

Young People Who Get Medals and Degrees are our Greatest Treasure: Balighur Rahman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Governor Punjab and Chancellor of Punjab University's Mr Balighur Rahman has said that good governance and leading others is a leader. A leader who calls others thieves and only himself honest is not a leader. Research on whose period corruption increased and during whose period it decreased.

From 2013 to 2018, countless educational institutions were built, laptops and huge funds were released. You should vote for those who take practical steps instead of being seduced by pessimists. Young people who get medals and degrees are our greatest treasure

When you are honest, honorable



and moral and responsible, the success of this world and the hereafter will be your destiny.

In education and training, training should come first and education should come later. Temporary

success can be achieved through lies and dishonesty, but not permanent. If you want to reach the solution of the problems, then you have to reach the facts. Like the Shaheen, the youth have soared from the top. Danish schools are state of the art and there are no such facilities in Achison either.

Deserving children from backward areas of South Punjab were given admission in these schools. No country in the world can ignore China. We should focus on learning Chinese. Establishment of alumni is a good initiative for the students here. All classes need each other. It is a matter of shame that today more than 2 crore children are out of school in Pakistan and we have become number one in this matter.

RPO Dera visits tank, paid tributes to martyrs police

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmoood Satti visited Tank district on Sunday.

On this occasion, Southern Range Commander Elite Force Atiqullah Wazir, Commander Dera Range Elite Force SP Arshad Mahmood and SP CTD Dera Range Asif Mahmood were also with him.

Where he held a high level meeting with District Police Officer Tank Iftikhar Ali Shah, SP Investigation Tank, DSP Headquarters and DSP Sub Division Jandola at DPO Office Tank.

In the meeting, RPO Dera paid tribute to the sacrifice of police martyrs who died in Kadi Shah Noor incident yesterday, and martyrs of police are our pride.

He said, They will not let their sacrifices go in vain. He urged the top police officials to take special care of the families of martyred policemen and utilize all resources for their welfare.

He said, In any case, they will not be left alone and issued instructions to provide the best medical facilities to the Ghazian police who were injured while fighting the terrorists.



At the same time, he along with the top police officials formulated a comprehensive strategy to bring all the actors of the terrorist incident to justice as soon as possible.

After the meeting, RPO Dera met the police officers and police personnel who bravely fought the terrorists in the incident and praising them for their bravery, he said, bravery you have shown is unprecedented. We believe that the day of death is fixed, but martyrdom comes to the lucky ones, our spirits are high

and invincible like rocks.

Inshallah, the false forces will be brought to their logical conclusion as soon as possible and no sacrifice will be spared for the national interest and the safety of people's lives and property.

He also announced cash rewards and certificates of appreciation for the police officers and youths who fought against the youth during the incident.

Later, Tank RPO Dera paid a surprise visit to Hathala police station and check post.

He made a detailed review of the police station and check post buildings, security, tranches, police barracks and thermal cameras in the police station.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed the measures taken to prevent possible attacks from different sides from the tranches. While meeting with the policemen present at the police station and check post, he said that he was aware of their security issues.

He said, to carry out security and other important matters with honesty, hard work and dedication and utilize all resources to serve the people and ensure law and order in the area.

The RPO said to ensure your safety in all situations, ensure the use of bullet proof jacket and helmet and use of night vision equipment at night.

It should be noted that in the past too, many attacks have been made on the police station by terrorists in the dark of night, which have been repulsed by the brave personal of the police.

Finally, RPO Dera visited the policemen who were injured in the terrorist attack in Tank at DHQ Hospital Dera and instructions were issued to provide better treatment facilities to the doctors.

Pakistan Business Group Founder Advocates for Technological Advancements and Economic Development

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a recent gathering of prominent industrialists and dignitaries, Faraz-ur-Rehman, the Founder President of Pakistan Business Group Organization and President of KATI, underscored the critical role of technology and modern science in shaping the future of the nation.

Addressing the business community during a dinner hosted in his honor by Punjab Chapter Chairman SM Zain Norain, Faraz-ur-Rehman emphasized the need for the government to take concrete steps in establishing a robust network of industries, fostering expertise in the IT sector, and promoting modern science and technology.

Expressing his vision under the Pakistan Business Group, Faraz-ur-Rehman advocated for collaboration with international technology experts to empower the younger generation with valuable experiences. The event was attended by notable figures, including Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed, UBG Secretary General



al Zafar Bakhtawari, and other industrialists.

Faraz-ur-Rehman urged the government to prioritize easing business processes and resolving issues encountered by domestic industries. Highlighting the impact of recent political tension on industrial activities, especially on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), he stressed the importance of governmental support for economic development.

Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed commended Faraz-ur-Rehman's dedication to service, citing his leadership in organizations like KATI and PBG. Ahmed stressed that the country's development hinges on providing opportunities to the business community, particularly by promoting the IT industry through industrialization and modern technology.

UBG General Secretary Zafar

Bakhtawari applauded Faraz-ur-Rehman's efforts to unite industrialists, pledging full cooperation. The event also featured speeches by Atif Ikram, the presidential candidate in the Federation Election of UBG, Chairman of PBG Islamabad Wing Moez Sial, and other notable figures. As discussions concluded, the consensus remained on the vital role of technology and economic opportunities in steering Pakistan toward a prosperous future.

Called on



LAHORE: Chaudhry Naseer Abbas Sidhu had a long meeting with the leader of Muslim League-N and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Detailed discussion on national and regional political situations.

Health advocates urge to strengthen GHWs on tobacco products

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The public health advocates have issued a compelling plea for an immediate expansion of Graphic Health Warnings (GHW) on tobacco products within the country.



In a statement issued by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), these activists have conveyed profound apprehension regarding the devastating impact of tobacco consumption on public health, particularly among children. They contend that fortified GHWs can assume a pivotal role in diminishing tobacco usage and averting associated health hazards.

Malik Imran Ahmed, the Country Head of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), has emphasized the urgency for Pakistan to take immediate measures to augment the size and visibility of GHWs on tobacco products. The prevailing health warning, currently set at 60%, frequently goes unnoticed by consumers, including vulnerable children, owing to its diminutive dimensions and discreet placement. It's worth noting that Pakistan's neighbouring countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, and Myanmar have adopted significantly larger GHWs.

Imran has recommended increasing the GHW size to encompass a minimum of 85% of the primary display areas of cigarette packs and other tobacco products. This decisive action would guarantee that the warnings become conspicuous and easily discernible for all consumers, with particular consideration to children, serving as a continuous reminder of the perils associated with tobacco consumption.

Dr. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, the Program Manager at SPARC, underscored that tobacco consumption poses a substantial threat to the health and well-being of Pakistani children. Studies have convincingly demonstrated that Graphic Health Warnings when meticulously crafted and prominently showcased, wield a substantial influence in discouraging children and adolescents from initiating smoking or resorting to other tobacco products. Nonetheless, the tobacco industry has wielded considerable influence over prior Pakistani governments, preventing the implementation of more substantial health warnings on cigarette packaging.

Khalil asserted that by enhancing GHWs, Pakistan has a distinctive opportunity to shield its youthful citizens from the catastrophic consequences of tobacco-related maladies, encompassing lung cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disorders.

History will never forget world's 'criminal silence' over Israel's Gaza genocide: Nilofar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Nilofar Bakhtiar has said that history will never forget the criminal silence of the world's leading human rights leaders on the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

Addressing the International Conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment' jointly organized by the OIC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on Wednesday, she said Israel's ongoing attacks in the Gaza Strip were a huge political and humanitarian disaster.

The NCSW chairperson said the Palestinian people were facing indescribable pain. More than 7,700 Palestinians had been killed and over 19,740 injured and that number was increasing. About 2,400 or 66 percent were the children among the total dead, she added.

Nilofar said schools and hospitals were being bombed the blockade (of the Gaza Strip) has been tightened.

She said the Israeli occupation meant enslaving the Palestinian people, with brutalities, illegal detentions, imprisonment and extrajudicial executions.

AKU and UAJK conclude transformative Health Reporting Course

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A transformative two-day short course, titled "Accessing, Interpreting, and Reporting Health Related Information to the Public," recently concluded at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), signifying a notable collaboration between the Aga Khan University (AKU) Karachi and UAJK.

Supported by a grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), funded by the University of Warwick, and expertly organized by the Section of Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health, Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) at AKU, the course made a significant impact on students of Mass Communication and media professionals in Azad

Jammu and Kashmir.

The training, led by Dr. Romaina Iqbal, Section Head of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, and Associate Professor at the Department of Community Health Sciences, AKU, along with Dr. Bilal Ahmed Usmani, Assistant Professor and Head of Section for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at CHS, AKU, and a team of Senior Instructors such as Ms. Sabahat Naz, Dr. Mahrukh Zafar, Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, and Mr. Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations Officer at UAJK, provided participants with engaging lectures, hands-on practice, and valuable tips on accessing, interpreting, and reporting health-related information to the public.

The training event was impeccably overseen and coordinated by Mr. Shehzad Rajwani, Assistant Program

Manager of the Continuing Education Program AKU while, the facilitation on behalf of UAJK was adeptly conducted by Mr. Mubashar Naqvi, the Public Relations Officer.

During this meeting, the AKU delegation received a comprehensive presentation from Dr. Bashir Ur Rehman Kanth, outlining the profile of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences (FoH&MS) at UAJK, covering its vision, mission, core values, progress, programs, and future plans.

The AKU delegates expressed keen interest in the diverse programs offered by UAJK's Health and Medical Sciences faculty, commending the institution for its commendable services in training youth in the medical and health sciences fields.

Discussions between institution-



al representatives explored potential areas for future collaboration, including Faculty Exchange, Faculty Development, and the promotion of quality

research. Dean Dr. Bashir Ur Rehman Kanth expressed gratitude for the significant effort made by the visiting AKU delegates, highlighting their unwavering support to UAJK.

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Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:11 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:29 pm
Maghrib 5:07 pm
Isha 6:33 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249

PPAF starts distribution of livelihood assets to Afghan refugees

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has commenced the distribution of livelihood assets under its UNHCR Pakistan-funded Poverty Graduation Programme for Afghan Refugees with its on-ground partner, IDEA. Since November 8, PPAF along with partners has distributed 365 livelihood assets, which include 109 assets for women.

Overall 1010 assets will be distributed this month, in the Akora Khattak camp, district, Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These livelihood assets span diverse ventures like shoe shops, clothing stores, crockery items, welding machines, carpenter's tools, cosmetics shops, peco, and sewing machines. Representatives from the UNHCR district office in Peshawar and Commissionerate Afghan Refugees, KP also joined distribution events. Their appreciation for the PPAF beneficiary selection process adds to the success of our intervention.

Ashrafi emphasizes urgency of implementing 'Joint Declarations on Palestine'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Saudi Arabia, a key regional player in the Middle East, continued to play a crucial role in addressing the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Addressing the media after the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, he underscored the imperative of executing the declarations articulated during this significant gathering of Muslim world leaders regarding the Palestine issue.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council,

necessitated mutual understanding and collaborative endeavors to realize shared objectives. He said as the situation in the region remains tense, the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts, humanitarian support, and commitment to a just resolution had garnered global attention.

He noted that the participation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, Jordanian King Abdullah, Amir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, and other dignitaries at the summit was a testament to their collective determination to pursue both temporary and permanent



resolutions to the Palestine issue in the current circumstances.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia had been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts for an immediate ceasefire and to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict mentioning that the Kingdom's leadership

had conducted high-level discussions with various international counterparts, emphasizing the importance of ending the hostilities and achieving a comprehensive peace agreement.

He said Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries were consistently

advocating for a two-state solution as the basis for a lasting peace. "This solution envisions an independent Palestinian state coexisting alongside Israel, with mutually agreed-upon borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine," he maintained.

Ashrafi said the Kingdom had provided financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority, helping it maintain essential public services and meet the needs of its population. He said Saudi Arabia's support would contribute to the stability of Palestinian governance.

During this time of conflict and crisis, he said Saudi Arabia had extended humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. He said the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) was playing a critical role in deliv-

ering humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, food, and financial support, to address the urgent needs of Palestinians.

He said Saudi Arabia along with other Muslim nations had consistently criticized Israeli actions that had resulted in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. He further said the Kingdom had strongly condemned attacks on Palestinian civilians and called for an immediate end to violence.

As the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud holds a special place in the hearts of Muslims worldwide, Ashrafi said his leadership and moral authority enabled Saudi Arabia to advocate for the rights of Palestinians, particularly concerning the status of Jerusalem and its holy sites.

Souvenir

KARACHI: During a Meet and Greet reception organized by Wonder Women Association today at Movenpick Hotel Karachi, Shaikh Rashid Alam, the CEO of Brands Foundation and Patron-in-Chief of Wonder Women Association, is presenting a memento to Syed Jamal Shah, the Honorable Caretaker Federal Minister of Culture and National Heritage.



Photo: Spokesman

NIH issues advisory on Human Leptospirosis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued an awareness and communication alert for Human Leptospirosis. 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 the Leptospira genus, which transmits from animals mostly rodents, pets, cattle and other wild animals to humans through contact with infected animal excreta. Leptospirosis occurs worldwide but is more common in tropical and subtropical areas with high rainfall. In recent years, cases of human and animal Leptospirosis have been reported in numerous countries in the Middle East. However, sporadic cases have been reported in Pakistan in the past few years. The disease is found mainly wherever humans come into contact with the urine of infected animals or a urine-polluted environment. It is an occupational hazard for many people who work outdoors or with animals or water-

Death anniversary of famous Urdu Ghazal poet Shakeb Jalali observed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The death anniversary of famous Urdu Ghazal poet Shakeb Jalali was observed here on Sunday.

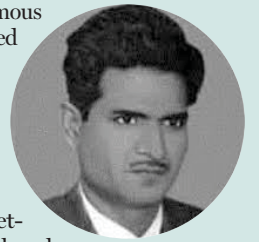
His real name was Syed Hassan Rizvi and he was born on October 1, 1934, in Jalal town near Aligarh.

After partition, he came to Pakistan in 1950.

Shakeb Jalali had a unique way of poetry, and gave an innovative tone to Urdu ghazal undoubtedly.

His first poetry collection "Roshni Aye Roshni" was published in 1972, just six years after his tragic death, and included in a few important poetry collections of Urdu. Sang-e-Meel published his complete poetical works as Kulliyat-e-Shakeb Jalali in 2004.

On November 12, 1966, the tragic news of his death made the literary world sad after he committed suicide under a train in Sargodha.



PIDE Unveils Insights into the Socio-Cultural Landscape of Pakistanis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) announces the release of groundbreaking research encapsulating the historical, socio-cultural, and behavioral aspects of the Pakistani population. This extensive study, titled "BASICS," compiles diverse research notes that delve into the beliefs, attitudes, social capital, institutions, community, and self of Pakistanis.



The results, derived from a nationwide survey, provide a detailed focus on the representative trends and patterns across the six thematic areas that BASICS research explores. To unravel the reasons behind these trends, the study conducted qualitative research through focus group discussions and episodic interviews. This in-depth analysis took place in key regions, including Upper and Southern Punjab, Islamabad Capital Territory, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, and Multan. A total of 16 focus group discussions and multiple interviews engaged participants from universities, including students, academic and administrative staff. Additionally, entrepreneurs, religious minorities, and transgender communities were interviewed for a comprehensive understanding.

The study introduces three interrelated themes—Identity, Inclusion, and Social Capital—along with contemporaneous sub-themes defined by gender, profession, political affiliation, ethnicity, religious ethos, and sexual orientation.

Authored by Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro Vice Chancellor, PIDE, and Dr. Fahd Zulfiqar, Assistant Professor, PIDE, the qualitative report initiates with a critical examination of identity. Addressing the layered, intersectional, and multi-vocal nature of identities for Pakistanis, the research taxonomizes identity into Individual (self, collective, contrived, gendered, and performative), Social (shared identities defined by ethnicity, religiosity, and majority-minority divides), and National (nationality and a sense of longing and belonging to the homeland). The research underscores that identities are predominantly gendered for women, nationalistic and ethicized for men, communal for religious, and marginalized for sexual minorities.

Another focal point of the study is Social Capital, wherein the research identifies the forms of capital possessed by respondents, explores variations in their habits, and scrutinizes the role of cultural capital in reinforcing social power dynamics. The study also investigates the role of vertical and horizontal social capital in social networking and in the development of gendered, professionalized, and spatial relationships.

Addressing inclusivity, the study reports that Pakistanis exhibit circumventing behaviours toward religious minorities, marginalizing tendencies towards transgender individuals, patriarchal, sexist, and heteronormative attitudes towards women, and majoritarian inclinations towards men.

The current study, the first in the series on "Who Are We?" (Qualitative Analysis), sets the stage for subsequent reports. The next report will feature diverse individuals articulating their beliefs, attitudes, selves, communities, social capital, and perceptions of institutions.

Young Pakistani Nominated for UN's Top Youth Role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A young Pakistani Qasim Farasat, has received a nomination for the pivotal position of Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs at the United Nations. Backed by the Government of Pakistan and the Prime Minister's Office, Farasat stands out with his commitment to sustainable development and youth inclusivity.



Highlights of his career include co-founding the Institute of Sustainable Development and Cooperation (ISDC) and serving as an elected executive of the Commonwealth Youth Council.

In the role, Farasat aims to boost youth engagement across the UN's spectrum, from peace and security to sustainable development.

Commenting on his nomination, Farasat stated, "Youth leadership is the bedrock of tomorrow's sustainable world."

Rs46bln recovered from power pilferers during anti power theft drive

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Power Division Rashid Langrial on Sunday said that an amount of Rs 46 billion has been recovered from the power pilferers from September 7 to October 31 during the ongoing anti-power theft campaign. "Today as the results for the first two months (53 days to be exact) are out, I must put things in perspective.

Our estimated annual losses across the national grid for the current year are Rs 589 billion. Of total Rs 589, roughly Rs 199 billion come from ex-FTA, Balochistan tube-wells and

AJK," he revealed on a social media handle. These areas are not the focus of this campaign because of their own peculiarities, he said and added that AJK collects its own bills but does not pay us at the same rate because it sees it as a contractually disputed payment; ex-FTA because they are exempted from meters due to a policy of appeasement in the wake of integration and Balochistan tube-wells on account of various factors, least of which is not the enforcement challenge. He said, "We are working on the remaining problem space of Rs 390 billion of which we are able

to recover Rs 46 billion in 53 days i.e. PKR 867 million per day. If the same level of state support and field effort can be maintained (and that is a big if, I must admit), 80 % of the problem space gets resolved". The secretary said they were conscious of the challenge of sustaining the drive beyond the campaign but they have demonstrated beyond doubt that there was nothing that could not be resolved with the right mix of state's will and field effort. "That day, we promised that no one will be spared, high or mighty; sacred or not-so-sacred" he said. He went on to

say that we have reshuffled, suspended, prosecuted even arrested our staff at a scale never seen before; put thieves behind bars at a rate never observed before i.e roughly 470 persons per day; have shunned extraneous influence with full support of the Prime Minister, the Minister-in Charge and other quadrants of state power. In the process we have erred, learnt and corrected our course where needed, he said. He said officers and staff have suffered at the hands of the little mafias and they were thrashed, injured, made hostage and fired upon.

CEO CBD Punjab Surprise Visit Propels CBD Punjab Projects toward Timely Completion

City Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), commonly known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), witnessed a significant development as CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, took a proactive approach to evaluate ongoing projects on a surprise visit this Sunday. The visit aimed to assess project progress in accordance with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, demonstrated his commitment to the timely completion of projects by inspecting various key sites. The surprise visit covered the Ghora Chowk Flyover, Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, CBD Punjab Phase 2 and 3, as well as the Walton Road upgradation.

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab Riaz Hussain, Director Project Management CBD Punjab Asif Iqbal,



Director Construction CBD Punjab Asif Babar, Director Architecture CBD Punjab Sameer Aftab, and officials from NESPAK and NLC were also present.

While expressing his views CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin said "Our dynamic approach ensures the timely completion of every project under CBD Punjab. We are committed to

the development and progress of the region."

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab Riaz Hussain provided a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing projects. Highlights of the progress include the completion of shuttering for the Ghora Chowk Flyover, the concrete completion of the bottom slab of the flyover, and the ongoing

installation of geo grid for the MSE wall. Additionally, the sub-base for slip roads has been completed, and these roads are expected to be operational in the coming days.

Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District is currently undergoing hard-scaping and landscaping. The Walton Road upgradation is progressing rapidly to meet its targets.

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Trumpet of Elections sans PTI - I

The leadership of major political parties seems acutely aware of the challenges surrounding elections, recognizing the potential futility given legitimacy and credibility crises, along with the looming specters of political instability and economic hardship if PTI is not given a free hand to contest the upcoming elections.

This realization has led key figures, such as Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, and notably, Moulana Fazal Rehman, to tacitly acknowledge the difficulties. In a subtle yet strategic manner, these leaders, either directly or through proxies, have communicated messages, often discreetly conveyed through the media, suggesting a cautious acceptance of the need for a fair electoral process which were possible only when PTI is given a level playing field to contest the elections and win or lose on merit.

Moulana Fazal Rehman's nuanced statement, "I will not say anything about PTI because their hands are tied and mine are open," implies a calculated acknowledgment of the challenges faced by the PTI leadership. Though stopping short of explicitly expressing a desire for exoneration and a fair chance for PTI in elections, the implication is clear.

The President, as the solitary voice of reason within the system. An elect of the PTI, is facing daunting challenges to stay in office while advocating for the PTI cause. His efforts extend to connecting with the Establishment, tirelessly appealing for understanding and forgiveness. However, the prevail-

ing sentiment suggests that while the Establishment may be receptive to various discussions, the prospect of letting go of PTI remains a point of contention.

Notwithstanding the political quagmire we are deeply in, a collective awakening has taken hold among the establishment, intelligentsia, politicians, and civil society, recognizing that Pakistan stands precariously on the edge of a comprehensive collapse. International ratings consistently place the nation at the bottom across various sectors, depicting a bleak image of its overall health. This grim assessment spans numerous parameters, reflecting the country's dire state across a spectrum of critical indicators.

Pakistan's global standing reveals a complex landscape. On the Democracy Index, it finds itself at the 108th position out of 167 countries, literacy rate stands at a challenging 59.13%, health expenditure positions Pakistan at 187th out of 192 countries, quality of life places it at 93rd out of 111 countries, current account balance ranks 53rd out of 206 countries, while nominal GDP growth is at the 157th position out of 195 countries. Similar is the case with other parameters except in military metrics where Pakistan shines with the 23rd position in military expenditures out of 155 countries, 6th in active troops out of 173 countries, and 1st in Active UN peacekeepers out of 119 countries. The defense budget proudly stands at

the 16th position out of 140 countries. The data highlights a missed focus on developing quality human resources, improving literacy rates, and enhancing the overall quality of education.

Unfortunately, a repetitive cycle of circular motion seems to characterize our national journey, leading to a loss of a clear sense of direction. The need for a reevaluation of priorities and a concerted effort towards sustainable development and informed decision-making is crucial to break free from this circular pattern.

However, a new wave of intimidation targeting PTI leadership, accompanied by re-arrests of PTI leadership those who had previously distanced themselves and criticized their top leadership, paints a dubious nature of these unwarranted moves. The re-invigorated media campaign hurling corruption allegations at PTI and its associates adds to the complexity. This situation raises doubts on holding of free and fair upcoming general elections pushing the country back into an excruciating rut.

Moreover, the formation of both Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and PTI Patriot Party (PTP) has left all political parties perplexed, attempting to unravel the underlying philosophy and logic behind their creation. There is a collective effort among party leaders to discern the hidden agenda behind IPP and PTP, with a specific focus on understanding the Establishment's

perspective.

The rationale for the creation of IPP and PTP could be the Establishment's dissatisfaction with PTI and its leadership, aiming to weaken the party by fostering rival factions. These factions, represented by IPP and PTP, may serve as potential spoilers, disrupting PTI's chances of securing a majority in the upcoming election.

Interestingly, both PPP and PML(N) share similar but opposite perspectives on the creation of IPP and PTP, viewing them as B-parties of PTI for specific reasons. The commonality lies in the fact that both IPP and PTP claim to be splinter groups of PTI, advocating for similar policies.

PPP and PML(N) have accused both IPP and PTP of being "spoilers," alleging that these parties aim to divide votes in KP to benefit PTI in the upcoming election. Both major parties dismiss the claims of IPP and PTP regarding their commitment to social justice and Pashtun rights, branding them as mere political opportunists.

However, the most probable scenario is a hung parliament. Historically, engineered hung parliaments in Pakistan have granted the establishment increased influence over the political landscape. In such situations, smaller parties or independent members may hold the balance of power, aligning with or being influenced by the establishment to form a government. This arrangement provides the establishment with leverage and influence over decision-making processes.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Candidates without manifesto

The way Molvi desires is that the common people should not read the translation (Urdu or other language) of the Holy Quran and blessed hadiths because this would unveil the secrets of the religion to the public, according to Molvi. Similarly, politicians want to keep the general public away from social information, education, and consultation. Otherwise, the cunning tactics and secrets of corruption by politicians will be exposed to the people. Our public representatives do not have a new manifesto for the people; instead, they resort to insulting the opposing candidates - that's the manifesto of these political figures.

Molvies want to maintain their monopoly. If people can read the translation of the Quran and Hadith themselves, they will not need a molvi. This will weaken the power of religious leaders. The molvies want to impose their own ideologies on the public. If people can study the Quran and Hadith themselves, they can form their own ideologies. This can challenge the authority of religious leaders.

The Religious leaders want to impose their own ideologies on the public. If people can study the Quran and Hadith themselves, they can form their own ideologies. This can challenge the authority of religious leaders. Nodoubt, our religious leaders want to keep the public under their control. If people start thinking for themselves, they can refuse to follow the instructions of religious leaders. This can threaten the rule of religious leaders.

"In the same way, there are several possible and common reasons for politicians' interest in keeping the public from information. One reason is that they want to maintain their power. If people start thinking for themselves, they can understand the mistakes of politicians. This can damage the reputation of politicians.

Another reason is that politicians want to impose their own interests on the public. If people can define their own interests, they can challenge the authority of politicians. A third reason is that politicians want to keep the public under their control. If people refuse to

follow the instructions of politicians, this can threaten their rule."

The upcoming general elections in Pakistan will be held on 8 February 2023. In Multan by this time, all major political parties have completed the nomination of their candidates. However, even now, most candidates have not released his or her election manifesto. This is a major problem because it fails to tell the public what the candidates will do after being elected. This makes it difficult for the public to decide which candidate to vote for. There is a large number of candidates who have been in politics for years, taking advantage of family politics. Their bank balances have also increased, their properties have also increased, but the public has remained poor.

The public hopes that these elections will bring a change. They want to elect a candidate who understands their problems and finds a solution to them. However, without an election manifesto, the public has no way of knowing what the candidates promise to do to solve their problems. This is an opportunity for the public to raise their voice. They can demand from their elected representatives to release election manifestos. This will help the public decide who to vote for. The public also needs to make sure that they only vote for candidates who are committed to working to meet their needs. If the public raises their voice and uses their vote, they can build a future that is better for them.

The political landscape in Pakistan has reached a state of stagnation, with individuals contesting elections on party tickets for the past 40 years without making any substantial contributions to their constituencies or the nation. This prolonged period of political inertia raises concerns about the effectiveness and impact of the current political system on the country's development.

Efforts should be made to prevent political parties from becoming hereditary. To free political parties from a hereditary system, it is necessary to change their internal electoral system. For this purpose, political parties should make changes in their constitutions and regulations that do not permit ticket allocation solely to hereditary individuals.

To generate interest in politics among the public, it is essential to promote political education in educational institutions. Additionally, training programs for political skills should be organized at the grassroots level. The habit of seeking votes in Pakistani politics is another issue. Political parties often make promises to gain votes from the public, but they do not fulfill those promises. Pakistani citizens need to understand that the promises of political parties are often far from reality. They should only vote for those political parties that have a clear plan to fulfill their promises.

An exemplary manifesto of a public representative is one that is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. It should clearly articulate the candidate's vision for the community and the specific steps they plan to take to achieve that vision. It should also be realistic and achievable, given the resources and constraints that the candidate will face.

The lines are from an exemplary manifesto of a public representative. "I am determined to work for you. I know that you have various issues, and I will work to address them. I will work to strengthen the economy, improve healthcare, and make education more affordable and accessible. I will also work to reduce unemployment and enhance safety and security."

"I will work to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances."

"I will invest in our public schools to ensure that all of our children have access to a quality education."

"I will fight for affordable housing and healthcare for all."

"I will protect our environment and promote sustainable development."

"I will be a transparent and accountable leader who will always put the needs of our community first."

Ultimately, the best manifestos are those that are genuine and reflect the candidate's true values and priorities. Voters should look for manifestos that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound, and that are written in a clear and engaging way.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Global capitalist interest, impacted media coverage of Pakistan - I

Aiman Abbasi

In the era of global capitalist interest, complex network created by powerful nations that how they are influencing the crisis worldwide once again we are reminded as the Israel Palestine conflict become center phase which is being exploited by powerful nations and the longevity of this exploited conflict reflects their own interests. Due to the fact that this is a historical conflict become instrument of shaping geopolitical strategies and started implicating significantly Pakistan both directly and indirectly its economy, specially media, role in international politics and its security.

This conflict becomes a global flashpoint as it also has consequences for the entire world along threatening regional peace. It is evidence that how crisis are being exacerbate by global capitalist for the sake of their interest.

The most heartbreaking aspect of this conflict is the human suffering. We witness devastating bombings and attacks in Gaza and the West Bank, with innocent lives lost, including women, children, and the elderly and young people. World leaders express their condemnation, but over time, these sentiments often fade away. However, the seriousness of this conflict goes beyond the headlines, reaching deep into Pakistan's socio-political fabric.

Likewise other nations Pakistan

with a strong commitment to humanity and peace, chooses not to participate in diplomatic negotiations concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict. Instead, it upholds a principled stance against violence, reiterating its commitment to peaceful coexistence. As Pakistan navigates these turbulent waters, it finds itself in the midst of this conflict's far-reaching implications.

One of the major implications in the shape of criticism against Pakistan using polite tone on Israel not becomes vibrant against genocide happening in Palestine. Especially Pakistani media form of news channels and press not showing the actual image of conflict. As complexity of this conflict is concerned several key factors that will contribute to answer this phenomenon "the impact on global politics" and the "criticism on Pakistani media for its coverage".

Economic dependency is one of the keyaspects that may bound the extent of reporting by Pakistani media and Arab nations as well on worldwide capitalist influences, particularly the United States. These states historically have relied on financial aid, investments and trade agreements from resource rich, strategically and economically powerful nations so in this respect states that are getting unwavering support from powerful nations criticizing Israel can risk these economically vital relationships of trade, investments and other assistance which is required.

To be continued

Murree can be counted among most beautiful tourist destination of world: Ambassador Togio

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam M. Togio on Sunday said that Murree can be counted among the most beautiful regions in the world and the natural beauty of Murree can compete with any major tourism spot in the world.

Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Togio said that the world-famous tourist destinations of Pakistan, Murree, and Indonesia, Bali, can be called sister cities, for which the two governments should start talking and this will promote tourism on both sides.

Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam M. Togio on Sunday said this while talking to the Journalist and local business community in the local hotel of Murree.

The Ambassador of Indonesia said that there are historical, religious and cultural relations between Pakistan and Indonesia, which are based on many

factors need to be transferred to the new generation.

He said that Pakistan maintained friendship with Indonesia from the early years of independence, which can not be denied in the form of modern mutual economic, trade, cultural and diplomatic relations.

The ambassador of Indonesia said that 600 soldiers went from Pakistan for the freedom of Indonesia, some of whom sacrificed their lives there, and as the sun of freedom rises in Indonesia, the relations between the two countries are growing day by day. Meanwhile, the ambassador of Indonesia said that the founder of Indonesia, Ahmad Sukarno, and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had a relationship of personal friendship, that's why you see similarities between the most famous Jinnah Cap and Soekarno Cap.

He said that Allama Iqbal's poetry has an influence on many movements



in Indonesia and Allama Iqbal is equally popular in Indonesia.

The Ambassador said that there is similarity in the food and culture of the two countries and the habits of the two

nations are similar in terms of food and drink and spices. In response to a question of President Sudhir Abbasi of Murree Press Club, Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Togio said that he will do

his best for the visit of Murree journalists to Indonesia and in this regard, Murree Press Club will be contacted soon.

He said that the visit of Murree jour-

nalists to Indonesia will give them an opportunity to know about Indonesia, which will increase mutual intimacy.

Adam M. Togio said that Indonesia announces scholarships for students every year and this year also the scholarship was awarded in the same way.

He emphasized that the children of Murree journalists should apply for Indonesia's scholarship, they should give priority to them and will be fully supported by the Indonesian Embassy Islamabad in this regard. In response to a question, the Ambassador of Indonesia said that the mutual economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia are very strong and bilateral trade between the two countries is \$ 4.5 billion dollars, which needs to be further increased.

He said that there is a need to promote mutual relations between the people of both the countries so that mutual intimacy between the people can increase.

Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations

In a celebration of an enduring partnership that has withstood the test of time, the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) and the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) came together to launch a groundbreaking promotional endeavor titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations." The event, held on 6th November 2023, at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Islamabad, not only commemorated the ten-year milestone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but also underscored the strength and significance of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

CPEC, a monumental initiative that was set in motion in 2013, has evolved into a symbol of the unwavering brotherhood between Pakistan and China. Its influence is felt far and wide, touching every facet of life in both countries. Beyond its macroeconomic contributions in sectors such as Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agriculture, CPEC has played a pivotal role in fostering cultural ties and forging a Pak-China community of shared interests.

The "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" project looks deep into the social aspects of this transformative endeavor. It captures the personal experiences of individuals who have witnessed the profound changes brought about by a decade of CPEC. From common citizens to government officials, from local employees to diplomats, this project paints a vivid picture of how CPEC has left an indelible mark on the lives of people from diverse walks of life.

The event featured a powerful screening of an exclusive video documentary, which showcased the exceptional significance of CPEC as the flagship project of the "Belt and Road" Initiative. The documentary emphasized the strategic importance of Gwadar Port, the zenith and focal

point of CPEC, serving as a bridge between the One Belt, One Road and the Maritime Silk Road. With breathtaking scenic shots, the documentary provided a bird's-eye view of the major contributions made by CPEC projects, substantiated by compelling facts and figures.

To pay homage to the ten years of unflinching support and cooperation offered by China, a special feature report titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations" was unveiled. This report not only outlines the narrative of CPEC but also extols its accomplishments as a landmark in the enduring Pak-China relationship. It narrates stories of Chinese companies fulfilling their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and shines a light on the depth of the friendship shared by Pakistan and China.

As a testament to the spirit of collaboration and solidarity, Chinese enterprises operating across Pakistan, spanning various sectors, contributed mini documentaries. These films feature testimonials, personal accounts, and inspiring experiences of project employees and local individuals. They will be released as part of a docuseries under the "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" umbrella, exemplifying the shared journey towards a prosperous and promising future for both Pakistan and China. It has been elaborated that, CPEC stands as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between Pakistan and China. It is not just an economic initiative; it's a bridge of friendship, a symbol of collaboration, and a beacon of hope. As President Xi Jinping once said, "Our friendship with Pakistan is unbreakable, and our

cooperation is unique." In the spirit of CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Pakistan and China are bound by a shared vision, one that promises a future even more prosperous and vibrant. As we celebrate a decade of CPEC, let it serve as a reminder that, together, there are thousands of more miles to cover on the road toward a brighter tomorrow. CPEC has many impressions on Pakistan's economy and its society. One of the most significant impacts of CPEC has been on Pakistan's energy industry. Notably, it brought forth the introduction of supercritical coal-fired power plants and pioneering hydropower projects. These initiatives have not only illuminated the lives of Pakistan's citizens but have also provided a significant boost to the nation's economic prospects. CPEC's contributions extend far beyond the energy sector. It has catalyzed the development of critical infrastructure projects. The Lahore Orange Line project, cross-border optical fiber cable, and the Sukkur-Multan Motorway have revolutionized transportation and connectivity within Pakistan. Chinese enterprises involved in CPEC have demonstrated their commitment to corporate social responsibility. During times of disaster, they generously donated funds and essential supplies. Moreover, these enterprises have invested in technical schools, offered scholarships to Pakistani students, and provided crucial technical training to local farmers and women. The results of these initiatives have been empowering, enriching the Pakistani workforce. Beyond the confines of Pakistan, CPEC has also created opportunities for local engineers and technicians.

Many of those trained during the corridor's development have found opportunities to work abroad, contributing their expertise in countries across the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and Europe.

While international uncertainties persist, Pakistan's inherent strengths in terms of human resources and geographical advantages continue to instill confidence in CPEC's potential. It is firmly believed that the Pakistani government and its people will successfully navigate the challenges that may arise, bolstering the corridor's long-term success. CPEC has been a game-changer for Pakistan's economy. The project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis by adding thousands of megawatts of electricity to the national grid. It has also improved Pakistan's transportation infrastructure through the construction of new highways, railways, and airports. Additionally, CPEC has created thousands of jobs in Pakistan, reducing poverty in the country. As Pakistan marks a decade of CPEC, it reflects on a remarkable journey that has had a transformative impact on its present and future. The shared vision of China and Pakistan, under the guidance of the BRI, promises an even more prosperous and vibrant future for this enduring partnership.

(ABOUT THE AUTHOR: In the realm of fostering Pakistan-China relations, there exists a visionary, a guardian of friendship. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani is the Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, a luminary who orchestrates bonds between nations. Nestled in the vibrant city of Peshawar, he is not only a Senior Media Consultant but also a bridge-builder between cultures. To connect, reach out to him at syed.gilani@gmail.com.)



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

West African Center opens in Ashton with special participation of British MP Angela Rayner



Arif Choudhary

OLDHAM: ALADE SANNI Chairperson West African Development organized the opening ceremony of the African Arts Heritage and Cultural Center located in Oldham Road Ashton, in which the Member of British Parliament and Deputy Leader of the Labor Party Angela Rayner had a special participation and flag hoisting ceremony. Parliamentarian Angela Rayner said, I am very happy to be present at the opening ceremony of the first African Arts Cultural Heritage Center in the team side. I got to see the African cultural objects in the center. Invited by Chairperson West African Development Eladi Sani and Coordinator Aqeel Qureshi welcomed the member of British Parliament Angela Rayner on coming to the center and gave a full briefing about the West African Heritage Center. It is a good thing for Ashton that now this center is open. People of all religions and cultures live in the team side council.

Veterans recalls horrors of WWII at 80th anniversary of D-Day landings



As the world commemorates wars and conflicts during a weekend of remembrance, World War Two veterans mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy.

D-Day is a term used for the day when the Allied forces invaded Normandy, France to attack Nazi German forces.

English soldier Ken Hay, who participated in the Allied invasion of Normandy, recalls being trapped behind German lines and captured during a night patrol near "Hill 112."

"Thirty of us went out, 16 including my brother got back, five of us got captured and nine got killed," Hay said.

He is now an active ambassador for the British Normandy Memorial, overlooking Gold Beach.

Preparations are underway for next year's 80th anniversary, with an elegant rectangular colonnade in Ver-sur-Mer honouring 22,440 servicemen and two servicewomen from over 30 nationalities who died under British command between June 6 and August 31, 1944.

The 30-million-pound memorial, financed by fines on banks and private donations, features 160 stone columns and a ceremonial wall.

Hay, now 98, is involved in fundraising for an educational pavilion scheduled for completion by the 80th anniversary, likely attended by Britain's King Charles III and French President Emmanuel Macron. With the average age of veterans at 98, it will be a significant opportunity to gather those who played a crucial role in pushing back the Western front.

"The fact that names are presented chronologically means you understand how the battle unfolded: the days that are particularly fierce," said operations manager Sacha Marsac.

"When a whole unit is lost on the same day, their names are all next to each other."

The memorial is uniquely laid out by the date of death, offering a chronological understanding of the fierce battles. Neat rows of names, ranks, and ages tell personal stories, from four 16-year-olds who likely exaggerated their age to soldiers barely in their 20s.

Posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry, Corporal Sidney Bates is honoured with a special logo.

Veterans like Hay, who joined at 17 and faced captivity and hardship, emphasize the sacrifices of those who fell in battle.

"I joined at the age of 17 in 1943, but they wouldn't call me [to serve] until I was 17-and-a-half; they said I was too young to die," Hay said in a recent interview.

As the 80th anniversary approaches, the memorial stands as a testament to the courage and resilience of those who played a pivotal role in the liberation of France from the Nazi German occupation.

Beyond the End of History

Shafaq Zernab

In the recent past, many considered liberal democracy as the epitome of political justice and allure. This viewpoint was most notably encapsulated in Francis Fukuyama's provocative "end of history" theory. As Kissinger says the United States embarked on an unselfish quest to redefine International Order based on principles of justice and equality where the ultimate benchmark would be universal peace and harmony. The antecedent equilibrium found disruption amid the crucible of the Cold War, wherein two nuclear superpowers grappled for hegemonic ascendancy. A failure to partake in this symphony of contention threatened to bestow unbridled dominion upon the unengaged, casting a shadow over the delicate equilibrium that once graced the geopolitical stage.

This transpired in 1990 with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, culminating in Europe falling under the sway and safeguard of the United States. The triumph of Western liberal ideals of Capitalism and democracy marked the unabashed victory of what is referred to as a "free world". Fukuyama argued in his concept that the human

race would pace indeterminately into the future without undergoing a major change in their political, economic or societal system at large and he advocated Western-led capitalistic order as the hallmark of this journey.

However, the shifting currents of history have vitiated these theoretical assumptions. In the contemporary era, a plethora of antithetical ideas have emerged. Some scholars anticipate that as the foundational conditions for liberal democracy dissolve, we may witness its replacement with illiberal democracy, competitive authoritarianism, or even outright tyranny. Yet, these predictions could be as hasty as the previous overly optimistic assumptions. This article delves into the major setbacks faced by the Capitalist system in current times ranging from political conflicts to economic blowbacks, great power politics to dramatic shifts in societies and the rise of populism and polarization among others.

Democratic Recession & Rise of Populism

With the advent of Globalization and the rapid advancement of forces of modernization, the grand expectation that we have entered an era of convergence is flawed. We have rather crossed the threshold of divergence. We are living in a post-truth

era and from 2016 onwards there has been a relative decline in the sole supremacy of the United States and Western Order at large. The rise of right-wing populism serves as a stark contradiction to the ideals of Western liberal democracy. This populist upsurge is running through the entirety of the Western world and the United States is a blatant example where Donald Trump as Nevt Gingrich describes him as a "unique extraordinary phenomenon". Farzed Zakaria in his article "Populism on the March" extravagantly describes why the West is in trouble. Donald Trump exhibited hostility towards the already established system voicing the spirit of genuine patriotism with his policy of Make America Great Again. Similarly, these populist fronts are the second or third-largest political blocs in countries like France, Germany, Spain and Greece. The pioneers of revisionist ideas are in power in Poland and Hungary. We have a resurgent Putin challenging the US hegemony in Eastern Europe. The war in Ukraine is an example of that. Narendra Modi in India and Imran Khan are examples of such nationalists, challenging democracy to its core and resonating with the sentiments of the masses.

Rise of China

The rise of China under Xi Jinping is an embodiment of power politics between the two great powers of the world. China rehearses a diverse range of practices and ideologies to uplift its political and economic fabric presenting an alternative to the exploitative global capitalism. The export-led economy of China, leading in automation and machine age under an authoritarian capitalist system where it endorses mercantilism for protectionist policies, practices a strict authoritarianism at home and deals in free markets globally surpassing the GDP of the EU combined.

Strategically, China is enhancing its sphere of influence globally where it mediates in the Middle East in BRICS, connects corridors through BRI, and amasses support from Russia, in South Asia China mediates in the Afghanistan fiasco, and trade deals with India. Similarly, China warns the U. S. not to intervene in the Asia Pacific, especially in Taiwan and the South China Sea. China also secured a position in major Bretton wood institutions and is willing to compete by hook or crook. The Trade War that Trump launched with China by increasing tariffs backfired. Thus China is a contending rival to the U. S.-led global order.

Conclusion

The post-2016 era unveiled a realm of a multipolar world and the mantra of sole hegemony of the U. S. is long gone. It's not just the rise of contenders like China but the loss of the U. S. own interest in the rule-based system it once promoted, instead drifting away towards a more power-based system, operating outside the principle of institutions it once established. For instance, the audacious hypocrisy and double standards the U. S. and its allies showed in the Russo-Ukraine war and now in the Israel-Palestine conflict, actively supporting the aggression and oppressor in the latter. As we moved towards a service and knowledge-based economy, the rising physical and economic insecurity serves as drivers for populist forces.

The intra-cultural hostility, ethnic cleansing, social in-cohesion an upsurge of religious fundamentalism among other issues like sectarianism, terrorism, intolerance and scepticism fueled by forces of globalization have made the world a chaotic abode and have revealed the flaws of the established order, where the orchestrator itself has played a key role in demolishing and sabotaging the foundations of the system. This brings us back to the thesis thus it would suffice to say that this indeed is the end of history.

Mian Anjum Nisar says high cost of doing business dangerous for trade and industry

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said that the growing debt stock carries significant fiscal costs and

exposes the country to debt vulnerabilities, as highlighted in the Pakistan Development Updates various reports.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar emphasized that persistent fiscal deficits and debt repayments have resulted in consistently high annual gross financing needs, averaging 27% of GDP over the past decade. This level is notably higher than the emerging market threshold of 15%.

The leader of the BMP said that in the past two decades, Pakistan has witnessed two consecutive years of the highest budget deficits in 2022 and 2023. He pointed out that for the current fiscal year, a budget deficit of 7.7% of the GDP is anticipated, a staggering Rs1.3 trillion above the government's target. He expressed concerns over these persistent large budget shortfalls, which have led to the rapid accumulation of public debt. This, in turn, has crowded out private investment and contributed to macroeconomic volatility.

PIAF for taking admin measures, raising export to curb rupee slide

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that beside increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market.



PIAF Chairman Faheem Saigol said that massive fall of rupee value continued to damage the economy, as the Pakistani currency continued its slide, reaching more than one month low above Rs286 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market this week. In a statement issued here today, he observed that the rupee's slide is attributed to the increased demand for foreign currency in the domestic economy, primarily driven by higher sales of automobiles, cement, petroleum oil products, and the repatriation of profits by foreign companies operating in the country.

He urged the government to control volatility of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial revival and economic growth is not possible without stability of local currency. He said that the massive devaluation of currency fuelled inflationary pressures, adding that two major factors contributed to the price hike. First, the prices of food and commodities as well as fuel prices skyrocketed in the international market, and second, the depreciation of the exchange rate by 30 percent also led to higher inflation, he added.

Faheem Saigol argued that this devaluation of the currency was dictated by the IMF through prior actions and it has nothing to do with macroeconomic fundamentals. He said that there was a complete breakdown of economic policy making, as the country's fiscal policy had become subservient to monetary and exchange rate policies.

PIAF Chairman said that the US dollar continued to rise against the rupee, reaching a record high amidst growing current account deficit. The government needs to devise a strategy on war-footing to increase foreign investment in Pakistan so as to stop the upward trajectory of the dollar, he added.

He said that the monetary tightening and exchange rate depreciation resulted in higher inflation, public debt and debt servicing. The empirical evidence showed that the one percent monetary tightening hiked the inflationary pressure by 1.3 percent in the case of Pakistan, he added.

Elections will result in a stable economy: Atif Ikram

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday that elections will result in a stable economy as the elected government can implement tough reforms to strengthen the country facing serious problems.

Alignment between the elected government and people will stabilize the political and economic scenario, which is necessary for development and luring international investments, he added.

Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP of FPCCI, Chairman of PVMA, and President of ICCI, said that Pakistan was facing unparalleled economic challenges that needed to be overcome.

The business leader lauded the government for undertaking the required reforms to

improve the economy but added that a lot has to be done in this regard.

"The business community supports all structural reforms, as this will place Pakistan on a trajectory for sustainable, long-term economic growth that will support its growing population," he said.

He also stressed women's empowerment as a means of expanding the national economy through their contribution.

Atif Ikram also emphasized the need to broaden the country's tax base, rectify foreign exchange issues, and tackle escalating debt that is a substantial burden on its economy.

We must educate women and cultivate a technologically adept workforce to steer the national economy back on track. However, the present education system only benefits the elite.

The government should strive to ensure a conducive environment for foreign companies,



widen the tax base to augment revenue, establish a more equitable tax system, implement agricultural reforms to enhance crop yields, ensure food security, and promote sustain-

ability.

The authorities must undertake energy sector reforms to meet the escalating demand for clean energy and empower women as an economic force by enhancing their access to loans and education and simplifying regulations.

Pakistan is already working on a program aimed at sparking economic growth, integrating the economy into international capital markets, and ensuring policy continuity. Additionally, a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been established to streamline foreign investment procedures in sectors like IT, energy, agriculture, mining, and defense production.

Substantial foreign investments in various projects are expected, indicating a promising influx of funds, including those from Canadian firm Barrick Gold and Saudi wealth fund.

Decoration items

KARACHI: A vendor is displayed decorating fancy animals sculptures attraction for customers at a nursery in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

ICCI urges CDA and MCI to address key issues of business community

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the business community is the major contributor to tax revenue generation and emphasized that CDA and MCI should facilitate them in promoting business activities. He said that Pakistan is going through a difficult economic situation and all concerned government departments should facilitate the business community in business promotion that will help make the economy self-sustainable. He said this while talking to Rana Muhammad Waqas Anwar, Chief Officer, MCI during his visit to ICCI along with Yasir Farhad DMA and Rana Waqas Director Revenue.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that providing clean drinking water and other facilities is the basic responsibility of a municipality and urged that CDA and MCI should provide these facilities to the business community in Islamabad. He stressed that CDA, MCI and ICT Administration should set up one window facility in their respective domains to address the key issues of the business community under one roof.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Muhammad Waqas Anwar, Chief Officer, MCI said that one window for payments of fees will be operational soon. He said that CDA and MCI would utilize funds for the development of markets. He said



that an increase in taxes will be made in consultation with the business community.

Yasir Farhad, Director DMA said that smart parking solutions in markets and the city are being planned. He said that payment of license and other fees can now be made online. He said that ICCI and market associations should cooperate with CDA and MCI in addressing the issue of encroachments in markets. Rana Waqas, Director Revenue MCI assured to resolve the tax payment issues of the business community.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that frequent transfers of the Heads of CDA and ICT Administration slow down the pace of development works in the city and stressed that the government should appoint them for at least 3 years to ensure

continuity of development works.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that filtration plants and public washrooms are the basic needs and emphasized that CDA should provide them in markets to facilitate the traders. He further stressed for providing parking, carpeting of roads, repair of footpaths in markets.

Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Former President ICCI stressed that the CDA should revise the terms and conditions for the auction of plots in consultation with the stakeholders.

The representatives of various markets also highlighted various issues and emphasized that the CDA and MCI cooperate in addressing issues and facilitating the trading community for better growth of trade activities.

Joint efforts will be put to make Rakh Damiyal a model graveyard: RCCI



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq has said that all efforts will be put to make Rakh Damiyal a model graveyard. The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) will maintain cleanliness in the graveyard," he said. The boundary wall of the graveyard for Muslims has been completed and the ground leveling work is in progress. He made these remarks at the inaugural of a graveyard developed on 100 Kanals for minorities at Rakh Damiyal area of Rawalpindi. Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat

Ali Chatha, Pastor Adil Gill, MCR representatives and graveyard committee members were also present on the occasion. Saqib Rafiq in his address said that Rakh Damiyal Graveyard was a long-standing problem of the residents of Rawalpindi, for which the joint efforts of the administration and the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry have yielded results. We are also thankful to CM Punjab for resolving this important issue.

Apart from the land set aside for the non-Muslims, 500 kanals was allocated for the city residents and 400 kanals for the residents of Rawalpindi and Chaklala residents in the area.

FBR makes historic seizure of non-duty paid/counterfeit cigarettes

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented drive to get to grips with the menace of Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the designated teams of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have successfully recently conducted 429 raids throughout the length & breadth of the country. The effort culminated into the seizure of about 16 million Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarette sticks.

On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise. According to him, the



success of this exercise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forthwith halt their illicit practices. He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion. It was further resolved that in the next phase of the drive, criminal proceedings would be initiated against such culprits.

More collaboration between Pakistan and Rwanda required: Butt

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's robust IT sector is eyeing the lucrative African market for exports, which will be highly beneficial for this promising sector, while the country will also get much-needed foreign exchange.

The Pak-Africa Business Forum (PABF) and the High Commission of Pakistan to Rwanda arranged a Zoom meeting between reputable names in Pakistan's and Rwanda's IT sectors.

High Commissioner Naeem Khan and PABF's President Omar Shahid Butt hosted the meeting. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology, and Innovation Rwan-

da (ICT), Mr. Yves Iradukunda, also graced the occasion.

A former executive member of the Pakistan IT Industry Association, Salman Dar, coordinated the meeting proceedings.

On the occasion, PABF's President Omar Shahid Butt said that revenue in the African IT services market is projected to reach \$23.66 billion in 2023, business process outsourcing dominates the market with a volume of \$8.70 billion.

The revenue in African market is expected to show an annual growth of 14.06%, resulting in a market volume of US\$45.68 billion by 2028, he added.

He added that Africa needs significant investments in broadband connectivity, secure data infrastructure, and governmental

and legal reforms that can spark competition.

He added that building digital and physical connections by eliminating barriers like broadband coverage gaps and digital illiteracy will allow people and businesses to reach bigger markets, build businesses, and create jobs.

He said the meeting was part of the PABF's initiative to promote mutually beneficial trade ties between Pakistan and the African continent. High Commissioner Naeem Khan and Omar Butt were both of the view that Pakistan should boost its exports to the untapped market of Africa.

The African market is less regulated, entering it is comparatively easy therefore it should



get proper attention of our IT exporters.

Mr. Salman Dar and others from Pakistan's IT sector went at

length to explain to their counterparts in Rwanda that Pakistani IT products are second to none in the world, and the companies

from both sides should work closely to find potential synergies between them.

The meeting concluded with

the participants agreeing that close interactions between the two sides should also continue in the future.

Irtaza Hussain clinches the Title of 16th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Irtaza Hussain won the title of 16th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2023. The Closing and prize distribution ceremony of 16th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2023 was held at the scenic Margallah Green Golf Club (MGGC) Islamabad. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf congratulated the winners for their remarkable success and appreciated their skills. Naval Chief lauded the high standards of the game that provided exciting and quality entertainment to the participants. Naval Chief commended



ed the untiring efforts of MGGC staff and organizers for seamless conduct of the championship. He also appreciated the consistent and generous support from sponsors, management of MGGC Islamabad and media fraternity, without which the event would not have been such a resounding success.

The four day long Golf Cup held from 9-12 November has become a major event in golfing circles. Around 300 golfers across Pakistan participated in various categories included Men Amateurs, Lady Amateurs, Seniors and Juniors.

The closing and prize distributing ceremony was attended by various civil and military dignitaries including officers, organizers, sponsors, golfers and media fraternity.

Irtaza Hussain annexes 16th CNS Amateur Golf Championship title



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Irtaza Hussain clinched the 16th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur (CNS) Golf Cup 2023 title at Margalla Greens Golf Club on Sunday. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony congratulated the winners for their remarkable success and appreciated their skills, said a press release.

Irtaza Hussain annexes 16th CNS Amateur Golf Championship title He lauded the high standards of the game that provided exciting and quality entertainment to the participants. He commended the untiring efforts of MGGC staff and organizers for the seamless conduct of the championship. He also appreciated the consistent and generous support from sponsors, management of MGGC Islamabad and media fraternity, without which he said the event would not have been such a resounding success. Around 300 golfers from across Pakistan participated in various categories included Men Amateurs, Lady Amateurs, Seniors and Juniors. The closing and prize-distributing ceremony was attended by various civil and military dignitaries including officers, organizers, sponsors, golfers and media fraternity.

Taimur Khawaja wins Thal desert Jeep rally title

Sports Desk

MULTAN: Taimur Khawaja won the 8th Thal desert jeep rally 2023 title while Musaddaq Khakwani remained second.

The official results of the 8th Thal desert Jeep rally 2023 have been announced, the winner of the previous race, the famous racer Mir Nadir Magsi failed to defend his title.

In prepared A category, Taimur Khawaja won the first position as he completed 195 kilometres distance in 2 hours 24 minutes and 36 seconds.

Maqsood Khakwani stood second as he completed the distance in 2 hours 50 minutes and 25 seconds.

Shiraz Qureshi bagged third position as he completed this distance in 3 hours 06 minutes and 46 seconds.

In the prepared B category, the racer Shehryar Khan bagged first position, he covered the distance in



2 hours 25 minutes and 33 seconds, Numan Saranjam remained second and Arbaz Khan came at third position.

In category C, Beiwarh Mazari came first as he completed the distance in 2 hours 43 minutes and 31 seconds, Dr. Haris Khan second and Khawaja Fakhar third.

Likewise, in D category,

Umer Iqbal Kanju came first, he covered the distance in 2 hours 41 minutes and 50 seconds, Taj Khan Mahar second and Shakil stood third.

Salma Marwat was the winner in the women's race in the prepared category. She completed the race up to the mid-point in 1 hour 31 minutes and 49 seconds.

Dina Patel got the second position and she completed the track in 1 hour 33 minutes and 09 seconds.

Syeda Rida Zainab got the third position and completed the distance in 1 hour 51 minutes and 14 seconds.

Later, prizes were also awarded to the winners of car jeep rally at Faisal stadium Muzaffargarh.

Pakistan's Shahzad bags silver in WBPF Bodybuilding event in South Korea

WONJU CITY: In a major achievement, Pakistan's Shahzad Qureshi claimed a silver medal in the ongoing 14th WBPF World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships & Congress held here in South Korea.

Shahzad Qureshi won a silver medal for Pakistan as he finished second in the 90 KG event.

He fell short of his Indian rival, who bagged the silver while a Korean athlete claimed the bronze in the same category.

Notably, this was Pakistan's second medal in the ongoing event. Arsalan Baig won the silver for the country in the Physique category.

It is pertinent to mention that former Asian Champion Shahzad Qureshi also bagged a bronze medal in the men's master bodybuilding category last year after he finished third out of 20 participants competing in the category.

Sri Lanka cricket skipper pleads for ICC suspension to end

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Sri Lanka skipper Kusal Mendis appealed Sunday for the governing International Cricket Council (ICC) to lift its suspension of the country over alleged political interference in the local board.

"This is our profession and we can't be staying at home doing nothing," Mendis told reporters in the capital Colombo.

"We want to start practising as there are a few tours to happen next year."

The ICC said on Friday that Sri Lanka Cricket was "in serious breach" of its obligations as a member, highlighting "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 by sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe that it had syphoned off millions of dollars.

"As players we had no control over that," Kusal Mendis said. "As the captain I only hope for its (the ban's) removal so that we can resume our game."

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 earlier this month.

Virat Kohli takes first ODI wicket after nine years

A Sports

BENGALURU: Star Indian batter Virat Kohli stunned the cricketing world as he picked up an ODI after nine years during his side's ICC World Cup 2023 clash against the Netherlands.

While the bottom-ranked side were batting cautiously in their 411-run pursuit, Indian captain Rohit Sharma handed the ball to Virat Kohli.

The right-arm medium pace bowler struck in his second over when a delivery drifting down the leg side, marked the end of Dutch skipper Scott Edwards' knock.

It was Virat Kohli's fifth wicket in ODIs and his first since 2014 when he dismissed New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum in Wellington.

His last wicket in international cricket, however,



came back in 2016 when he dismissed the West Indian opener Johnson Charles in a high-octane T20 World Cup semi-final.

Virat Kohli had a brief stint with the ball earlier in this World Cup when all-rounder Hardik Pandya limped off the field midway through an over against Bangladesh.

In his usual role for India, Virat Kohli contributed significantly

with an anchoring half-century. The right-handed batter scored 51 in 56 deliveries with the help of five boundaries and a six.

Sharma soon followed him after a 54-ball 61 which included eight boundaries and two sixes. Virat Kohli then anchored the proceedings for India amid his 71-run partnership with Shreyas Iyer before the former perished soon after reaching his half-century.

Iyer was then joined by KL Rahul and the duo bolstered India's total past the 400-run mark with brisk centuries.

Shreyas Iyer top-scored for India with an unbeaten 128 in 94 deliveries with the help of 10 boundaries and five sixes. Rahul, on the other hand, scored 102 in 64 deliveries, peppered with 11 boundaries and four sixes.

India ease past Netherlands to stay unbeaten in World Cup

A Sports

BENGALURU: Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul's blistering centuries, paired up with a disciplined bowling show powered India to a thumping 160-run victory over the Netherlands in the 45th ICC World Cup 2023 match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Set to chase a daunting 4110-run target, the Netherlands put up a decent fight with the bat but still fell 160 runs short.

Middle-order batter Teja Nidamanuru spearheaded the Netherlands' fightback with a brisk half-century but his efforts were not enough to propel his side to the favourites.

He remained the top scor-

er for the Netherlands with a 39-ball 54, laced with one boundary and six sixes.

Opener Max O'Dowd (30), Colin Ackermann (35) and Sybrand Engelbrecht (45) were the other notable run-getters for the Netherlands while the rest of their batters failed against a relatively easy-going Indian bowling attack.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja bagged two wickets each for India while Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma made one scalp each.

This is India's fourth-highest ODI total and second-highest total in the ODI World Cup. Their highest ODI total is 418-5 against West Indies,



while in World Cup they scored 413-5 against Bermuda in 2007.

Indian captain Rohit Sharma scripted a flying start for his team after winning the toss as he along with Shubman Gill raised 100 runs for the first

wicket inside 12 overs.

Shubman Gill scored a quick 32-ball 51, featuring three boundaries and four sixes before Teja Nidamanuru took a sharp catch at boundary off Paul van Meekeren's bowling to end his entertaining knock.

Rohit Sharma soon followed him back to the dressing room after scoring 61 runs from 54 balls, with the help of eight boundaries and two sixes.

Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer then knitted a 71-run partnership for the third wicket, with the former reaching his 70th ODI half-century before Roelof van der Merwe bowled him, extending the wait for his 50th ODI hundred.

With the scoreboard reading 200, Iyer was joined by KL Rahul and they wreaked havoc on the Netherlands' bowlers as they scored 208 runs from 128 balls for the fourth wicket, with both batters scoring centuries and lifting India's total beyond the 400-run landmark.

Hospitals of the Countries Where the Sports Grounds are inhabited are Deserted

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Director of ICMA Samina Khan Kayani has said that the hospitals of the countries where the sports grounds are inhabited are deserted, we also have to settle the grounds of Pakistan. It keeps the body and mind fresh and it is welcome for female students to participate in sports. Big and famous players have given, we are also contributing to it

He expressed these views yesterday while speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of the annual two-day sports gala. He said that two houses were built in the sports gala, Jinnah House and Iqbal House, in which cricket matches—football—volleyball—100 to 400 meters race were held. Potato race, Tug of war, Badminton, Ludo, Chess, Table tennis and other games were included. A large number of male and female students participated in the games.

Union Club OK Estate Builders Tennis Championship Commence

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The inaugural Union Club OK Estate and Builders Tennis Championship commences at newly painted Tennis courts of Union Club, The tournament is being organized by the Karachi Tennis Association.

Syed Mashkoor Ali Khan additional Commissioner, Shakil Aslam Vp KTA, Ahmed Ali Rajpoot Secretary SOA, Muhammad Khalid Rehmani SVP STA, Muhammad Saeed Darts, Abdul Rahim, Raisa Ashfaq, Farha Riaz Perween Akhter and Sarwar Hussain witnessed first Day's proceedings.

Results Day One:

Men's Singles 1st Round,

Rehan Dulara beat Bilal Khan by 8-5

Muhammad Ali beat Waliuddin by 8-0

Saad Ahmed w/o Abdullah Tasleem

Men's Singles Quarter

Muhammad Ali beat Saad Ahmed by 8-0

Under 13 Singles 1st Round,

Zayed Zaman beat Muzammil Qureshi 4-0-4-0

Eschelle Asif beat Ahmed Irfan 4-0-4-0

Arham Shehzad beat Nayel Sohaib 4-1-4-1

Under 11 Singles 1st Round

Tariq Rafi beat Ismail Raees Vana 4-0-4-1

Syed Abdullah beat Azan Imran 4-0 5-3.

Pakistan Women A sweep series against Thailand Women Emerging



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Women A defeated Thailand Women (Emerging) by six wickets in the second T20 of the two-match series, played at Gaddafi Stadium, here on Saturday.

Omaima Sohail was impressive with bat and ball to take the team to a clean-sweep against Thailand Women Emerging.

The visitors chose to bat first after winning the toss and scored 86-5 in 20 overs. Opening batter Nannapat Khoncharoenkai scored a half-century (57, 52b, 6x4s) and was the lone fighter for her team, as none of the other Thailand batters could manage to enter double figures. She was highest scorer in the game from either side.

Off-spinner Omaima was the best bowler for Pakistan, taking a wicket at the expense of 11 runs. Skipper Rameen Shamim and left-arm spinner Saima Malik also got a wicket each.

Pakistan Women A, had a faltering start to the chase after they lost their first three batters for the score of just one. Omaima rebuilt and carried the innings, scoring an unbeaten run-a-ball 45 including five boundaries, to take her team over the line. She was supported by Kaynat Hafeez (19, 36, 2x4s) and Sidra Nawaz (16 not out, 16b, 2x4s).

Right-arm pacer Phannitha Maya was the pick of the bowlers for the visiting side, taking two wickets for just six runs. Her fellow right-arm pacer Kunyakorn Buntahansen also grabbed one wicket.

Saudi assistance

JEDDAH : Convoys sent by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to Gaza cross the Rafah border. (SPA)



First Saudi humanitarian relief convoy arrives in Gaza

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The first aid convoys sent by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to Gaza crossed the Rafah border crossing into the enclave on Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The humanitarian aid, which includes food and shelter supplies, is part of a national Saudi aid campaign for Palestinians in Gaza,

launched under the direction of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman earlier this month.

Meanwhile, a fourth Saudi relief plane carrying aid from the Kingdom to Gaza arrived at El-Arish International Airport in Egypt on Saturday.

The initiative is in line with Saudi Arabia's longstanding commitment to supporting the Palestinian people during times of crisis.

PPP to achieve nationwide wide victory in the upcoming elections 2024: Gilani



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that NA 148 is my own constituency, we took real measures for the development and prosperity of the constituency in the past and provided employment to the unemployed youth. We will use all our abilities to fulfill their trust, these views were expressed by former provincial advisor Malik Ishaq Bucha, Syed Ahmed Mujtaba Gillani at the lunch given by Malik Hamid Bucha in NA 148 Syed Ali Haider Gillani, Malik Arshad Mahay Malik Dastgir Athangal, Hafiz

Nasir Khan Baduzai, Malik Mansoor Mahay, Malik Ahmed Bucha and others were present.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further said that whenever the People's Party came to power, it completed mega projects in practical terms for the development and prosperity of the country and the general elections, despite being in the opposition, it struggled to solve the problems of the people. If given a chance by the people, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will become the prime minister and the dear country of Pakistan will once again be on the path of development and prosperity.

President should represent all political parties: Solangi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Sunday said President Dr. Arif Alvi should represent all political parties in accordance with the law and the Constitution for fostering unity in the country.

Talking to media, Solangi said that the President's role was not limited to one party, urging him to speak on behalf of all the political parties.

He said if President Alvi continued to speak for one



political party, it would undermine his own credibility.

To a query, he said the country would be governed

by the elected representatives, adding adherence to the Constitution should be a collective commitment.

Highlighting the essence of democracy as a platform for dialogue, Solangi dismissed concerns over complaints and grievances, stating that every party and individual had the right to voice their concerns at appropriate forums including courts and the election commission.

As regards the upcoming elections, Solangi pledged the caretaker government's full cooperation and assistance to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in accordance

with the law and the Constitution.

He commended the competence and the sense of responsibility showed by the current ECP management, noting that they were adhered to the action plan outlined for the elections.

To another query, the minister said that every crisis had a solution. The people of Pakistan will determine the country's future course on February 8, 2024, a date slated for the elections, he added.

Solangi, in response to another query, said that all institutions were functioning freely.

JUI-F clarifies stance on seat adjustment, electoral alliance

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has clarified his party position on seat adjustment and electoral alliance ahead of the General Elections 2024.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said in a statement that JUI-F would reject the General Elections 2024 results if the tradition of 2018 is repeated. He added that Jamiat would resist more if 2018 election practices are repeated in the next general polls.

He clarified that the JUI-F central leadership allowed provincial chapters to go for seat-to-seat adjustment, however, it has not made a decision on electoral alliance



with any political party so far.

He said that JUI-F safeguards the Islamic Constitution of Pakistan and the religio-political party could transfer the country into an Islamic welfare state. He criticised that the Constitution was approved in Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's era but Islamic laws were not implemented.

Haideri added that all former prime ministers including two-time PM Benazir Bhutto late and three-time PM Nawaz Sharif had not implemented Islamic laws.

Non-customs paid car of 'prominent politician' seized in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Customs intelligence officials have seized a 'non-custom paid car of a prominent politician' in Karachi.

The Customs officials claimed that the 'non-custom paid bullet-proof vehicle' confiscated from Karachi late Sunday night belonged to a prominent political personality of Balochistan.

It emerged that the luxury car of the 2017 model was being driven by the politician's son in Karachi's Clifton area.

The luxury vehicle was shifted to Customs House after being confiscated by the officials. They detailed that a foreigner brought the luxury to Pakistan for hunting purposes and was temporarily exempted from Customs duties and taxes.

The car was allegedly being used by an 'influential sardar' without its Customs clearance.

Last month, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) along with the federal intelligence agency conducted an operation on Hub River Road, and arrested a three-member gang involved in smuggling non-custom paid vehicles.

According to the details, the three gang members - identified as Mir Abdus Sadiq Mainagal, Hikmatullah, and Abdul Hammed - originated from Kalat, Balochistan and were allegedly involved in the smuggling of non-custom paid vehicles across different provinces across Pakistan.

The CTD spokesperson revealed that a joint team of law enforcement agencies intercepted a suspicious vehicle near

Saeedabad, Karachi, in which the three-armed smugglers were traveling to Karachi from Hub, Balochistan.

During the investigation, the accused revealed that they are affiliated with a non-custom car smuggling gang responsible for smuggling non-custom paid vehicles across Pakistan.

The CTD spokesperson disclosed that the group has been involved in transporting several vehicles in Balochistan to Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, for just Rs 150,000.

The CTD officers recovered a Kalashnikov, a 9mm pistol, and a 30-bore pistol from the possession of the arrested accused. Meanwhile, the police after confiscated the car started an investigation to apprehend the remaining gang members.

Turkiye Consulate holds 100 years of celebrations as a Republic

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A colorful Turkiye Century celebration reception was hosted by Turkish Consul General, Karachi Cemal Sangu and his wife on Sunday. The consulate building is tastefully decorated to celebrate the Century Celebration.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker CM Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir Jafri, Agha Siraj Durrani, several caretaker ministers Pakistan Legend Actor Javed Shaikh, Turkish Artagul Actor Abdurahman, high-level government and armed forces officials businessmen, industrialists, a large number of Turkiye Citizens based in City, elite of town and journalists were



also present in the celebrations. Consul General Cemal Sangu, in his speech, said that we gather here in the spirit of love, unity and celebration to mark a remarkable milestone in the history of the Republic of Turkiye - its 100th Anniversary. This momentous occasion is a testament to the enduring strength, resilience and love that have defined our great nation for a century. Turkiye envoy said the story of the Republic of Turkiye is a remarkable one.

UNRWA chief pushes for Palestinian statehood at Arab/ Islamic summit in Jeddah

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: A political solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become a stark "matter of life and death" for millions in bomb-out Gaza and beyond, said the head of the UN Relief Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, on Saturday. Lazzarini was addressing an emergency summit convened by the League of Arab States (AL) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah where he called for urgent support for civilians in occupied Palestine, which is under relentless Israeli strikes that have killed nearly 11,000 people, mostly women and children, and displace millions.

He called on leaders at the Arab-Islamic summit to "act now



to change the trajectory" of the crisis that began with the Hamas actions of 7 October. According to news reports, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in his opening remarks called for an immediate end to Israel's military operations in Gaza and the release of all hostages and prisoners being held by all parties to the conflict.

The "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza has underlined the failure of the international community and UN Security Council to end Israel's

"gross violations of international humanitarian laws", he said, adding that Palestinians were victims of double standards. On his part, Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar proposed that the Arab and Islamic countries should explore the possibility of initiating proceedings at the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for its war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Genocide Convention. In his remarks, the UNRWA chief told leaders assembled in the Saudi capital from across the Islamic world that Gazans "feel dehumanized and abandoned", yearning for reassurance that their plight is being recognized by "Arab and Muslim brothers and sisters".

Victory of PPP in elections will be a proof of its popularity among the people: Kaira



Asim Tanveer/Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira while talking to the media on the arrival of his friend Major (ret) Zahid Mehmood late said that the election will be held on the appointed time and there is no reason for the election not to be held. The victory of the People's Party in the elections is a proof of public popularity. In Punjab, the People's Party has weakened due to the abandonment of old colleagues. The disgruntled

colleagues will be brought back. Parties need an alliance, the alliance of PML-N and MQM is the result. They want to have an alliance, but there is a tradition of making an alliance, which is like interfering in politics. Popularity is measured by public opinion.

Speaking further, Qamar Zaman Kaira said that they are not in favor of cornering any party. Cases against PTI workers involved in May 9 incidents and other crimes should be tried in courts. There is no forum other than the courts.

After Sindh, Nawaz Sharif 'eyes' Balochistan now



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to fly to Balochistan tomorrow to further expand his party's alliances with regional players, citing sources. The PML-N on Tuesday formed an alliance with the MQM-P and announced reaching out to other parties in Sindh.

PML-N team Saturday reached Karachi to meet Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) and other parties' leadership.

Senior leader of PML-N including Khawaja Saad Rafique met with Peer Saheb Pagara and forwarded him Nawaz Sharif's message. The PML-N delegation will also visit the MQM-P markaz in Bahadurabad today to

discuss further steps after the coalition elections.

Nawaz Sharif, who returned last month after around four-year stay in London, will hold meetings with PML-N Balochistan's leadership during his visit to Quetta.

Scores of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leaders and some other distinguished Baloch leaders will likely to join the PML-N, sources said.

Meanwhile, PML-N is also eyeing another alliance with the JUI-F, ANP and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

It is pertinent to mention here that the PPP chairman too is expected to visit K-P from November 16 to 21, according to the party's information secretary, Faisal Kareem Kundli.