaz Khan, Farrukh Seer, Sohail Ahmed Qureshi, Gibran Ayeza Hussain, Dr. Hussamuddin, Muhammad Arif Gohar, Dr. Arshaf Maqbool, Saifullah, Afshan Naz, Ayesha Malik, Farkhunda Shahzad, Shazia Ali, Farwa Malik, Manaza Razak, Ayesha Nasir, Maida Iqbal, Isha, Ali Syed Mohammad Afzal Khan, Nuzhat Barir, Areqa Anwar, Sabuhi Arshad, Shujaullah Nasir, Abida Razzaq, Mashal.

# MNS Agriculture University Multan 3rd Convocation

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The third convocation of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University was held under the chairmanship of Governor Punjab and Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rahman. Medals and 2038 certificates were awarded to 43 male and female students in the convocation Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman while addressing the convocation said that when a student's capacity building is done, his family, country and humanity are improved. Students have to go ahead with education along with training. And to show good training, manners and manners. Questions should also be asked with respect. He further said that spending on human resources is cutting a diamond. We should be thankful to our parents and teachers for organizing our education.

Education is the means to bring us forward. Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University Prof. Dr. Rao Asif Ali while addressing



the convocation said that we have paved the way for development by making the mission of the university. Teachers are playing an important role in the education and training of students. In 15 years, the mission of making the university a world class university has been made. We are grateful for the cooperation of Punjab Government, Higher Education Commission and

philanthropists in the construction and development of the University.

Knowledge base economy is practiced. In the convocation, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman presented souvenirs to the distinguished guests.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman also visited the agricultural exhibition. Earlier, Govern-

nor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman laid the foundation stone of the sports complex in the university. The construction of the sports complex will cost 23 crore rupees. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman also inaugurated wheat sowing. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman also planted a sapling in the university. On this occasion Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rao Asif Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana, Vice-Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Cholistan Professor Dr. Sajjad Khan, Vice Chancellor Women University Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil, Senator Rana Mahmoodul Hasan, Member Syndicate Dr. Shafiq Patafi, Deans Professor Dr. Shafiq Saeed, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar Farooq, Prof. Dr. Asif Raza, Registrar Muhammad Imran, Rao Zulfiqar Ali, Control Examinations were also present.

*Govt Degree College of Special Education won the First and Second Position in the Sports Competition*



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Government Degree College of Special Education won the first and second position in the sports competition Two-day sports competitions were held among special students under the auspices of the Department of Special Education. In which special students from educational institutions of Multan participated. The students of Government Degree College of Special Education Multan performed well. At the beginning of the program, the students of the college passed the march brilliantly under the leadership of lecturer Farhat Ijaz and the college The students presented the national anthem in sign language

In the 200m race for female students, Hanna Farhan, a student of Government Degree College Special Education Multan, won the first position in the district. Sahil Masih, a college student, secured the second position in the 200m distance for students. In the 400m race, the students of the college secured the second position. In the long jump, the students of the college secured the second position. Khalid Zahid, a college student, won the second position in the Badminton game competition across the division

At the end of the program, Deputy Commissioner Multan Abdul Qadir, District Special Education Officer Zeeshan Ahmed and College Co-Principal Humira Farooq appreciated the abilities of the special students and distributed medals and prizes to the students who won positions in sports competitions. District Special Education Officer Zeeshan Ahmed appreciated the hard work of all the special students and teachers of Multan Division and thanked them.

*Schedule of Allama Iqbal Express train changed*

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways administration has decided to change the schedule of Allama Iqbal Express (9 Up) running between Karachi Cantt and Sialkot for the convenience of the public.

According to details, shared by the PR spokesperson on Friday, Allama Iqbal Express (9 Up) train would depart from Karachi Cantt at 3:30 p.m., instead of its previous departure time of 2:15 p.m., and it will reach Sialkot at 6 p.m. on the following day. Moreover, there is a change in the schedule of the Shaheen Passenger (226 Dn) operating between Sialkot and Wazirabad. The train will depart from Sialkot at 7 p.m., instead of its previous departure time of 6 p.m., and it will reach Wazirabad at 8:05 p.m. on the same day.

# Police Officers and Staff are Working Day and Night to Provide Justice to the People: Capt Sohail



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary visit at Chehliyak police station Multan. Regional Police Officer Captain Retired Sohail Chaudhary on this occasion instructed the Police Officer and the staff of Police Station Chehliyak that the records of the police station should be kept

up to date. Strict action will be taken against negligent police personnel. Regional Police Officer Sohail Chaudhary further said that Victims who come to the police station should be treated with good manners. On this occasion, City Police Officer Mansoorul Haque Rana said that Maintenance of special initiative police stations should be maintained.

He further said that the police station is the first step to provide justice. Multan Region Police officers are working day and night to provide justice to the people. He further said that any police station of Multan region can be visited at any time. Keep all police station records updated.

In the end, he said that they are always working to make the patrolling system

effective in the region. So that criminal elements can be eliminated from Multan region.

He also appealed to the public to keep an eye on the environment around them and fulfill their national duty by reporting any kind of illegal heat to the police rescue number 15 or the nearest police station. The name of the whistleblower will be kept confidential.

*AKU, UNICEF partner to uplift primary education in Balochistan*

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) has signed an agreement with the Education Department, Government of Balochistan, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to develop the capacity of curriculum, textbook, and teacher training bodies in the province. The project is funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the European Union (EU).

"Our Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, has always focused on providing the highest quality of education to equip children with the skills and knowledge needed to bring about positive change in the world they live in and AKU-IED has been achieving that mission by developing outstanding teachers and improving the quality of education for all children," said AKU President, Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin. "This project is another great example of our collaboration with the public sector to strengthen the education system and ensure that all children have access to quality education."

**Life is from water**

# Water is blessing of Allah and cleanliness is half of our faith: AJK Secretary

**Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: Azad Kashmir Secretary Local Government Board and Rural Development Shahid Mohiuddin has said that water is the blessing of Allah and cleanliness is half of our faith. According to the principles of cleanliness and hygiene, life is from water, while drinking dirty and contaminated water causes diseases.

For the supply of clean drinking water, positive and long-term results a seminar organized by UNICEF, local government and public health engineering, on the topic of clean drinking water and sanitation.

Secretary Local Government urged that Scholars, media representatives and educational institutions should raise awareness among people about the importance and utility of water, including health and sanitation, so that



due to population growth and climate change, the protection of water reserves can be ensured and water supply for the future. A strategy can be developed to meet the needs.

He expressed these views while addressing a one-day seminar on water and sanitation policy organized by the Department of Local Government and PPH in collaboration with UNICEF, a subsidiary

of the United Nations. Aqeel, Focal Person Babar Minhas, Yasir Gilani of Physical Planning, Niazullah also gave a detailed briefing regarding clean drinking water and health and sanitation while on this occasion Director Local Government Raja Muhammad Fayaz, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Yasir Mehmood, District Mufti Abdul Ghaffar Salafi, Deputy Direc-

tor Local Government Mirpur Raja Tahir Khaliq, Additional DHO Dr. Maida Kausar, District Council of the three districts of Mirpur, Bhambar and Kotli, representatives of local government, municipal committees and administrative officers, Must University, Dept. Education, Department of Information, Department of Environment, NGOs, media representatives and business associ-

ations and civil society representatives participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Shahid Mohiuddin said that the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is providing clean drinking water to the urban and rural areas from springs, water reservoirs to the water supply system to the houses in a safe and secure

manner. It is taking all possible steps to provide clean water according to the principles of health. In this regard, efforts are being made to create an authority for clean drinking water, which includes all relevant institutions, because dirty and polluted water. 90% of diseases are caused by it, which has a very negative impact on human life.

**ISLAMABAD**  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:09 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:31 pm
Maghrib	5:08 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
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

**AlfaMall, Pakistan's first banking e-commerce marketplace by Bank Alfalah**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Bank Alfalah, a leading commercial bank in Pakistan, has made an exciting announcement ahead of the World's largest shopping event, 11.11 Sale Day. The Bank's pioneering e-commerce platform, AlfaMall, introduces authorised and genuine products through affiliated brands on the 'Buy Now, Pay Later' (BNPL) feature with 0% markup, allowing shoppers to indulge in their desired purchases with unprecedented ease.

AlfaMall is Pakistan's first banking-led e-commerce platform. Introduced in 2019, it boasts an extensive partnership with over 150 brands and provides access to a diverse range of over 100,000 products. AlfaMall is Embedded within the Bank's financial app Alfa, the marketplace offers cutting-edge electronics and tech gadgets to travel services, automobiles, and trending fashion and beauty brands. AlfaMall caters to every household's needs. With the BNPL option, customers can enjoy 0% markup on deferred payments, making premium products more accessible than ever. This facility is not limited to Bank Alfalah credit card holders but is also available to customers with credit cards from other banks. Customers can also pay through their accounts, wallets and orbit points.

In addition to the attractive BNPL feature, AlfaMall offers discounts up to PKR 10,000 on all products and services, ensuring same-day delivery through its trusted and reliable brand partners with an easy return and refund feature.

**PM Laptop Scheme**

# A Laptop Distribution Ceremony held at Emerson University Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the chairmanship of Governor Punjab and Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rahman, a laptop distribution ceremony was held at Emerson University. Governor Punjab distributed laptops among male and female students under Prime Minister Scheme. Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that laptops are being given in universities on the basis of merit. The modern era began with laptops in the hands of students. Lakhs of students were given laptops. The youth got e-commerce and e-employment opportunities from the laptop. Laptop is the way of development of our youth.

Vice Chancellor Emerson University Multan Professor Dr. Muhammad Ramzan while addressing the convocation said that Emerson University is being developed on modern lines.

Emerson University is equipped with modern technology. Excellent work has been done in the university with the support of Emersonians and philanthropists. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural



University Professor Dr. Rao Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas, former Vice Chancellor BZU Professor Dr. Hayat Ahmed Awan, Director Sirat Chair BZU Professor Dr. Abdul Qadir Buzdar and Other dignitaries were also present. Earlier, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman

unveiled the logo of Emerson University. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman also inaugurated Ghazi Hall and SMD. The governor of Punjab also inaugurated the sports ground and the match and the governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman also planted a sapling in the green garden of Emerson University.

## Painting Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva taking interest in the painting during exhibition entitled "Once you thought you knew, where you are going" at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Mushaal Mullick, Chairman of Muslim Scholars' organization discuss women empowerment within Islamic guidelines

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Mushaal Hussein Mullick called on Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, Chairman of the Organization of Muslim Scholars and Secretary General of the Muslim World League in Riyadh.

During the meeting, they discussed several issues concerning women's empowerment within Islamic guidelines, said Mushaal Mullick in a post on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter).

According to the social media post, both of them



shared common goals for working towards interfaith harmony, peace building, fostering unity, inclusivity, and the rights of human beings regardless of caste, colour and creed.

Ms Mushaal apprised Muhammad Issa of her ministry's 100-day plan to create more economic uplifting of women, trans-genders and minorities. She appreciated Saudi

Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman for enhancing the role of women in the field of sustained development.

She appreciated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for always standing with the plight of oppressed Kashmiris and hoped that a day would come when peace would prevail in the world.

Both of them called upon the international community to fulfill its obligations in addressing the appalling calamities unfolding in Gaza.

They strongly condemned the remarks made by a minister of the Israeli occupation government, which included a threat to detonate a nuclear bomb in the Gaza Strip.

## Wasi Shah discusses enhanced ties with Indonesia at World Travel Mart

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Minister Wasi Shah's dynamic participation and strategic engagements during the 3-day World Travel Mart in London have resonated positively with the Pakistani community. Notably, the pivotal meeting with Indonesia's Minister of Tourism, Sandiaga Salahuddin, at the Pakistan Pavilion marked a significant milestone.



Upon Salahuddin Sandiaga's arrival, Minister Wasi Shah and the entire Pakistan Pavilion extended a warm welcome. The subsequent discussions, described as memorable and historic, emphasized the potential for fostering new avenues of tourism collaboration between Pakistan and Indonesia.

Minister Wasi Shah underscored the importance of youth involvement in the tourism industry, advocating for regular training to harness their potential. Expressing satisfaction at the significant number of Indonesian students studying in Pakistan, he highlighted the demographic similarities between the two nations and the immense mutual benefits achievable through collaborative tourism efforts.

Both ministers shared enthusiasm regarding the strong religious ties between the two countries, emphasizing that such bonds would facilitate a sense of familiarity for travelers. The meeting concluded after approximately 45 minutes, setting the stage for enhanced cooperation in the field of tourism between Pakistan and Indonesia.

## Meeting of Privatisation Commission Board



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Privatisation Commission Board under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Privatisation Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad granted approval to the appointment of Financial Advisor (FA) for divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (PIACL). The agenda of the meeting also included the extension of Financial Services agreement with Financial Advisor on Privatisation of House Building Finance Corporation Limited (HBFCL) and the revival of the Financial Services agreement with Financial Advisor on Privatisation of First women Bank Limited (FWBL). The committee also discussed at length the issues regarding 35 year long pending privatisation of Pak China Fertilizer Limited.

Interested parties submitted their technical and financial proposals for the hiring of Financial Advisor for privatization of PIACL. On the basis of the laid down criteria the evaluation committee formed by the board declared the Consortium lead by Earnest & Young as the "Top ranked Interested Party". The board formed a negotiating committee and tasked it to conclude the financial services agreement with the top ranked bidder.

The financial services agreement with the Financial Advisor on the privatisation of HBFCL had expired in January, 2023 and the board accorded approval for a 24 month extension. The board also accorded approval to the revision of cost due to additional work required from the Financial Advisor. Similarly, the financial services agreement with the Financial Advisor on the privatisation of FWBL had expired in April, 2023. The agreement has been accorded a 24 months extension with price adjustment for changed scope of work. The Board decided that the responsibility for the unnecessary delay in the privatisation of both HBFCL and FWBL may be fixed after a detailed enquiry in to the matter.

## Chairman PRCS reinforces strong bilateral ties in meeting with Iranian Ambassador

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic interaction, Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, recently visited the Iran Embassy in Islamabad and engaged in a productive meeting with His Excellency Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, the Iranian Ambassador. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted bond between the two nations, aptly described by His Excellency as "Two souls and one body".



The centerpiece of the discussions was the robust relationship between Pakistan and Iran, characterized by mutual affection and shared commitment. Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam lauded PRCS for its commendable efforts, particularly highlighting the success of a recent fundraising event hosted in October. The event shed light on the organization's pivotal role in addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, offering His Excellency a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand.

Expressing appreciation for PRCS's proactive role in tackling natural catastrophes, Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam extended gratitude for the organization's initiatives during last year's devastating floods in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KPK regions. While acknowledging the dire situation, Chairman Laghari emphasized the need for continued collaboration not only in times of disaster but also on regional issues.

The meeting delved into the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with both leaders recognizing the significance of Red Crescent involvement. Chairman Laghari proposed a pragmatic approach to support people of Palestine, suggesting cash funds for targeted aid, and expressed PRCS's commitment to rallying support from other national societies.

Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's extensive network of 6 million volunteers across Pakistan, proposing collaboration between PRCS and Iran on various healthcare and community-based initiatives. The exploration of additional humanitarian avenues will be pursued through strengthened ties and coordination between PRCS and the Iran Red Crescent Society.

As the meeting concluded, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presented a memento to Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, symbolizing the enduring partnership between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the Iranian Embassy. Both dignitaries expressed their dedication to further fortifying the bonds that unite the two nations.

## Spotify launches RADAR Festival showcasing remarkable growth in local music

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spotify is commemorating the one-year anniversary of its groundbreaking RADAR Pakistan program, a program designed as a way to support emerging artists. It gives creators a global platform to help grow their careers and reach new and existing fans through bespoke social content, marketing, and editorial opportunities. Over the past year, Spotify's RADAR program in Pakistan has effectively propelled these talented artists to new heights, fostering remarkable growth not only in terms of listeners but also in exposure. Throughout its first year in Pakistan, RADAR announced four

featured artists, one for each quarter, with Hasan Raheem, Taha G, Maanu and Hassan & Roshaan emerging as the flag bearers for the program. Listeners can enjoy all their music at the 'RADAR Pakistan 1 Year Anniversary' destination on Spotify.

Starting this quarter you'll notice RADAR's new look gracing the program's global collection of playlists, as well as billboards, platform marketing, and social content.

"We are proud as Spotify Pakistan to launch the first ever RADAR Festival from around the world, it's monumental in so many ways. Since launching RADAR Pakistan we've showcased Pakistani artists in iconic OOH locations around the world, we introduced emerging Pakistani talents to a global audience & now showcased the first RADAR Festival on home ground." Khan FM, Artists and Label Partnership Manager for Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh commented. "The future looks bright & even more spectacular because a program like RADAR Pakistan not only engages the artists but the wider creator community such as filmmakers, photographers, event organizers and more"

In 2023, the most played artists on the RADAR Pakistan playlist include Hasan Raheem, Taha G, Maanu, Abdul Hannan, and Hassan & Roshaan, among others. Similarly, the most played

tracks on the playlist for the same year include hits like Maanu's "4U", Hassan & Roshaan's "Bandhan" and "Sukoon", Hasan Raheem's "Joon", Taha G's "Dil Kay Isharay" and many more, which continue to captivate the audience.

As part of the celebrations surrounding this one-year milestone, Spotify proudly hosted the first-ever RADAR Fest globally at the LUMS Campus in Lahore. This event featured riveting performances by all four RADAR artists: Hasan Raheem, Taha G, Maanu, and Hassan & Roshaan. The event was a night full of music and discovery as the music streaming service once again showcased how it continues to champion the bright future of Pakistani music.

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# Ceasefire Before Aid!!!

**A**mid horrific bombing by Israel on hospitals, schools, shelters, aid convoys and water, power & communication infrastructure in Gaza, how can the essential aid be transported to the inflicted civilians? Where there is no fuel even to power up the generators to save 500 premature babies in incubators, run operation theatres & ICUs, how can the lives of thousands of the victims be saved? What would be the use of the aid if the majority dies, buries under the rubble or injures without rescue? Even if some aid slips in, will it be to cure and feed the dead bodies? Unless there is an IMMEDIATE & PERMANENT CEASEFIRE by Israel, the innocent Palestinians will continue to die excessively and no aid will help.

Before this conflict around 500 aid trucks were driving from Egypt into Gaza each day but in the last two weeks only 500 trucks passed through Rafah crossing, which is a drop in the ocean. Painfully, supply of fuel is not allowed, which is essential for transport and power generation. If there is a BLOCKADE and even thousands of UN/Red Cross aid trucks are at the mercy of Israeli forces to cross Rafah then how can ordinary charities manage to get their aid into Gaza?

So, unless there is a CEASEFIRE, there is no chance for others to route their aid into Gaza, which is in full control of

the War Criminals. So, the MOST URGENT issue is to PRESS ISRAEL & the US for an immediate ceasefire and to allow the pending UN aid on the Egyptian border. Until the ceasefire, there will be only the death & destruction, which MUST be STOPPED. Instead of raising donations for aid to Gaza, better raise funds for "Strategic Campaigns" to press Israel for an immediate ceasefire. Boycott of the products is the least to do.

The Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu is blinded by revenge, killing innocent Palestinians under the cover of Hamas. With the support of insane Joe Biden, Israel has crossed all the limits of war crimes by bombing medical facilities, shelters and public utility networks along with the massacre of thousands of civilians. While the world is focusing on Gaza, the Israeli forces are bombing the refugee camps and killing in hundreds while detaining and torturing thousands of the Palestinians in the West Bank extra-judicially. Even an Israeli Minister asked to drop an atomic bomb on Gaza and their President considers that all the Palestinians are responsible for the October 7 incident, so are punished collectively. Biden is the main collaborator in war crimes,



who initially gathered support of the West for the massacre of the Palestinians by Israel and now, under the cover of diplomacy, gaining more time to allow Israel for the extinction of the Palestinians.

In the genocide since October 7, reportedly around 11,000 people are killed, 28,000 are injured and around 10,000 are buried under the rubble. Whereas over 5,000 children are killed, over 1.5m Gazans are displaced and nearly 1m are homeless. Out of 35 hospitals, 30 are bombed and incapacitated. Forty journalists and hundreds of the relief workers are also killed to dismantle the relief network and block media reporting. For the extinction of the Palestinians, Netanyahu has cut off the water, power & communication and is slaughtering the Palestinians in isolation where they are

hardly rescued. About 90% of the Gazan are living without water, food, medicines and fuel. The UN, UNRWA, UNICEF, WHO, WFP & Red Cross are crying for help but due to support of the West, Israel doesn't care about their appeals. It's a height of inhumanity where the whole world is watching the massacre without conscience.

The US and all others must knock their conscience and force Israel for an IMMEDIATE PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE, allow minimum 500 trucks a day of aid including FUEL, exchange of prisoners and withdrawal of the Israeli forces as per international laws.

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Analysis

Shakil Ahmad



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

## UN demands Israel cease exploiting Palestinians' natural resources

**A**mid escalating Israeli attacks on Gaza, a U. N. panel Thursday voted to adopt a resolution, by a largely majority, demanding that Israel cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in occupied Palestine and in the occupied Syrian Golan. The draft was approved by the UN General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) by a vote of 151 in favour to 6 against (US, Canada, Israel, Micronesia, Nauru, and Palau), with 11 abstentions.

Explaining his support to the resolution, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, the deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said that it was an expression of solidarity with the brave people of Palestine enduring unrelenting oppression from the Israeli occupation forces. "It is an affirmation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources - which are being brazenly violated by the occupying power, Israel," he said. By the terms of the draft resolution titled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources", the General Assembly would recognize the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power. Also by the text, it would call upon Israel to halt all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and cease its destruction of vital infrastructure. In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy also said that the draft is another reminder of the multi-faceted impact of repressive Israeli policies, denying the right to self-determination and impacting economic rights of the occupied. Pakistan, Ambassador Jadoon said, remains deeply concerned about the dire security and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the Gaza strip, as a result of the latest wave of Israeli aggression. Close to 11,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have lost their lives, while others are facing starvation and struggling to survive, with essential supplies blockaded. "The Israeli actions are a flagrant breach of international law including international humanitarian law and amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity," he said. "They are also in grave violation of several UN resolutions including the latest one adopted by the 10th resumed Emergency Special Session of the UNGA on 27th October." That resolution called for a "humanitarian truce" leading to cessation of hostilities in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Pakistani envoy called for an immediate ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian access and a stop to the forced transfer of Gaza's population. The international community, he said, must work in concert for a just, comprehensive and lasting two-State solution with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds

## Myths Surrounding Pak Army's Recruitment and Promotion System-IV

**C**adets who progress to the second term attain the status of mid-term cadets and become senior to those in the first term. They gain the authority to enforce discipline within the Kakul academy and may subject their juniors to disciplinary measures. Much like they were once welcomed, second-term Pak Army cadets initiate the first-term cadets through various forms of initiation rituals, including a certain amount of teasing. The cadet punishments, an aspect that seniors find amusing but juniors must endure, are an integral part of this tradition.

To prepare future army officers with a well-rounded understanding of national and international affairs, the second term introduces the subject of international affairs. This subject covers a range of topics, including the global political system, the importance of foreign policy, the concept of nationalism, geographic strategy, and the laws of armed conflict. Additionally, subjects such as History, Economics, and Management Sciences are also included in the curriculum for the second term. The professional capabilities of cadets are further polished in third and fourth terms.

Cadets are taught around fifty books for grooming professional capabilities and exams are also taken same like civilian education systems. Major cadets who successfully pass out after doing staff course are awarded M.phil degrees.

The Pakistan Army, renowned as one of the world's leading military institutions, has in place a structured and demanding promotion process to identify, acknowledge, and advance its officers. The promotion process is comprehensive, with a strong emphasis on merit, competence, and experience.

The Pakistan Army, like many modern military organizations, operates under a hierarchical structure comprising commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers. The hierarchy includes officers ranging from Second Lieutenant and ascending through various ranks, culminating in the highest rank of General. Promotion within this structure is the means by which individuals advance and progress through the ranks. The promotion process often adheres to a time-based system, where officers are typically promoted to the next rank after serving a specific number of years at their current rank. This approach ensures that officers acquire the necessary experience and seniority before advancing further in their careers. However, promotions are not solely based on time served; they are subject to the assessments and recommendations of Selection Boards. These boards, composed of senior officers, evaluate an officer's performance, potential, and suitability for promotion. They take into account factors such as professional competence, leadership abilities, and personal conduct when making their decisions.

The promotion process in the Pakistan Army is a multi-faceted and intricate system that takes various factors into account, including time-based promotions, merit, performance, qualifications, and seniority. This approach ensures that officers progress through the ranks based on their competence, leadership abilities, and contributions to the armed forces. The structured approach guarantees that the Pakistan Army maintains a cadre of experienced and capable officers who are well-prepared to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in the defense of the nation. The promotion procedure serves not only as a means to acknowledge individual excellence but also as a method

to ensure the overall effectiveness and strength of the Pakistan Army.

It is also a common misconception that only the offspring of Army officers or individuals from elite backgrounds are granted commissions, making it difficult for the general public to obtain commissions. However, this notion is inaccurate. The ISSB recruitment procedure is entirely merit-based, and anyone who meets the predefined criteria can secure a commission. The Pakistan Army comprises officers from various backgrounds, and they are recruited and promoted based on a strict merit-based policy. Many Army officers come from middle and lower-middle-class backgrounds, including the current Army Chief, General Asim Munir, who serves as an exemplary illustration of an individual who achieved remarkable success through the Pakistan Army's rigorous and transparent recruitment and promotion system.

Readers, after undergoing stringent, disciplined, and organized training, cadets are integrated into regular Army units. Their training, exercises, and educational activities continue throughout their careers in the Pakistan Armed Forces. The Pakistan Army adheres to established procedures for inductions and promotions, which cannot be circumvented. It is a source of pride to have such a professional and skilled army whose officers and soldiers are thoroughly trained and capable of addressing both internal and external threats. The myths and speculations surrounding the selection, induction, training, and promotion processes in the Pakistan Army are unfounded and false. The Pakistan Army ranks among the world's most professional and proficient forces, serving as a shield to protect the nation against all internal and external threats. Under the leadership of its current Chief, General Asim Munir, the army is well-equipped to confront all challenges, and the day when the country achieves excellence through the recent initiatives taken by the Army Chief and the Pakistan Army is not far off.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## ECO Conference and Azerbaijan's victory day

Mazhar Karim Dad

**T**he main point in the foreign policy of any country is the politics of interests. These interests can be economic, military or of any nature. Foreign policy is not permanent but keeps changing as a result of circumstances and events and changes happening in the world. It is difficult for countries with weak economies and political instability to form an independent foreign policy, but a successful country is one that protects its interests and does not spoil relations with any country even in difficult times.

The member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization include Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. The headquarters of the organization is in Tehran. This organization was established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, then in 1992, 7 countries of Central Asia were given membership in the organization.

Routes will be discussed while measures will be taken to expedite the movement of people and goods between member countries. The member countries should try to end the economic sanctions on Iran and establish peace in Afghanistan. Addressing a press conference before leaving for Tashkent, Prime Minister Anwar Haq said that after the formation of the Afghan government, terrorism in Pakistan increased by 60 percent. Afghanistan did not take any steps. We have concrete evidence in this regard. He described the statements of Afghan leaders as deplorable.

The Prime Minister will present Pakistan's position on ECO Vision 2025 in the conference. On this occasion, he will hold important meetings with the leaders of Turkey, Iran,

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, in addition to the business community of Uzbekistan.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan also have excellent relations. Both countries are strategic partners. Military relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan are increasing.

Azerbaijan is interested in buying JF Thunder 17 fighter jets from Pakistan and progress is also being made in this regard. Both countries are working to continuously increase trade and cooperation. Pakistan fully supported the position of Azerbaijan in the war with Armenia. Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are also growing in religious and cultural fields. Pakistan recognized Azerbaijan on December 12, 1991 after its independence from the Soviet Union.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has congratulated the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, the Government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan on the Victory Day of Azerbaijan and said that it was a historic day when Azerbaijan, which was under occupation for 30 years, became independent.

The Minister of Information said that the dynamic leadership of President Ilham Aliyev transformed the Republic of Azerbaijan into a regional center and economic power. Azerbaijan has left no stone unturned to develop these recently liberated areas. Azerbaijan has built air bases and modern infrastructure in its liberated areas. Azerbaijan's progress is due to the visionary initiatives taken by its far-sighted leadership, which has led the country on a journey of development, and there are many lessons for Pakistan to learn from this chapter. The caretaker government seems willing to work in this regard and there are numerous opportunities for improvement in the relationship with Central Asian Countries.

# Uzbekistan-Italy: historical dialogue filled with new content

PPA

Italian President Sergio Mattarella will pay an official visit to Uzbekistan on 9-11 November at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Italy is an important and reliable partner of Uzbekistan. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 24 March 1992.

The official visit of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Italy on 8-9 June this year marked the beginning of a new stage in the development of Uzbek-Italian multifaceted cooperation. During the visit, the head of our state met with Italian President Sergio Mattarella, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Giorgio Meloni, representatives of business circles and regions of this country. The visit resulted in the adoption of the Joint Declaration on the establishment of relations of strategic partnership between the two countries and the signing of 11 interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents. The adoption of these documents has given a powerful impetus to bilateral interaction in politics, security, economy, energy, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Uzbekistan and Italy have successfully interacted within the framework of international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and others. Italy supports Uzbekistan's efforts to strengthen the atmosphere of partnership, good-neighborliness and trust in Central Asia, and has also advocated further development of the format of cooperation "Italy-Central Asia".

To date, all the necessary institutional mechanisms for coordinating cooperation between the two States have been established and are working successfully. Political consultations are regularly held between the foreign ministries of the two countries to discuss topical issues of bilateral cooperation. The Intergovernmental Working Group on Trade, Economic and Industrial Co-operation and Export Credits operates.

Inter-parliamentary ties have been steadily developing: since 2011, the Oliy Majlis has had parliamentary groups of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber in cooperation with the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. Parliamentarians also maintain contacts within the framework of the «Italy-Central Asia» friendship group established in April this year.

Interdepartmental and inter-regional cooperation is gaining new momentum.

The high mutual interest of Uzbekistan and Italy in deepening relations determines the current dynamics of trade and economic ties and investment interaction.

The interest of Italian investors in Uzbekistan has been confirmed by the joint business forum held on the eve of the June visit of the head of our state with the participation of about 300 representatives of business circles of the two countries, as well as the «round table» held in Milan with the participation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and heads of major companies of this country. The business forum resulted in the conclusion of investment and trade agreements worth over 9 billion euros, which envisage the implementation of cooper-



ation projects in the energy, gas chemical and oil and gas industries, metallurgy, chemical, textile industries and agriculture.

Today in our country 52 enterprises with participation of Italian capital are operating, including 33 joint ventures and 19 enterprises with 100 percent Italian capital. The Ministry of Investment and Industry of Uzbekistan has accredited offices of six Italian companies, as well as the Chamber of Commerce "Italy-Uzbekistan". The main spheres of their activity are production of saffron, soft drinks, wines, bottle fittings, perfumes, ice-cream, knitted goods, consumer goods, processing of cotton waste, trade and intermediary services.

In trade between Uzbekistan and Italy the most-favored-nation regime is in force. For 9 months of the current year, bilateral trade turnover totalled almost 390 million US dollars.

Interregional cooperation between entrepreneurs of the two countries is expanding, in particular, a programme has been developed between the Tashkent region and the Italian region of Lombardy, which envisages the implementation of joint projects in the field of communal infrastructure, chemical, industrial, agricultural and other spheres.

"Uzbekistan is a bridge between Europe and Asia, a country strategic in terms of partnership, with huge potential. We want to be involved in Uzbekistan's modern development and are ready to deepen our multilateral relations. Entrepreneurs are ready to cooperate, offering advanced technologies, high quality final products. We will provide support to realize the full potential of bilateral interaction,"—Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Edmondo Cirielli said, speaking at a busi-

ness forum in June this year.

In turn, today Uzbekistan is ready to provide Italian businesses with broad support measures and an effective platform for their activities in our country.

Cultural and humanitarian ties and friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries, which have deep historical roots, play an important role in the development of multifaceted Uzbek-Italian cooperation.

Cultural exchanges and active trade took place between Rome and Maverannahr in the times of the Great Silk Road. During excavations in our country, artifacts with Roman roots were discovered. Thus, hundreds of silver coins from the times of Emperors Trajan and Marcus Aurelius, remains of elegant marble sculptures and gemma intaglios with images of Roman gods were found in the territory of Old Termez. In addition to

trade links, diplomatic relations developed between the Mediterranean and Central Asian regions. Kushan, Khorezmian and Turkic embassies visited Rome on several occasions. At the same time, the greatest flourishing of relations occurred during the reign of Amir Temur. Moreover, Venetian merchants who traveled to the East on an expedition praised in their histories the beauty and splendor of Bukhara and Samarkand.

Today, scholars from the two countries are studying the history and heritage of these cultures and exchanging experience and research results. One of the results of such work has been the publication, in cooperation with the University of Naples and La Sapienza University of Rome, of a book entitled "The Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the Collections of Italy".

On 8 June this year, during the official visit of the head of our state to Italy, an intergovernmental agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between our two countries was signed, defining further prospects and new directions of interaction in these spheres. During the visit, a new programme of cultural exchange between our countries for the period until 2026 was also signed.

Over the past years, Uzbekistan and Italy have already achieved certain results in the development of cooperation in education, tourism, culture and art, sports and archaeology.

Today, university courses teaching the Italian language are actively operating in our country. Two branches of Italian universities—the Turin Polytechnic University and the branch of the University of Pisa in Tashkent, which together have more than 700 students,

are carrying out their activities. Partnerships are being developed with Italian institutions of higher education through the "Erasmus+" programme. Relations between Rome and Tashkent have also covered the sphere of innovation and youth entrepreneurship. The possibility of launching a joint programme to support start-ups among young people in Uzbekistan is under consideration.

The Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the National Research Council of Italy have been consistently increasing interaction within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed in 2021.

For the third year in a row, the National Pavilion of Uzbekistan has been a great success among Italian and foreign guests of the International Biennale in Venice.

Tourist exchange has been steadily intensified: in 2022, about 9 thousand Italian tourists visited Uzbekistan. Today Italy is among the five European countries whose tourists actively visit Uzbekistan.

Thus, the level of mutual understanding and partnership achieved to date between Uzbekistan and Italy is a solid foundation for the successful continuation of political, economic and cultural dialogue and the beginning of a new renaissance in the development of Uzbek-Italian cooperation. In this context, the forthcoming visit to Uzbekistan by President of Italy Sergio Mattarella will give another powerful impetus to this process and will be a vivid confirmation of the commitment of the two sides to the comprehensive expansion and deepening of lasting friendship and strategic partnership.

# Sino-Pak Agricultural Collaborations will boost the agriculture led economy of Pakistan: Chairman PARC

PNP

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Huazhong Agricultural University and Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (CAAS), P. R. China visited National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad. Both universities are esteemed institutions for agricultural research in China and are globally recognized, holding prominent positions in world rankings. Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, gave an overview of Pakistan's Agriculture and role of PARC in ensuring National Food and Nutritional Security. Dr. Ali emphasized the importance of collaborative research in the agriculture and food sectors between Pakistan and China, leveraging Chinese expertise and the abundant and diverse resources of Pakistan for the mutual benefit of both nations. Dr. Ali underscored the importance of collaborative endeavors with Chinese universities in advancing high-tech agricultural research to promote sustainability in Pakistan. He also indicated that numerous scientists in the country have acquired expertise and honed their skills from top-tier Chinese institutions.

Mr. Li Zhaohu, President Huazhong Agricultural University presented an overview of University's history and functionality. Mr. Li also emphasized potential areas of collaboration with PARC, specifically focusing on Genet-



ic Improvement of Crops, Vegetable Molecular Breeding and Quality Improvement, Infectious Diseases of Animals, and Genetic Enhancement of Aquaculture. He also highlighted the importance of scientific collaboration in genetic diversity, Biotechnology, germplasm exchange and conservation. Mr. Li expressed the hope of strengthening collaborative research on agricultural advancement and promoting

agricultural trade with Pakistan. The representative from CAAS provided a comprehensive overview of the university's agricultural research initiatives. Notably, the presentation underscored the enduring collaborative efforts between PARC and CAAS, reflecting the shared commitment for advancing agricultural research.

The meeting was followed by a ceremonial exchange of letter of intention

between PARC and Huazhong Agricultural University. The delegation then, visited various research facilities and institutes including National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) and Plant Genetic Resources Institute (PGR). The delegation expressed admiration for the ongoing research initiatives and activities conducted at the Centre.

# Top US general cautions over risks in a long Gaza war

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: A faster resolution to the fighting in Gaza could help limit civilian strife that might spur people to join the ranks of militants, US President Joe Biden's top military adviser said.

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Israel's stated aim for its military campaign in Gaza — the destruction of the Hamas group that runs the territory — was "a pretty large order."

But he also said Israel was focused on targeting the senior leadership of Hamas, which might be achieved more quickly.

"I think the longer this goes, the harder it can become," Brown told reporters in his first



detailed remarks on the month-old conflict before arriving in Japan on Thursday.

Brown, who took over as the US military's top officer just over a month ago, expressed confidence that Israel was abiding by the laws of war in Gaza.

He also said there was room for Israel's military to improve in its public explanations about its conduct and that he had raised this with his Israeli

counterpart.

"There's room for improvement based on what we're seeing," Brown said. "What I've talked to him about is how do we demonstrate — not only with the videos but also as they talk about the strikes — why they're striking in some locations, provide more context to the strike."

Asked whether he was concerned a high Palestinian

civilian death toll could push people to join the ranks of the militants, Brown said: "Yes, very much so. And I think that's something we have to pay attention to."

"That's why when we talk about time — the faster you can get to a point where you stop the hostilities, you have less strife for the civilian population that turns into someone who now wants to be the next member of Hamas," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned Israel's the country is in a "tough war" that will also be long.

Israel has blamed Hamas for civilian deaths in Gaza, saying it is using civilians as human shields and hiding arms and

operations centers in residential areas.

Brown stopped short of advocating for a short campaign or offering his view of how long Israel's Gaza operation should last.

Brown has overseen air campaigns in the Middle East in the past, including during the battle to retake cities in Iraq from Daesh

He said military campaigns could drag on longer than expected.

"(Almost) every conflict that I've been involved with throughout my military career... (has) particularly gone a bit longer than most people would have imagined. So we've got to prepare ourselves for that," he said.

## Saudi Arabian NDU delegation visits NUST



PNP

ISLAMABAD: A high-powered delegation from the Saudi Arabian National Defence University (SANDU), accompanied by members of the Saudi Ministry of Defence, paid a visit to the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). Headed by President SANDU M. G. Mohammad Alruwaili, the delegation was extended a very warm welcome, followed by a comprehensive briefing on the NUST ecosystem. The delegates extolled the university for its remarkable global achievements and unwavering commitment to advancing applied research and fostering innovation across various domains. They highly appreciated the quality standards NUST upholds and showed keen interest in developing deeper cooperation in an array of fields.

Earlier in January 2023, Lt Gen (Retd.) Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, along with members of senior management and faculty from the university, had visited SANDU to forge a multi-pronged partnership that would have far-reaching positive dividends for both sides.

## Pakistan Hindu Council attributes Diwali to immediate ceasefire in Gaza

PNP

KARACHI / ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hindu Council has decided to associate Diwali, the festival of lights, to highlight the importance of ending ongoing tensions in Gaza and an immediate ceasefire there on humanitarian grounds. Patron-in-chief Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, in a video statement, while offering advance Diwali greetings to the peace-loving Hindu community living in Pakistan and around the world, said that the festival of Diwali is of great significance in Hindu religion, as the festival provides opportunity to welcome the new year with lights. "Diwali is the day of victory of light against darkness," he said, emphasizing "the festival delivers a message of peace, harmony and prosperity."



During a meeting chaired by Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani at PHC Secretariat, the participants reviewed the final preparations to celebrate Diwali in different parts of the country. They regretted that the heartbreaking scenes of horrific destruction seen on the media and social media have saddened everyone who cares for humanity. On the occasion, it was proposed that this year special prayers would be arranged for highlighting the protection of human life, with a call to an immediate ceasefire in the Middle Eastern region.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar further stated that the brutal use of force is complicating the sustainable solution to the long-standing issue in the Middle East, adding that the holy land of Jerusalem is sacred in the eyes of every religion. Pakistan Hindu Council called upon the international community, including the United Nations, to take necessary steps to safeguard the masses from the ravages of possible world war III.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
55,391.36	54,261.42
Day's High	Day's Low
55,506.32	54,371.74
Index Value	Change
16,210,875,487	+ 1129.94
Percentage	Time
+2.08%	10 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,358.70	-96.97
Percentage	Time
-1.31%	10 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,036.45	+ 144.51
Percentage	Time
+0.43%	10 Nov, 11:44 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,568.11	-78.35
Percentage	Time
-0.24%	10 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	307.5	309.5
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	76.85	77.7
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	80.8
UK Pound Sterling	353.5	357
US Dollar	287	289.5

# Final IMF negotiations start; Pakistan to receive \$71 million, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that the first round of negotiations between the IMF and Pakistan have ended without any major disagreement and the final negotiations have started on Monday.

Pakistan is likely to get the second tranche of \$710 million after the conclusion of talks, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said the government may have to take several measures to increase its revenue, including taxing builders, retailers, wholesalers, and property dealers.



Speaking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that the IMF has also asked the government for a plan to tax wealth. The IMF is also concerned about the blocking of imports.

He said that PIA, which runs 20 aircraft to feed millions, causes a loss of Rs 150 billion per year to the country, hence becoming a serious problem.

PIA should be privatized immediately, while politicians who call this airline a symbol of national prestige should be asked about the prestige of dozens of countries, including the United States, that do not have their own airlines.

He said that for decades, the national airline has been turned into a political orphanage, so its revival has become impossible. A delay in bailing out PIA and other failed state-owned

enterprises could strain relations with the IMF again, he warned.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that recently, PSO had stopped supplying oil to PIA due to non-payment of arrears, which affected its operations badly, and it had to suffer a loss of 30 crores per day.

The management of PIA has recently acquired a loan of eighteen billion rupees, while preparations are underway to acquire another twenty-four billion, as this institution cannot survive without loans and bailouts.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that after the licensing scandal, which was a big conspiracy, PIA has to bear a loss of seventy-one billion rupees annually, but no action has been taken against those who hatched the conspiracy.

## Koima sign MoU with FPCCI to close relations, bilateral trade, technology, and economic cooperation

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Korean Importers Association (KOIMA) visited Pakistan to explore new avenues of bilateral trade and investments. The Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman and Mr. Kim Byung, Chairman of KOIMA signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations. The signing MOU was witnessed by the Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Aminullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of Capital Office, Korean Ambassador H. E. Park Ki Jun, and FPCCI's past Vice President Qaisar Khan Daudzai & Convenor Capital Office Syed Asad Mashadi. The Primary objective of this MoU is to expand and diversify the bilateral trade and economic cooperation between both countries and to stabilize global supply chains and strengthen partnership. Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada expressed his gratitude on celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Pak - Korea diplomatic relations and underscored the strong potential for future collaboration to intensify cooperation in all fields including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

The ceremony was also attended by the members of different Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations of Gilgit Baltistan prominently Farukh Alvi, Khunood Zehra, Khosnoor Didar, Arif Malik, Abid Ali, Awais Satti, Mr. Khurshid Barlas, Nadeem Mansoor Syed and



others also attended the session.

Before signing the MOU, the Chairman KOIMA Mr. Kim Byung presented congratulatory remarks on the completion of 40 year of diplomatic relations and stressed to enhance and further strengthen the bilateral economic and trade relations. He also invited the business community of Pakistan to participate in forthcoming exhibitions in Korea.

The Ambassador of Korea H. E. Park Ki Jun said that the bilateral ties between Korea and Pakistan have been gradually expanded in the areas of trade, investment, human exchange and development cooperation. He further expressed his dedication towards fostering mutual exchange with Pakistan across multiple domains, including economic, cultural tourism and other fields.

While speaking on the trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Korea, the Vice President of FPCCI Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman highlighted the existing trade potential of Pakistan and briefed the pivotal role of FPCCI for the promotion of Pakistan's bilateral trade with other countries. He urged on further strengthening the existing Pak - Korea Business Council of FPCCI which is a useful platform for the private sectors of both countries to improve the trade volume in every field of merchandise as well as services trade.

After the exchange of mementos both sides, this auspicious function was summed up by Mr. Aminullah Baig, Vice President FPCCI by adding that the Korean investor should come forward and invest in the Special Economic Zones of Pakistan.

## IoBM to host Int'l Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) has announced that it will be hosting its high-profile 7th Annual International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance from November 14 to 15, 2023. Chief guests at the conference's inaugural session include Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Mr. Jameel Ahmed, Governor State Bank of Pakistan. The welcome address will be delivered by Mr. Talib S. Karim, President IoBM.

The international conference, now in its seventh year, will be based on the subject of "Sustainable Development and Islamic Finance: Examining the Role of Islamic Financial Institutions in Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth, Ethical Investments, and Technological Innovations". It will feature leading keynote speakers, international delegates and representatives from various policy making institutions at the administrative level. Some of the notable panel-

ists include representatives from Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), Bahrain, Bank Alfalah, Faysal Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), Malaysia, Bank-Islami Pakistan, and Meezan Bank to name a few.

The conference will serve as a catalyst for fresh ideas and strategies, driving the future of Islamic banking and finance in Pakistan. It will focus on fostering innovative thought leadership, providing a collaborative environment for intellectuals and senior representatives to explore sustainable development avenues. Sessions focus on the contributions of Islamic financial institutions to global SDGs, steering discussions toward actionable strategies aligned with ethical principles. Delegates engage in insightful dialogues on regulatory standards and challenges faced by Islamic financial institutions, offering comprehensive understanding and paving the way for collaborative solutions.

## SECP standardizes IPO approval process



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified a maximum period of 14 working days for granting of regulatory approvals to a listing application and prospectus. In this regard circular under section 172 of the Securities Act, 2015 has been issued.

The circular has also set a 15-day window for the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) to complete the entire post-approval procedures for listing. The standardization of IPO approval process is aimed at promoting the Initial Public Offering (IPO) market and bring in new listings at PSX.

The timelines were announced following extensive stakeholder consultations, leading to significant changes in procedures for filing and approval of IPO applications. In addition to automating the process, the Consultant to the Issue (CTI) is assigned a key role in ensuring that IPOs are completed in a timely manner. The CTI is also required to conduct detailed assessment of the issue and the issuer, and submit a due-diligence certificate confirming all material information required under the law or as suggested by the PSX and SECP, is adequately disclosed in the Prospectus.

The instant circular is expected to make the IPO market more attractive for potential Issuers and investors, marking the first milestone in the SECP's revamping of the IPO regime. The development and growth of a robust IPO market can significantly transform the financial ecosystem by optimizing fund allocation and boosting local economic growth.

The circular has come into force with immediate effect, advising all stakeholders including PSX, CTIs, book runners, issuers and other market participants to adhere to it.

## Fly Jinnah expands flight frequency on key routes and enhances connectivity

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, has announced an increase in its flight frequency on three key routes within its network. Starting from November 15, 2023, the airline will offer daily flights between Karachi and Quetta, Quetta and Islamabad, in addition to thrice daily flights between Karachi and Lahore.

This expansion demonstrates Fly Jinnah's unwavering commitment to its customers, focusing on offering its customers a seamless travel experience



with more connectivity and convenience. By increasing the frequency of these routes, Fly Jinnah aims to cater to the

growing demand for accessible and affordable air travel. The carrier currently operates a fleet of three modern Airbus A320 aircraft, the most modern and best-selling single-aisle aircraft in the world. Adding extra comfort to passengers, with the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices. On top of that, passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches and meals from the on-board "SkyCafe" menu at affordable prices.

## Need stressed for following Iqbal's philosophy to make Pakistan a progressive economy

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Nazaria-e-Pakistan Trust organized a ceremony to celebrate the Iqbal Day. Renowned scholar of Iqbaaliyat and former Rector International Islamic University Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik presided over while the Chairperson Pakistan Academy of Letters Dr. Najiba Arif was the Chief Guest. The speakers highlighted the role of Allama Iqbal for the creation of a separate home-

land for the Muslims of the Subcontinent.

Addressing the ceremony, former Rector International Islamic University Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik said that Pakistan has not come into existence by fighting any war, rather its creation was the result of a democratic movement of people inspired by the poetry of Allama Iqbal and led by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The formation of Pakistan was actually the outcome of Allama Iqbal's thoughts and philosophy who realized decades ago that the Muslims of the sub-continent

can neither live under British rule nor under the domination of Hindus.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said we as a nation should follow Iqbal's philosophy to make Pakistan a progressive economy. He said that Allama Iqbal presented the concept of a separate independent Islamic state for the Muslims of the subcontinent through his two-nation theory and the establishment of a welfare society. His poetry inspired the young generation as he believed that a modern



Islamic welfare society cannot be developed without the active participation of the youth. Allama Iqbal consid-

ered weakness as a great sin and considered strength and power as the main pillar in the formation of modern society.

Chairperson Academy of Literature Pakistan Dr. Najiba Arif said that due to the distance from Iqbal's philosophy, we are moving away from our real goal. We need to work to give due respect to the Pakistani passport in the world. We should inculcate Iqbal's philosophy in our youth.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Iqbal was the greatest poet of his time. Unfortunately, we could not transfer Iqbal's philosophy to our children. Iqbal's name is disappearing from our education system, which is unfortunate.

# Bangladesh thump Pakistan to seal Women's ODI series 2-1

**A Sports**

DHAKA: Bangladesh women beat Pakistan women by seven wickets in the third ODI at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Friday.

The win also means the hosts claim the ODI series 2-1 and secure four vital points of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25.

After opting to bat first, Pakistan managed to score 166 for nine in their allotted 50 overs. Opening batters Sadaf Shamas and Sidra Amin provided a solid 65-run start to the innings.

After the departure of Sadaf (31, 61b, 2x4s) in the 20th over, Sidra was joined by Muneeba Ali, who staged a comeback in the side after missing out in the second ODI due to injury.

She scored 14 off 36, which included one four before getting out to Shorna Akter in the 31st over.

After the departure of Muneeba, Sidra kept losing her partners on the other end and eventually, the tourists ended up scoring 166 for nine. Sidra returned undefeated on 84 off 143 balls, smashing three fours.

For Bangladesh, Nahida Akter was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 26 runs. Rabeya Khan was another contributor with the ball, grabbing two wickets for 35 runs from 10 overs.



In turn, Bangladesh's opening pair of Fargana Hoque and Murshida Khatun knitted a 125-run partnership for the first wicket.

Fargana top-scored for her side with a 113-ball 62, hitting five fours. Her partner, left-handed Murshida scored 54 off 106 balls, which included six bound-

aries. Bangladesh achieved the target in the 46th over for the loss of three wickets with skipper Nigar Sultana and Sobhana Mostary the two batters not out at the end.

Fargana was named player of the match while Nahida for her tally of

seven wickets bagged the player of the series award.

Pakistan women's team will head home tomorrow having taken part in the three-match T20I and three-match ODI series. The touring side earlier lost the T20I series 2-1, which was held in Chattogram.

## RISJA Honors Senior Journalist Faheem Anwar Khan for Outstanding Contributions

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) celebrated the distinguished career of senior journalist and former RISJA President, Faheem Anwar Khan, at a special ceremony. The event, attended by prominent sports journalists, recognized Khan's exceptional contributions to journalism and social services.

In a gathering of esteemed sports journalists, Faheem Anwar Khan was presented with a special award for his outstanding achievements in the field. The ceremony, held at a local hotel, included a special lunch for RISJA members and was attended by key figures such as RISJA President Afzal Javed, RISJA Secretary General Nasir Naqvi, and Senior Journalists Abdul Mohi Shah,



Shehryar Khan, Zulfiqar Baig, Arsalan Shirazi, Sohail Raja, Zeeshan Qayyum, and Obaidur Rehman.

During the event, accolades were showered upon Faheem Anwar Khan for his exemplar-

services in journalism and his recent appointment as the chairman of the Pakistani chapter of the Turkish welfare organization, Yardimeli Türkiye.

Addressing the audience, RISJA President Afzal Javed

expressed admiration for Faheem Anwar Khan, stating that his presence in the association is a significant honor. Javed emphasized that Khan's guidance and support will play a crucial role in assisting Yard-

imeli Türkiye in its charitable endeavors.

Afzal Javed also announced future plans for RISJA, including the organization of various sports events, workshops, and healthy activities for journalists.

Senior RISJA member Abdul Mohi Shah commended Faheem Anwar Khan for his years of dedication to journalism, describing him as an icon in the sports journalism community. Shah praised Khan for consistently upholding truth and honesty throughout his journalistic career.

As a gesture of appreciation, mobile phones were distributed among select members of RISJA during the ceremony.

The event underscored the collective recognition and appreciation of Faheem Anwar Khan's significant contributions to the field of journalism and his commitment to social welfare.

## Hard work and discipline is the key to success in any sport: Jahangir Khan

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former squash world champion Legendary Jahangir Khan has said that winning a medal is not just about a sport, but keeping the society and community together through sports is the real thing. Regardless of the sports players are involved in, success is possible only with hard work and discipline.

He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the dinner given by South Asia Taekwondo Federation President Omar Saeed in honour of Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, President of the Asian Taekwondo Union. Kook Hyun Jung, Technical Delegate of the 5th Combaxx Asian Open Taekwondo Championship, PTF President Colonel (retd) Waseem Janjua, Supervisory Board Head Stephen Fernandez, Combaxx Sports Director of Public Relations Farah Saeed, Marketing



Manager Sara Mir, Ji Young Kim, Dong Hyun Kim and other guests were also present.

Jahangir Khan said that for the further promotion and development of the sport of Taekwondo in the coun-

try, the patronage of government institutions as well as the role of private sectors, especially Combaxx Sports, is welcome and worthy of emulation. Other institutions should also play their role in sponsorships.

Prof. Kyu Seok Lee said that we wish that taekwondo in all member countries including Pakistan will continue to grow. I will remember and promise you that I will visit Pakistan again very soon.

Regarding the championship hosted by Pakistan, Prof. Kyu Seok Lee said that they value the best arrangements of the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation. This is a memorable one. It was an event for which PTF President Colonel (Retd) Waseem Janjua and his team are to be congratulated.

In the end, souvenirs and awards were distributed on behalf of South Asia Taekwondo Federation President Omar Saeed to the guests.

## HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2024 Local player Categories Renewed

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Categories upgraded for nine players following local player category renewals. Foreign player registration opened on 25 October. Draft tentatively scheduled for mid-December.

Nine players had their categories upgraded following the local player category renewal process for the upcoming edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League. The Pakistan Cricket Board earlier opened registration window for foreign players as well. The flag-ship event is tentatively scheduled for 8 February to 24 March 2024.

Naseem Shah and Iftikhar Ahmed, both Quetta Gladiators players, have been upgraded from diamond to platinum. Sarfraz Ahmed has been moved to diamond from gold. Peshawar Zalmi's wicketkeeper batter

Mohammad Harris has been shifted to diamond from gold as well. Pace bowler Salman Irshad has moved to gold from silver. Multan Sultans fast bowlers Abbas Afridi and Ihsanullah have both been promoted to the gold category, after playing as emerging picks last year.

Islamabad United wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan and pace all-rounder Faheem Ashraf have also been upgraded from gold to diamond category. Zeeshan Zamir has moved from emerging to silver, while Mubasir Khan has moved from emerging to gold. Karachi Kings' Tayyab Tahir has moved from silver to gold, while Qasim Akram has been upgraded to gold from emerging. Lahore Qalandars' Kamran Ghulam and Zaman Khan have

been enhanced to gold from silver and emerging respectively.

Some players have been demoted. The changes include Mohammad Nawaz (Quetta, Platinum to Diamond), Mohammad Hasnain (Quetta, Diamond to Gold), Haider Ali (Karachi, Platinum to Gold) and Asif Ali (Islamabad, Platinum to Diamond). Players who have represented Pakistan internationally cannot be relegated below the gold category.

As part of the category renewal process, franchise representatives were required to vote for every player. Teams were not allowed to vote for their own players but submit review requests at the end of this voting stage.

The list was then reviewed by Director - International Cricket Usman Wahla, member of the

national selection committee Tauseef Ahmad and Manager Partnerships Shoaib Khalid, who has been leading player acquisition for HBL PSL since 2021. Factors including national team performances, domestic perfor-



mances and perceived T20 brand value were considered while finalising local players' categories.

The franchises will now put forward relegation requests for the players before finalising retentions. After relegation requests are floated, all teams are given an opportunity to meet the

player's base category. If the player's base category is not matched, the player may be relegated to a category below his base category.

U23 players cannot be part of a squad as an Emerging player for more than two years unless they have played nine or fewer matches in those two years.

Local category player renewals (team-wise):

Islamabad United - Shadab Khan (Platinum), Asif Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Hasan Ali, Azam Khan, Faheem Ashraf (all Diamond), Sohaib Maqsood, Abrar Ahmed, Rumman Raees, Zafar Gohar, Mubasir Khan (all Gold), Zeeshan Zamir (Silver), Hassan Nawaz (Emerging)

Karachi Kings - Imad Wasim (Platinum), Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Amir (both Diamond), Haider Ali, Moham-

Yamin, Sharjeel Khan, Mir Hamza, Tayyab Tahir, Musa Khan, Qasim Akram (all Gold), Mohammad Ikhlaq, Mohammad Umar, Akif Javed (all Silver), Irfan Khan Niazi, Faisal Akram (both Emerging)

Lahore Qalandars - Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Fakhr Zaman (all Platinum), Hussain Talat, Abdullah Shafique, Kamran Ghulam, Mirza Tahir Baig, Zaman Khan (all Gold), Dilbar Hussain, Ahmed Daniyal, Ahsan Bhatti, Jalat Khan (all Silver), Shawaiz Irfan (Emerging)

Multan Sultans - Mohammad Rizwan (Platinum), Shan Masood, Khushdil Shah, Usama Mir (all Diamond), Abbas Afridi, Ihsanullah, Arfat Minhas, Shahnawaz Dahani, Anwar Ali (all Gold), Sameen Gul, Sarwar Afridi, Ahammad Butt, Moham-

mad Ilyas (all Silver)

Peshawar Zalmi - Babar Azam (Platinum), Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Harris, Saim Ayub (all Diamond), Danish Aziz, Arshad Iqbal, Aamer Jamal, Salman Irshad, Usman Qadir, Harris Sohail, Sufyan Muqeem (all Gold), Khurram Shahzad (Silver), Haseebullah, Saad Masood (both Emerging)

Quetta Gladiators - Naseem Shah, Iftikhar Ahmed (both Platinum), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Hafeez, Sarfaraz Ahmed (all Diamond), Mohammad Hasnain, Ahsan Ali, Umar Akmal, Omair Bin Yousuf, Saud Shakeel (all Gold), Bismillah Khan, Umaid Asif, Mohammad Zahid, Arshadullah (all Silver), Abdul Wahid Bangalzai, Aimal Khan, Yasir Khan, Khawaja Mohammad Nafay (all Emerging)

### Rizwan Rashid at top in CNS Amateur Golf Championship

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Rizwan Rashid of Margalla Green Golf Club (MGCC) continued his supremacy in the senior category on the second day of the 16th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Amateur Golf Championship 2023 at MGCC Islamabad on Friday. Rizwan's score was 154 after completing 36-hole games. Mohammad Aslam Khan was crawling behind him with a 158 gross score at the end of day two.

### ICC suspends Sri Lanka Cricket over political meddling

**Sports Desk**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended Sri Lanka's cricket board Friday, saying it had failed to ensure there was no government interference in its affairs.

The game's world governing body said it had found that Sri Lanka Cricket was "in serious breach of its obligations as a Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and to ensure that there is no government interference".

The suspension came a day after Sri Lanka's parliament asked the board to resign over allegations of financial corruption.

The conditions of the suspension will be decided by the ICC board later, it said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear if the indefinite suspension would affect Sri Lanka hosting the Under 19 World Cup in January.

The crisis involving the cricket board — the richest sporting organisation in the bankrupt island country — came to a head after Sri Lanka's humiliating World Cup defeat by India last week.

The Sri Lankan parliament unanimously asked Sri Lanka Cricket's elected board members to resign on Thursday, accusing them of unprecedented corruption involving millions of dollars. The board has not yet responded to the parliament's non-binding resolution.

Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa said Thursday's move was a "historic resolution that sends a message to the world that Sri Lankan legislators have united to defend cricket and restore the integrity of the game".

The board is now locked in litigation after it was sacked by the sports minister on Monday, only to be restored the following day by the Court of Appeal pending a hearing in two weeks.

The ICC has ruled against political interference and has suspended Sri Lanka before.

### Champions Trophy 2025 to be played in T20 format?



**A Sports**

DUBAI: Indian media conglomerate Disney Star has reportedly demanded the International Cricket Council (ICC) to hold the Champions Trophy 2025 in T20 format, English newspaper The Guardian reported on Friday.

With the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 coming to its closure in a few days and three teams having thus far booked their spots in the semi-finals, there is still much to fight for the sides, placed at the bottom.

As the top seven sides at the conclusion of the group stage of the ongoing World Cup, besides hosts Pakistan, will qualify for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

For the unversed, the qualification scenario for the Champions Trophy 2025 was approved by the ICC Board in 2021 when the multi-national tournament was brought back.

Meanwhile, Disney Star, the media outlet that captured the broadcast rights for all ICC events in a four-year deal running from 2024 to 2027, reportedly intended for the eight-team competition to be in Twenty20 format rather than one-day international, according to The Guardian.

But the media outlet's demand raised question marks on the qualification scenario of the Champions Trophy 2025 like how a 50-over World Cup can dictate qualification for an eight-team T20 event.

Moreover, if ICC somehow adapts a different system for picking up eight teams, such as ranking points then it would create massive confusion for the teams, who are still fighting to dodge the bottom two in the ongoing World Cup.

Moreover, the move would also pose a major threat to the already downhill ODI cricket.

The conversion of Champions Trophy 2025 into T20 format will result in oversaturation of the format as the T20 World Cups are scheduled for alternating years between 2024 and 2030, including the Twenty20 format for the 2028 Olympics.

## Meeting

RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the 8th extraordinary Summit of OIC on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan asks 'Israel backers' to help end genocide of Palestinians

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said the "backers of Israel" must prevail upon it to abandon the plans for settler colonialism, forced displacement, and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

"As an occupying power, Israel must fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and forthwith end the carnage in Gaza," Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch said at a weekly press briefing.

The FO spokesperson said that Pakistan was deeply concerned about the heinous crimes being committed against the Palestinian people as Israeli forces continued with



their "campaign of terror and brutality" in Gaza.

She said over a month, the people of Gaza had been subjected to the worst forms of collective punishment.

Israel has relentlessly bombarded the besieged Gaza Strip, levelling entire city blocks and killing thousands, mostly women and children,

according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza has said that over 10,800 people in the besieged enclave have been killed in Israeli attacks since October 7. The figure includes over 4,200 children.

"Israeli forces are committing crimes against humanity

with impunity as they indiscriminately massacre defenceless civilians and deliberately deprive them of food, water, shelter, and medical care," she said.

Baloch said the use of phosphorus bombs and threats of nuclear holocaust were being made against a people under occupation who were being forcibly evicted from their land.

She said as a tragedy of epic proportions unfolds in Gaza, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) must act to fulfill its responsibility to uphold peace and call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege, and commencement of rapid, unhindered humanitarian

assistance.

Baloch also said that Pakistan welcomed the forthcoming Extraordinary Islamic Summit being held on 11th November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"The OIC Summit has been convened in response to the unprecedented Israeli attacks on Gaza and its environs, which have posed a grave threat to the civilian population and precipitated a humanitarian crisis," he added.

"Pakistan will continue to play its role to advance international consensus and galvanize efforts for an urgent end to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and urgent provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza," she said.

## PAL condemns Israeli oppression on Palestinians

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has strongly condemned the Israeli oppression, continuous bombing, and brutality of the innocent citizens of the Gaza Strip in Palestine. The President of the PAL, Dr. Najeeba Arif, said that the killing of innocent Palestinians is unacceptable and that the people of the pen will always play their role against tyranny.

Dr. Najeeba Arif led a peaceful rally in solidarity with the Palestinians and

demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The prominent literary personalities, including Dr. Ahsan Akbar, Prof. Jaleel Ali, Prof. Muhammad Hameed Shahid, Dr. Ali Akbar Abbas, Prof. Naseem Sahar, Sarwat Mohiuddin, Farheen Chaudhry, Aisha Masood, Afshan Abbasi, Prof. Masuda Hussain, Yasmeen Shahid, Dr. Nazmeen Naqvi, Dr. Manzoor Wissario, Dr. Arif Farhad, Khalid Mustafa, Syed Abrar Hussain, Farooq Adil, Khalil Tauqar, Iqbal Hussain Afkar, Sardar Yousafzai, Mahboob Zafar, Gohar Zaman Ras,

## NEPRA to hold public hearing on request of XWDISCOS for quarterly adjustments

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: NEPRA has scheduled a hearing on 14 November 2023 on account of a uniform QTA for the 1st Quarter of 2023-24. The request has been filed by XWDISCOS. As per Policy Guidelines issued by the Federal Government, the cost after NEPRA's determination is to cascade onto KE's customers as well in accordance with Uniform Tariff

Policy.

NEPRA will scrutinize this request and issue a final decision on the amount to be passed on to customers as per the procedure. NEPRA and the Government of Pakistan legislates the governing policies and regulations which determine the costs to be recovered from customers in their monthly bills. Individual Distribution Companies cannot influence the process or make unilateral changes.

## Indonesian Corner

### Indonesian Corner inaugurated in National Book Foundation to mark Iqbal's birthday



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E. Mr. Adam Tugio, and Managing Director of National Book Foundation (NBF), Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed, jointly inaugurated the first Indonesian Corner at National Book Foundation in Islamabad.

In his remarks Ambassador Tugio said Indonesian Corner is not only a resource center with comfortable space for learning and open dialogue but also a manifestation of close linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan. He extended his sincere gratitude to the Managing Director along with his team and appreciated the joint efforts of the

Indonesian Embassy and the NBF in establishing the good work.

The inauguration ceremony was also scheduled to coincide with the commemoration of the birth anniversary month of the revered national poet and philosopher, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The Envoy took a moment to honor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal by recognising the profound connections between Indonesia and Pakistan through the influence of Allama Iqbal's philosophy, vision, ideas to Indonesian Muslim scholars in their effort to make Islamic values continue to be relevant in facing challenges of the time.

Managing Director of NBF, Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed said Pakistan values

the evergreen relationship with Indonesia as the two brotherly countries always supported each other in every need of the hour. "Both the countries will collaborate to promote literature, culture, and people to people contact" he added.

CEO of Institute of Dyslexia Education and Attitudinal Studies (IDEAS), Ms Mumtaz Irum commended the establishment of the Indonesia Corner in NBF. She highlighted the important contribution of the academic exchange programme between Indonesia and Pakistan to establish a more inclusive educational environment including to enhance awareness and address the issues faced by dyslexic students.

Indonesian Corner will build bridge

and promote open dialogue between the people of Indonesia and Pakistan. Visitors will also gain reliable information about Indonesia through books, magazines, videos, and engaging activities such as; Bahasa language learning opportunities, cultural programs and tourism information and many other interesting activities.

Within the Indonesia Corner, visitors will also find a collection of traditional artefacts representing 38 provinces in Indonesia, showcasing the country's rich and vibrant culture of Indonesia. This collection serves as a tangible representation of the cultural heritage Indonesia brings to Pakistan.

Photos by Raja Farid

## Caretaker Prime Minister meets Palestinian President in Riyadh

**Spokesman Report**

RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar today met with President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The two leaders are attending the Extraordinary Summit of the OIC convened to discuss the dire situation in occupied Palestine resulting from the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces both in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Prime Minister conveyed unflinching solidarity of Pakistan with the Palestinian people. He strongly denounced the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupation forces and bombing of hospi-

tals, refugee camps, schools and residential buildings, resulting in the loss of more than ten thousand precious lives and forced displacement of Palestinian families.

President Abbas appreciated Pakistan's expression of solidarity in this difficult time and its principled stance on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people. The two leaders emphasized the urgency of an unconditional ceasefire, end to the siege of Gaza and smooth delivery of vital humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected population. They underlined the need for international collaboration to stop Israel from further bloodshed.

## PM arrives in Saudi Arabia to attend OIC's emergency meeting on Gaza situation

**Spokesman Report**

RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Friday to represent Pakistan at the emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

on the situation in Gaza. Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz received the prime minister on his arrival at the King Khalid International Airport. Pakistan's ambassador Ahmed Farooq and senior Saudi and Pakistani officials were present.

## CM Visits Raiwind Tablighi Jamaat Congregation

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the annual International Tablighi Jamaat congregation at Raiwind early in the morning and huddled up with Maulana Ahmad Laat, Mian Ahsan, Intiaz Ghani, Anwaar Ghani, Maulvi Amer and others to review arrangements for the annual gathering.

He instructed the CCPO and commissioner about the arrangements and noted that CCTV cameras have been installed along with the deployment of additional patrolling police. Similarly, the number of traffic wardens has been increased for the smooth flow of traffic.

Maulana Ahmad Laat, offering prayers during the gathering, focused



on the unity of the Islamic world, the elevation of Islam and the promotion of peace and stability. Commending the Punjab government's efforts, the Ulema expressed gratitude for the arrangements made for the annual congregation, expected to draw half a million attendees.

Provincial Minister Azfar Ali Nasir, secretary Auqaf and DIG (Ops) were also present.

## Measures underway for preserving cultural heritage, developing infrastructure: Jamal Shah

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah, terming development of cultural infrastructure as the topmost priority, said that measures were being taken for preservation of cultural heritage of the country. The minister, while talking to media persons during his visit to the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here Friday, said that diverse and rich cultural heritage, beautiful topography, geographical diversity and archaeological sites of historical value situated in Pakistan offer enormous opportunities those could be utilized for economic advancement of the country.

Jamal Shah said Pakistan is situated at the place that was rightly called as melting pot of culture and civilization as it is the birth place of various religions and civilizations while diversity of old cultures make it an attractive bunch of beautiful flowers. The caretaker government is working to project positive perception of a peaceful, enlightened and progressive



Pakistan that possesses a respectable position among the countries of the region, he maintained. Underscoring the need of proper maintenance and development of sacred religious places of different beliefs he said that restoration of those historical places and making them easily accessible would not only attract tourists from all around the world but also help promoting domestic and international tourism in the country. He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the great leader of the nation and dissemination of his ideology and highlighting remarkable struggle for independence of Pakistan among the masses particularly, the young generation was fundamental responsibility of culture ministry.

## NIH issues advisory on Human Leptospirosis

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued awareness and communication alert for Human Leptospirosis on Friday.

According to NIH's Centre for Disease Control, the objective of this advisory is to alert and facilitate the health authorities and other stakeholders for ensuring

early detection, timely management and laboratory detection of Leptospirosis cases.

The advisory said that Leptospirosis is a rare zoonotic bacterial disease caused by the bacterium belonging to Leptospira genus, transmits from animals mostly rodents, pets, cattle and other wild animals to humans through contact with infected animal excreta.