(میخی بناری: مدیث نبر 6155) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

Crackdown underway against illegal immigrants, not Afghan nationals: Bugti

Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, informed the Senate on Monday that the government was carrying out a crackdown against all illegal immigrants in the country and not Afghan nationals only. Winding up discussion on a motion to discuss the Federal Government's decision to expel the immigrants, including Afghan refugees from Pakistan in a short time.



China's envoy: Xi's vision offers new opportunities for developing countries

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Rabius Sani 29, Tuesday, November 14, 2023



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# Eagle JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter aircraft of Pakistan Air Force displayed at Dubai Air Show-2023.

## PAF JF-17 Thunder and Super Mushshak Aircraft Participating In Dubai Airshow 2023

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air commitment to innovation Force is poised for a resounding participation at the prestigious Dubai Air Show 2023, featuring a significant milestone for PAF, its highly advanced JF-17 Thunder Block 3 fighter jet alongside the versatile Super Mushshak aircraft. The mega event that 13-17 November, 2023 marks the first-ever appearance of the

show, symbolizing Pakistan's and excellence in aviation. The historic participation also marks showcasing its cutting-edge aviation capabilities on a global stage.

The JF-17 Thunder Block 3 fighter jet epitomizes the pinnais scheduled to take place from cle of modern aerial warfare technology. Equipped with stateof-the-art avionics, enhanced PAF's JF-17 Thunder Block-III weaponry, and advanced elec- Mushshak aircraft, known for tion enthusiasts, defence profes-

aircraft in an international air tronic warfare systems, the JF-17 Block 3 boasts superior maneuverability, extended range, and enhanced combat capabilities. Its participation in the Dubai Airshow signifies the confidence PAF places in this indigenous marvel, highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fostering self-reliance in the defence industry.

Accompanying the JF-17 Thunder, Pakistan Air Force will also showcase the Super

its exceptional training capabilities and versatility. This robust and reliable aircraft has been instrumental in nurturing the skills of countless PAF pilots, contributing to their excellence and expertise. With its remarkable performance and adaptability, the Super Mushshak has garnered international recogni-

tion as a trusted trainer aircraft. The Dubai Airshow serves as a premier platform for avia-

sionals and industry leaders from around the world to witness cutting-edge technologies and foster global collaborations. PAF's participation in addition to reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening international cooperation and promoting regional stability, is a testament to the nation's commitment to peace through strength and its role as a responsible global player in the aviation

#### **Pak-IMF talks:** Caretaker govt not to impose 'any new tax'

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government will not impose "any new taxes" as the officials have convinced International Monetary Fund (IMF) review the country's economic performance.

under a caretaker government after an IMF loan claimed programme, approved in July, helped avert a sovereign debt default.

Under the \$3 billion Rs9,415 billion. standby arrangement (SBA), Pakistan received \$1.2 billion from the IMF as the first tranche in July.

mission kicked off its review achieve it.

for the second loan tranche, which is expected to continue till Dec 15. A successful review would unlock \$710 million for the country in December.

The caretaker government mission, visiting Pakistan, to has convinced International Monetary Fund (IMF) that it will not impose "any Pakistan is operating new taxes" on already-burden people of Pakistan, they

> Informed sources claimed that IMF had agreed on maintain the tax target at

During the meeting, sources said, the revenue board presented a written plan for achieving the Last week, an IMF tax target while assuring to

## Senate passes resolution against SC ruling on military courts

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate has passed a resolution against the Supreme Court's (SC) ruling on the military courts and urged to hold trials of 'terrorists in the military

The resolution was tabled by an independent Senator Dilawar Khan during the Senate session. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan

opposed the resolution. The resolution urged to hold trials of 'terrorists' in the military courts and termed the SC ruling against the legislation approved by the Parlia-

"Resonating the concerns and sentiments expressed by various

recent judgement of the Supreme ism due to lack of stringent justice Court that declared Section 2(D)(1) & 59(4) of the Army Act unconstitu-

It further stated, "Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament."

tional," the resolution read.

"Reiterating that the trial of those accused of violence against the armed forces under the Army Act is an appropriate and proportional response in line with Pakistan's existing constitutional framework

and statutory regime." Urging military trials of accused, Senator Dilawar Khan's resolution stated that the trial of individuals accused of anti-state vandalism and violence under the Army Act serves as a deterrent against such acts."

It stated that the absence of milistakeholders in particular and tary court trial is likely to encourage public in general, regarding the those responsible for acts of terror-

in regular courts.

Backing the military trials, it added, "Military courts have played a significant role in addressing terrorism by ensuring that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice."

The senator pointed out in his resolution, "However, this judge while abandoning the spirit of martyrdom, grants lenient option to terrorists, anti-state actors, foreign agents, and spies to be tried in normal courts."

The Supreme Court (SC) announced its verdict by 4-1. The PTI chairman and others moved the top court challenging the military trial of civilians named in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir

#### 3 soldiers martyred in exchange of fire with militants



(L to R) Sep Sohail Shaheed, Sep Abdulla Shaheed and Sep Shaheen Shah Shaheed

👺 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Two soldiers were martyred while one terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in the Mir Ali area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan District, the military's media affairs wing said on Monday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that last night, troops "effectively engaged the terrorists' location". As a result, one terrorist was "sent to hell".

The ISPR further said 25-year-old Sepoy Abdullah and 19-year-old Sepoy Muhammad Sohail embraced martyrdom during the exchange.

surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralise any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are sacrifices of our brave soldiers area.

further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

In another incident in general area Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan District, terrorists fired upon vehicles of a private company working on a development project in the area. Resultantly, two innocent civilian employees of the company, Mr. Muhammad Faisal (age: 35 years) and Mr. Asif Kamran (age: 29 years), residents of District Karak embraced Shahadat. Sepoy Syed Muhammad Shaheen Shah (age: 33 yrs, resident of: district Hangu), employed on the security of the project, having fought gallantly, also

embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is "Sanitisation of the being carried out to eliminate the terrorists present in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism determined to eliminate the and would continue to support menace of terrorism and such the economic progress of the

#### PM directs formulation of inclusive, comprehensive strategy to uplift FBR



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to formulate and present a comprehensive strategy, based on input from all the stakeholders, with a view to improve the performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The prime minister, chairing a meeting to mull over the measures for improving the FBR's performance, said the utilisation of the modern technology was inevitable to improve the taxation system.

The meeting was briefed on

the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation system. The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR. The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy. He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results. Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema. FBR Chairman, federal finance secretary and relevant senior

officers attended the meeting.

#### Bushra Bibi's name placed on ECL

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government has placed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's name on the Exit Control List (ECL), citing sources. Former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's name has been placed on ECL in the National Crime Agency (NCA) £190 million scandal, sources privy to the development told media.

Her name was put on the ECL on the recommendation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

Earlier, the former first lady appeared before the NAB investigators in connection with an ongoing probe into the National Crime Agency (NCA)

£190 million scandal. She has been handed over a questionnaire seeking her response on 11 queries. Advocate Naeem Haider Panjutha told the media that Bushra Bibi was primarily summoned to the NAB office in the Al-Qadir Trust case. The former first lady had already secured bail in the case till November 15, he added. Panjhuta said that Bushra

ing. He admitted that they were expecting her arrest today. "Imran Khan and his family are always ready to face the law. Bushra Bibi was a trustee in the Al-Qadir Trust University and the former premier did not get

Bibi was taken to a separate

room by the NAB team includ-

ing women staffers for question-

any benefit from the property owned by a trust.

#### Solangi, caretaker CM KP discuss elections, cooperation in media sector 👺 City Desk discussed with him the upcoming Both the federal minister and elections. The caretaker govern-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and ter KP.

elections, cooperation in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists. During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed Arshad Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minis-

the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial. Solangi said that the Caretaker Government fully believed in freedom of expres-



sion and would provide all possible facilities to the media during the

ities under the Constitution and equal opportunities were being provided to all political parties. Syed Arshad Hussain assured that the problems of journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved on a priority basis.

ment was fulfilling its responsibil-

## Azad Kashmir's president inaugurates Poonch University complex at cost of Rs7bn

跨 Abdul Majeed tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of mega projects worth more than seven billion rupees for Poonch University.

On this occasion, the President said that providing higher education opportunities to students has been a top priority of the government.

Referring to the inauguration of Mega Project Phase-1 under which academic block would be constructed at a cost of two billion and seventy crore rupees, the president said it was a proud moment for all including teachers, administrative staff and residents of Rawalkot and especially the students of Jamia Poonch Rawalakot.

Barrister Chaudhry said that it was a matter of great pride and privilege for him to lay foundation stone of Mega Project Phase 2." I am also very man Higher Education Commission grateful to the Government of Paki-



stan for investing heavily in the education sector through the Higher Education Commission for the promotion of higher education in the Azad Kashmir", he said.

"We are also very thankful to Chairof Pakistan. Dr.

Mukhtar Ahmed, who continued to support us by taking personal interest", the president said.

Barrister Chaudhry reiterated his commitment to make AJK a center of higher education and research activ-

He said that the government was ent on the occasion.

going to start the tendering process for Jamia Poonch's Chhota Gullah Campus

The completion of these projects, he said, would have a great impact not only on the academic life of Rawalkot but also on the entire Azad Kashmir.

The president said that he had recently inaugurated the King Abdullah Campus of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, which was built with the support of Saudi Fund at a cost of 13.5 billion rupees in August this year. He said that an academic block was

also inaugurated at Kotli university. The inauguration ceremony was attended and addressed by Vice Chan-

cellor Poonch University Dr.

Zakaria Zakir, Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Dr.

Mukhtar Ahmed and others, whereas former AJK President Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Member Legislative Assembly Sardar Hasan Ibrahim Khan, and others were pres-

## Complications prompt diagnosis for more than three-quarters of people living with diabetes in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: More than three-quarters of people living with diabetes (79%) in Pakistan only found out they had diabetes after developing diabetes complications. Additionally, almost all (97%) of those surveyed in the country had experienced one or more diabetes complications, with over a quarter (26%) having experienced heart disease as one of the diabetes complications. The findings come from glob-

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) ahead of World Diabetes Day on Monday, 14 November. The survey was conducted among people living with diabetes across Africa, Asia, Europe and South America to understand the level of awareness and impact of diabetes-related complications.

Commenting on the research findings, Professor Abdul Basit, Director of Bagai Institute of Diabetology & Endocrinology (BIDE), said: "Complica-

people living with diabetes in Pakistan.

Type 2 diabetes, which accounts for over 90% of all diabetes, often develops silently, with symptoms that may go unnoticed. As a result, many people with the condition, more than 50% in some countries, are not diagnosed and. as the research suggests, complications are already present when diabetes is diagnosed. Unfortunately, despite the prevalence of diabetes-related complications in Pakistan, over a third (34%)

al research recently carried out by the tions are affecting the lives of too many of those living with diabetes in the country didn't receive information about complications at the point of diagnosis. The most common complications experienced in Pakistan were foot (55%), eye (57%), and oral health (53%) problems.

This World Diabetes Day, IDF is calling on individuals to learn about their risk of type 2 diabetes and on governments worldwide to dedicate sufficient resources to improving access to diabetes diagnosis and care.

### No One Can Deny the Usefulness of Accounting Education: Sajid Hussain



**Kiran Asim** 

MULTAN: SKANS School of Accountancy Chief Executive Sajid Hussain has said that no one can deny the ers of Accounts Education is usefulness of accounting here for the better future of education, now our insti- students and Pakistan. They tution in Multan is provid- are trying day and night while ing high quality education addressing a meeting held and under the leadership of with teachers and other staff Principal Habibullah Baig, on the occasion of a visit to it is doubling day and night. SKANS School of Account-Students of Multan and ancy Chowk Kumharanwa-

any big city, all the facilities of modern educational research are available here, the team of highly qualified expert teach-

South Punjab need not go to la yesterday.

General Manager Mubeen Tahir and Director Admin Shabir Ahmed who accompanied him said that there is a lot of talent in Multan and South Punjab, only good environment and highly qualified teachers are needed which is present here, our mission is in account education. Not behind anyone in the field of curricular activities and sports, expert teach-

ers of accounts Kashif Adeel. Arslan Arif, Qaiser Maqbool, Hafiz Kashif, Rizwan Ahmed, Junaid Qureshi, Umar Farooq.

Muhammad Akbar Noor, Saiid Mahmood, Ghulam Qadir besides teachers and other staff participated in large numbers. At the end Sajid Hussain gave a letter of appreciation to Principal Habibullah Baig for high performance.

#### Minahil Malik achieved excellent success in Bachelors in **Computer** Arts

**₿** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minahil Malik, daughter of senior leader of Pakistan People's Party Malik Riasat Ali (deceased) and a student of Foundation University School of Science

and Technology, excellent success in Bach-Computer Arts with 3.8-7

Minahil Malik's achievement, the university awarded her with a silver medal and a certificate of appreciation. On this occasion Minahil Malik said that my success is the result of my parents' prayers, tireless work, teachers and full support of my family. Minahil Malik said that I wish to make the name of the country and the nation bright in the future due to my educational qualifications.

#### Shah urges world leaders to help stop genocide of Palestinians in and around Gaza

Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Incarcerated Hurriyat leader and chairman Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has urged the world leaders to play their much needed role to halt the Israeli aggression and genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In his message from Tihar jail, the incarcerated Hurriyat leader said that the bloodbath of the besieged Palestinians was a great challenge to the world conscience.

"It is high time that the influential world governments must shun their policy of indifference towards the Palestinians and come forward in a big way to stop this bloody onslaught and genocide to which hapless Palestinians are being subjected to," Shah said, adding that allowing Israel to carry on the slaughter of innocent men, women and children in and around Gaza would be a great

human tragedy. Calling for an immediate intervention to stop this Zionist aggression against the Palestinians, he said, the world in particular the Muslim countries must

take concrete steps to end the bloody siege and mount political and diplomatic pressure on Israel to stop relentless air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip - including hospitals, residences, and houses of worship.

### Departmental promotion is the right of dutiful employees RPO Dera



跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood Satti has said on Monday that departmental promotion is the right of dutiful employees, however, the promotion increases the duties and responsibilities, whose honest performance guarantees further departmental advancement,

He expressed these views in his office while addressing the ceremony of police officers who were promoted to the rank of Inspector from Sub-Inspector as per the announcement issued by the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

RPO Dera said that the first gift of duty in the world is departmental development, to progress is the desire and basic right of every human being, but this happiness of getting progress becomes double at that time when a person realizes to fulfill the responsibilities of the next rank.

#### Waziristan Youth Forum new cabinet takes oath



**Adam Khan Wazir** 

and financial sense.

WANA: The oath ceremony of the newly elected cabinet of Waziristan Youth Forum was held in Dera Ismail Khan on monday. Youth Officer District South Waziristan Sardar Ali Wazir, District Sports Officer Noor Ullah Wazir and Alhaj Shafiq Kasuria were the chief guests of this program and along with this, former president of Waziristan Youth Forum Arif Mehsud also participated in this event.

Youth Officer Sardar Ali took oath to the newly elected cabinet Alhaji Shafiq Kasuria while addressing this oath ceremony said that Inshallah we will cooperate with Waziristan Youth in moral

## National Elections: A Wavering Ray of Hope

**№** Hooria Batool

he people of Pakicalamities like heavy floods and continly declining economy and above all the political instability have been in a state of disappointment and distress. The year 2023 came with the hope of a positive change through the national elections due in second half of the year parliament proved to be unprecedented, as it was a no confidence motion successful. Apart from its success this motion has been unique from many aspects e.g., many political opponents

went for ever expensive horse-trading in the history of the country. The stan having under- following 16 months was the governgone a series of chal- ment of the People's Democratic Movelenges including Covid- ment which made another history of 19 pandemic, natural failures, lawlessness, negligence and bulldozing the constitution. The objecuous horror of earthquakes, frequent- tive of this government was very clear. They managed to pass dozens of bills in the parliament to bring out themselves from the hard hands of law with regards to the lawsuits, they had been facing. They removed all the obstacles on their way by virtue of power as the 5-year tenure was going to an in government, including removal of end. The last democratic action in the NAB laws to get rid of the corruption cases against them. A big part of their objectives was to level the playground in the history of Pakistan that was in favor of Mr. Nawaz Shareef who had been self-exiled in London for the last The last and the most important

embraced one another, who, other- mission they accomplished successwise, had never dreamt of getting into fully was to avoid the mid-term elecan alliance against the sitting govern-tions in Punjab and KPK provinces, ment; about 14 parties, altogether, and delay the national and provincial

democratic tenure of the government. However, the people of Pakistan were constantly monitoring the situation created by the government by triggering a prolonged campaign against the ousted party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf and its chairman Mr. Imran Khan. On 13 July 2023, just 2 months ahead of the schedule Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef announced in an interview to a group of journalists, that the tenure of PDM government was going to end on 14 August 2023, and that the elections date would be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan by October or November 2023. True to the announcement by PM

Shahbaz Shareef the incumbent care-taker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar sworn in on 14 August, 2023 at President House Islamabad. The care-taker government with her sole task of conducting national and provincial elections within the prescribed period of 90 days, as per the constitution of Pakistan. Howev-

were short of the target therefore they elections even after completion of the er, the pace of preparation for the elections has been quite slow, apparently, as if the mission of delaying the elections is still important. As per the recent press release of ECP, preparations are almost completed; including delimitation work. Objections on the delimitation are also submitted by 30th Oct, 2023 and hearing on the objections/suggestions will continue till Nov,2023; ECP said in their press release dated 27 Oct, 2023. It is widely observed that people of

the entire country whether urban or rural population, are to some extent hopeful, as well asmore than 50% are suspicious about its delay for the reasons may be one or the other. The shattered trust of the people on government institutes, bureaucracy and the persons in government. On the average people have been looking to the political horizon where they get a ray of hope even it is wavering, in spite of the assurance given by concerning quarters of the government including ECP and caretaker PM himself. Contradictory

elections, this time people, especially the youth being more educated and fully aware of the world and internal politics remains updated of the ongoing events and current affairs much more than in the past, ever. The intellectual level of educated youth is far ahead of the generations of past, even a layman working on daily wages is well updated to a level that predicting about the future is not difficult for him anymore. Today's Pakistani citizens can analyze the situation created or happened into such a depth that it can be amazing for even the highly xperienced planners.

By every passing hour anxiety is increasing and knowledgeable quarters are unable to gain the trust of the people. The reason behind this distrust is obviously the role of the political figures during the last two years in making the country almost a failed state. This failure is, for the first time, so clearly noticed that we found our country in a state of chaos. At all times

to the all-previous instances of delay in cabinet members, PM and professional experts were unable to resolve the burning issue of economy of the state. Nothing but to wait for IMF bail package was the only hope of the political leadership. Among other factors which may affect the election schedule, one may be the cold weather ahead. This winter it is expected that the months of January and February can prove chillier than the last year. This, on the other hand can also affect the overall turnover of polls in northern areas and mountainous region of KPK and Balochistan where access routes would be blocked by snowfall and it would be hard reaching out the polling station especially for old age citizens. However, today's youth would compensate such deficiency as the Pakistani youth is too anxious to play their active and effective role in these particular elections that is meant very much to them.

> $Writer\ is\ student\ of\ BS\ International$ Relations in Fatima Jinnah Women University.



## **SERVICES Namaz Timings**

#### **EMERGENCY**

FIMITIOFIAC I	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad112	2 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services 44	51122
Motorway Police926	6044
Motorway Police 92706	01-20

#### **Women Police Stations**

ENQUII	RY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	5611111
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 Metropoli	tan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 ...... 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 Wasa Water Tank ......0331-5022125 Rawalpindi..

IQRA University PhD Scholar to present his Public Defence at

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: Faculty of Business Administration, Iqra University's PhD Scholar Mr. Kamran Mohy-Ud-Din's Public Defence will be held at ORIC on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 03:00 pm. Scholars, Faculty members and students of the same field will participate in it. Mr. Kamran Mohy-Ud-Din completed his PhD Dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Raza. As per HEC requirements, his PhD Dissertation has already been approved by foreign evaluators.

## TMUC holds the biggest Transnational Education Graduation Ceremony in Pakistan

#### 

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Universal College TMUC held the annual Graduation Ceremony of the students of London International Programmes (University of London-London School of Economics, Royal Holloway, and Laws), University of Hertfordshire, University for the Creative Arts, Higher National Diplomas, IMBA and NCC UK last day says a press

The ceremony, held at a local hotel in Islamabad, was an effort to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of University of London (Honors Degree in Law, Economics, Business, Management, Finance and Social Sciences), University of Hertfordshire (Business Administration and Computing), University for the Creative Arts (Fashion and Film ated with the degree and diploand Digital Arts) HN Diplomas ma programmes.

(Business, Computing, Fashion and Media) International MBA and IFD -NCC graduates.

Mr. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Mr. James Hampson Country Director, British Council, Pakistan, Mr. Nasir Shah Director General Quality Assurance, **Higher Education Commission** (HEC), Saad Wasim, Regional Advisor, South Asia, University of London and Waqar Shah, Deputy General Manager, Pearson – Pakistan were the guests of honour.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Founder & CEO TMUC Pakistan in his speech, congratulated the proud parents of Class of 2023 while applauding the efforts of the TMUC staff and faculty associ-



Addressing the audience, through international programs for introducing transnation-Chief Guest Mr. Waseem Ajmal to its students. He commendextended congratulations to the ed Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI for TMUC Leadership for provid- the successful execution of the ing an outstanding opportunity event and expressed gratitude

al education from renowned international universities into Pakistan.

During the event, Mr. James

Hampson, the Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan, expressed deep admiration for the graduates. He specifically commended TMUC for its remarkable ten-year commitment to providing international education within Pakistan.

The honourable Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI and Dean TMUC Ms. Rabbea Irfan awarded the graduating batch with their degrees, as Master of the Ceremony read out their exemplary academic achievements.

The Graduation Ceremony mirrors the pride felt by TMUC's leadership in its staff, faculty, and students, showcasing their dedication to cultivating the essential skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values in graduating millennials. This preparation aims to equip them to boldly confront the global challenges of the 21st century.

#### Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood addressing during the "Foundation Stone Laying and inauguration of the University of Poonch Rawalakot" at Kashmir House in Federal Capital.



### Standard Chartered Bank and the IFC enter a Risk-Participation Agreement

Sommerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan has signed an un-funded Risk-Participation Agreement with the International Finance Corporation. The USD 200 million PKR equivalent programme, will see the IFC cover 50% of Standard Chartered's risk against short term-trade and working capital funded loan facilities for corpo-

rate clients based in Pakistan. Standard Chartered and IFC aim to leverage their long-standing relationship with export-based industries in Pakistan to enable the generation of foreign exchange inflows which remain critical for the sustainable growth of Pakistan's economy. These inflows will be made possible through the enhanced avail-



ability of trade and working capital loan facilities including supply chain financing and sustainable finance product suites for large-scale manu-

Sarmad Lone, Head of Client Coverage, Corporate, Commercial and Institutional Banking (CCIB) for Standard Chartered in the Africa and Middle East region said, "Building on a longstanding

delighted with this first of its kind agreement between IFC and Standard Chartered in Pakistan. As a trade focused bank with a rich network of over 50 markets across Asia, Africa & the Middle East, we play a crucial role in enhancing the accessibility to capital and liquidity to facilitate global trade.

MominaAijazuddin, Regional Head of Industry at partnership with IFC, we are IFC's Financial Institutions

Group across the Middle East, Türkiye, Central Asia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan added that, "This risk participation programme with Standard Chartered Bank is the first of its kind for IFC in Pakistan, designed to enhance access to finance and working capital to companies in economically lucrative sectors, as well as to small and medium enterprises that operate across their value

## Rampant deforestation inviting massive natural disasters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Experts

#### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Experts at a seminar on increased deforestation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province here on Monday underscored increased risk of flooding and other natural catastrophes due to loss of massive tree cover at the hands of timber mafia.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Sarhad Conservation Network (SCN) jointly organized a seminar titled Walking into Disaster: Massive Illegal Deforestation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chairperson, Board of Governors, SDPI Ambassador (r) Shafqat Kakahel in his vote of thanks extended his gratitude to the speakers and guests.

Ambassador Kakakhel said the climate change impacts will be felt in the provinces and we must unite on behalf of communities for their own

Forests, he said are an integral part of the discourse on climate change as it has its impacts on cross-sectoral areas from sea level rise to heatwaves and



While moderating the discussion, Convener, SCN, Dr Adil Zareef said the issue of deforestation has been pronounced since June 2023 after the interim govt came into power in the province.

Dr Zareef said forest is a devolved subject after the 18th Amendment but it is a transboundary issue affecting locally, regionally and internationally as the country is ranked fifth most vulnerable at the Global Climate Index.

A small video montage by Sarhad

Conservation Network and SDPI based on over 100 images highlighting the forests of KP and it's rapid deforesta-

tion was presented to the participants. In his opening remarks, Mohammad Rafiq, former Country Head IUCN and an expert environmentalist said despite its less emissions Pakistan is mostly exposed to climate disasters.

He opined that deforestation is not new but rather it started from British Colonial era when they raised the teak forests for its timber supplies.

The British to serve their purpose

introduced malicious legislation that divided the forests into protected and guzara forests dividing it between the state and the communities, he said.

Former Senator Afrasiab Khattak, President Rooshan Democratic Institute said the problem in KP is that tribal expansion has been overextended into our areas. "We had a very difficult geography that put us at the receiving end of the Russia-British colonial era contestation and also the region has been ravaged by global war on terror,"

Arshad Samad Khan, Provincial Coordinator, World Bank said climate change is directly impacting our livelihoods and sustainability, whereas there is need to probe the nexus between climate change-deforestation and national security.

He said in the prevailing scenario food security is a bigger issue for Pakistan in terms of its exponential population increase as it will also have an impact on our water security leading to increased conflicts in the region on

## Zong 4G Celebrates the Success of Lok Mela 2023

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, recently partnered with Lok Mela, an 11-day extravaganza that unfolded at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, from November 3 to November 12. As the official connectivity partner for the event, Zong 4G played a pivotal role in fostering cultural unity and celebrating Pakistan's rich heritage.

Zong 4G demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering cultural unity, emphasizing the festival's reflection of Pakistan's multifaceted traditions. The company took pride in showcasing the unique tapestry of Pakistan, underlining its dedication to celebrating the nation's diverse cultural heritage.

The official spokes person at Zong 4G, stated, "Lok Mela 2023 has been a resounding success, and Zong 4G is honored to have played a pivotal role in connecting people with the cultural vibrancy of Pakistan. Our commitment to fostering unity and celebrating diversity remains unwavering, and we look forward to continuing our mission of connecting communities across the nation."

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Zong 4G extends appreciation to Lok Mela 2023 attendees, participants, and organizers for making the event a spectacular showcase of cultural diversity. Recognizing Lok Mela as a testament to the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan, Zong 4G reiterated its ongoing mission to connect communities and contribute to the cultural fabric of the nation.

#### Pakistani Film 'Wakhri' Set To Debut at The Prestigious Red Sea Film Festival

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The much-anticipated Pakistani film 'Wakhri' unveils its first trailer as it announces its world premiere at the upcoming Red Sea International Film Festi-



val taking place between November 30th and December 9th, 2023. Written and directed by Iram Parveen Bilal, the film is produced by Abid Aziz Merchant (Sanat Initiative), Apoorva Bakshi (Awedacious Originals) and Iram Parveen Bilal (Parveen Shah Productions). The film boasts a stellar cast featuring the incomparable Faryal Mehmood taking on the lead role of Wakhri along with Gulshan Majeed, Shees Sajjad Gul, Sohail Sameer, Saleem Meraj, Bakhtawar Mazhar, Akbar Islam and Tooba Siddiqui. The Red Sea International Film Festival are renowned as champions of film culture in Saudi Arabia and across the Arab world. Previous attendees of the festival include the likes of Shah Rukh Khan, Sharon Stone, Anotonio Banderas, Akshay Kumar, Jackie Chan, Ranbir Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan, Andy Garcia and more.

'Wakhri' tells the story of a widowed school teacher in Pakistan. whose life takes an unexpected turn when her unfiltered opinions on social media catapult her to viral stardom overnight. As an unlikely influencer, she grapples with the complexities of managing archaic norms, concealed identities, and the upbringing of her 10-yearold son in a world where women's rights to express themselves and claim their space, whether in the physical or digital realm, remain an enduring struggle.

#### Trans-fats in Dietary Sources Responsible for a Surge in Diabetes in Pakistan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is currently grappling with a concerning surge in diabetes, with every third adult Pakistani living with diabetes and the country ranked at the top in diabetes prevalence rate globally. Empirical evidence from Pakistan suggests that unhealthy diets including high consumption of sugar and industrially produced trans-fatty acids (TFA) have become a significant contributor to Pakistan's diabetes epidemic. The iTFAs are commonly found in banaspati ghee, cooking oils, bakery ware, deserts, fried street foods and many other ultra-processed foods.

The collaborators of the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign issued a press release on World Diabetes Day to highlight the link between diabetes and iTFA intake. "An approximate \$2640 million was estimated as the cost of diabetes management in Pakistan in 2021 by the International Diabetes Federation. By 2045, if no immediate policy action is taken, it is projected that 62 million Pakistanis will be living with diabetes and suffering from its associated complications. This staggering statistic necessitates immediate action to curb the rising diabetes prevalence," shared Afshar Iqbal, Director of Communications and Advocacy at Pakistan Youth Change

With the aim to regulate the prevalence of industrially produced TFAs in Pakistani dietary sources, PYCA with the support of the Global Advocacy Incubator for Health (GHAI), Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and in collaboration with other civil society actors such as the Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) launched the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign earlier this year. "Under the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign, we are demanding from the government to adopt best practice policy and placing a mandatory limit of 2gm of iTFAs in every 100 gm of fat in all food items across Pakistan," added Afshar.

structures,

promoting effective

policy implementation

and reducing the likeli-

hood of political crises.

Political stability, in

turn, creates an envi-

ronment conducive to

economic growth and

attracts both domes-

tic and foreign invest-

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

#### South Asia-the global pollution hotspot

oxic levels of air pollution are disrupting the lives of millions of people in South Asia forcing closure of schools, impacting sporting events and leaving governments urging people to stay indoors to avoid

The worsening air pollution is an annual problem for South Asian nations as winter approaches and cold, heavy air traps pollution in a thick layer of smog.

South Asia has become the global hotspot for air pollution, with studies finding four of the world's most polluted countries and nine of the 10 most polluted cities in the re-

Countries in South Asia have seen a marked increase in industrialisation, economic development, and population growth over the past two decades, leading to increased demand for energy and fossil fuels.

While sources like industries and vehicles affect most countries, there are certain major contributors that are unique to South Asia, including solid fuel combustion for cooking and heating, human cremation, and burning of agricultural waste.

An increase in the number of vehicles on roads as the region has developed has also exacerbated the pollution problem. In India and Pakistan, for example, the number of vehicles has increased fourfold since the early 2000s.

Although South Asian countries have started trying to curb pollution, putting together air quality management plans, installing more pollution monitors, and pushing for a switch to cleaner fuels, these are yet to yield significant

Experts say that the problem lies in a lack of coordination on pollution control efforts between the countries.

Dust particles can travel hundreds of kilometres, studies say, transcending national boundaries and impacting countries other than those in which they originate.

About 30pc of the pollution in Bangladesh's largest cities, for example, originates in India and is transported to the country by the wind moving from northwest to southeast.

Countrywide or citywide measures to curb toxic air, hence, have limited effectiveness.

Countries across South Asia will have to coordinate efforts if the region's pollution problem is to be solved, collaborating to enhance monitoring and make policy decisions. At the same time, these region-wide efforts will have to be balanced by moulding solutions to suit local conditions where needed.

In addition, the focus will also have to be broadened to clude sectors that have received limited attention so far such as agriculture and waste management.

To curb stubble burning, for example, governments can offer subsidies on better harvesting machines. Countries like India have already started offering such incentives but demand for such machines has been limited due to their high purchase cost and high waiting time for those who want to rent them.

## Trumpet of Elections sans PTI - II

facilitates horse-trading, where lawmakers receive monetary incentives to switch allegiances. The establishment can use its influence over the media, judiciary, and security forces to pressure parties into forming a coalition with its preferred candidate. Additionally, control over the budget allows the establishment to reward or penalize parties based on their cooperation. Manipulation of the electoral process through influence over the Election Commission of Pakistan is another tool to favor its preferred candidate or party.

Persistent election rigging exacts a substantial toll on both the nation and its citizens. Rigged elections erode the very foundation of democracy, breeding distrust in electoral systems and institutions, thereby diminishing the adherence to democratic values. The consequent political instability that ensues from such practices often leads to widespread unrest and protests, disrupting daily life and creating an environment of uncertainty. The economic repercussions are profound, with investors wary of committing resources to politically volatile environments, and domestic businesses grappling with the conse-

quences of a shaky political landscape. Moreover, the impact extends beyond the economic realm, permeating the social fabric of the nation. Rigged elections can sow the seeds of social discord, exacerbating tensions among different societal factions.

This strife may manifest in violence,

mining the cohesion necessary for a healthy and thriving society. Coupled with these social implications are the potential human rights violations that the people. often accompany manipulated elector-

al processes, including restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, and political participation.

The cumulative effect is a compromised governance structure marked by illegitimacy, corruption, and a disregard for the rule of law,

reputation of the nation in question. Free, fair, and transparent elections are the cornerstone of a thriving

Qamar Bashir ultimately tarnishing the international ments.

Investors are more likely to commit resources to a country with a stable political landscape, leading to increased

Firstly, such elections foster political

their mandate from the genuine will of

This legitimacy strengthens gover-

nance

The consequent political instability that ensues from such practices often leads to widespread unrest and protests. disrupting daily life and creating an environment of

uncertainty. The economic repercussions are profound, with investors wary of committing resources to politically volatile environments, and domestic businesses grappling with the consequences of a shaky political landscape.

democracy and play a pivotal role in economic activity, job creation, and the progress and prosperity of a nation. enhanced prosperity for the population. When elections are conducted with integrity and openness, several key instrumental in promoting social cohebenefits emerge, contributing to over- sion and inclusivity. By allowing diverse

Moreover, free and fair elections are all development and enhancing a counvoices to be heard, elections become

issues through peaceful means. Inclustability by ensuring that leaders derive sive governance resulting from fair elections helps address the needs and concerns of various segments of society, fostering unity and minimizing social tensions. This, in turn, contributes to the overall well-being and happiness of the population.

From an international perspective, nations that demonstrate a commitment to transparent and fair electoral processes often enjoy a positive reputation on the global stage. This can lead to increased diplomatic cooperation, trade opportunities, and partnerships with other nations.

International organizations and investors are more likely to engage with countries that uphold democratic values, improving the nation's ranking on various indicators related to global cooperation, human rights, and political freedom.

In essence, free, fair, and transparent elections are not just a democratic ideal but a practical necessity for a nation's progress. They create a conducive environment for economic development. social harmony, and positive international relations, thereby contributing significantly to the overall advancement and prosperity of a country and a sure way to improve our ranking on all international indexes

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



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

### Are Gaza Palestinians are being punished for Ben Gurion Canal

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik

ince 2000 BC Palestine was called as Kanaan and was inhabited by Arabs, mainly including domestic Lebanese and Palestinians. It was during 1800 BC that Bane Israel migrated to Kanaanfrom Ur under Prophet Musa (AS). During 1000 BC Prophet David and Suleiman (AS) came and constructed a Castle called as Temple of Suleiman, later on after the death of Prophet Suleiman (AS) during 800 BC; who had ruled from Jerusalem the Israelites were split in two portions; Northern portion was dominated by Israelites and Southern was dominated by Judas. During 587 BC Babylonian KingNebuchadrezzar-IIdestroyed the temple of Suleiman. Later in 538 BC a Persian KingCyrus allowed the Israelites to resettle and rebuilt temple of Suleiman in Palestine. During 4thBC Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which is located just six miles from Jerusalem, however Israelites revolted against Romans and were consequently killed. The Israelites continued their traditional conspiracy to dominate the Palestine hence killed the Godof Christians who had been ruling Palestine during 300 to 400 AD and were subsequently killed by Christians. After the advent of Islam in 600 AD CaliphUmar Bin Khatab (AS); whose governance rules are being still followed by the Western nations captured the Palestine during 638 AD and allowed the Christians and Jews to worship and imposed Jazia on them, however did not allow them to reside in Baitul Maqdas (Jerusalem). During the Crusaders in 1099 BC Christians again pushed the Jews out of Palestine, however after recapture of Palestine by Muslims in 1187 AD Sultan Salah Uddin Ayyubi Jews were allowed to live in Palestine in peace with the Muslims and Christians. After the defeat of Ottomans by British during First World War helped the Jews diplomatically, geo-publically to occupy the Palestine since 1917 AD. This act allowed Jews to migrate in Palestine and termed it as Aliyah, meaning as return to the Promised Land. They came from Europe and Russia, with a strong support from for construction of Ben Gurion canal by Jews and to the West and forcibly occupied Arab lands and ruth- reduce US influence over Ukraine War.

lessly displaced the Palestinians from their ancestral homes; where they have been residing even before the arrival of Jews during 1800 BC. Zionist believe, Palestine, a land without people for people without land. It is relevant to understand that despite beingmigraters: Jews could not live in Peace with any one including Assyrians, Romans, Persians, Babylonians, Christians and Muslims in Palestine and rebelled against every one because of their Zionist political belief; to be superior and chosen ones. In case of the



Muslims Jews ignored the kindness of Caliph Umar Bin Khatab (AS) and Sultan Salah Uddin Ayyubi who not only allowed them to live in peace Palestine but also permitted them to visit holy sites.

Presently since 7 October 2023, Israeli bomber have killed over 9,922 Palestinians, mostly children (3,760) and women out of total 5,100,000 since 1948. Moreover Jews brutally boomed the Hospitals as well and even are not allowing the much needed humanitarian aid in trapped Gaza. Considering the latest situation in Gaza, Abraham Accord and Russia Ukraine War it is analysed that Gaza Palestinians are being punished

The Ben Gurion Canal Project named after the first Prime Minister of Jews was proposed in 1963 through Palestine by connecting Gulf of Aqaba to the Mediterranean Sea. This 293 km long canal worth 55 billion USD would rival alternate to Suez Canal that runs through Egypt. On 20th October 2020, Israeli state-owned Europe Asia Pipeline Company (EAPC) inked an arrangement to use the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline to move oil from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. It will be vital to analysis that Jews are having a military base on Eritrean Dahlak Island in Red Sea and a spy station at Socotra Island to pressurise Egypt directly to allow Gaza Palestinian to settle in its Sinai desert. It is also being analysed that due to a long conflict between Palestine and Jews US will have to cut military support to Ukraine hence reducing its influence over Russia.

The reason may be any, it is not possible for a Muslim to remain aloof from suffering of Palestinian brethren, hence unless a common decision is taken in light of Holy Qur'an to support the Palestinian cause pragmatically and prudently all Muslims can  $\,$ follow the action of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ناتین ; once he defeated the Jews of Khyber. Since the Jews of Khyber were not ready to surrender to the siege by the Muslims as they had gathered the plenty of resources in their five forts, hence Holy Prophet Hazart Muhmmad ordered the cutting of date palm trees belonging to Jews due to which they were compelled to surrender to avoid economic losses. Hence it will be prudent by the Muslims to adopt the same strategy of boycotting Israelites products to inflict economic losses upon the Israelites as it matters

Writer is Ph. D; International Relations, Fellow

Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK), Member Board of Idvisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College, Fellow Research Member with Environ Monitor, Fellow Research Member with National Foundation for Environment Education

ಆ Research Research Member with ResearchGate

and Director Thinkers Forum of Pakistan

#### Global capitalist interest, impacted media coverage of Pakistan - II

**Aiman Abbasi** 

ikewise other nations Pakistan is also in a state where its media may be disinclined to provide the extent of reporting due to this factor of economic dependency.

The second reason for the reluc-

tance to report on the actions of aggressive states is geopolitical and geostrategic alliances, which typically require a certain degree of alignment with the interests and policies of powerful nations—something that is actually desperately needed. Pakistan's foreign policy has to be wisely directed in order to maintain these ties. Pakistan's media outlets' criticism of overtly aggressive and openly hostile governments for their violent acts has the potential to strain diplomatic efforts within the country as well as damage ties with powerful nations. Media outlets may feel forced to match their narratives with government foreign policy viewpoints in order to avoid diplomatic problems, which can have an influence on coverage due to this geopolitical tightrope.

Thirdly, a variety of entities, such as powerful political personalities or economic interests, frequently own media operations in Pakistan. News organizations' editorial judgements may be influenced by the political and economic factors that their owners may have. Self-censorship

may be used in some situations to steer clear of controversy and save media owners' bottom lines. Limited coverage or biased reporting on delicate international topics such as the Israel-Palestine conflict is examples of this self-censorship.

Fourthly, some of the Critics have made on some of the media organizations in Pakistan regarding extensive reporting of Pakistani media outlets that they may lack the proficiency and means to cover multifaceted international conflicts like Israel-Palestine in-depth. Factors which can contribute to limited and shallow coverage on such critical international conflicts are insufficient budgets and foreign correspondents, lack of specialized media

One of the key contributing factor is public opinion that there may be extremist public attitude toward Israel violent actions against Palestine, cautious the media outlets about reporting of opinions that go against the official government stance, especially when it comes to sensitive international issues.

Last but not the least is the security concern that Pakistan must prioritize its own security given the regional security dynamics. Media and government may want to avoid such controversial reporting which can hinder its security can cause diplomatic isolation.

Writer is student of International relations from Fatima Jinnah-Women University

## OIC countries' envoys in Brussels call for immediate ceasefire in Gaza; hold Israel accountable for war crimes

跨 Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Ambassadors of the OIC Member States in Brussels on Monday called upon the European Union to make all necessary efforts to bring about an immediate and complete ceasefire and put an end to the Israeli aggression in Gaza. The ambassadors, in a joint press conference held here, emphasised the EU's role to help end impunity and hold Israel accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the barbaric aggression during its more than 16-year illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Israel's continuing illegal and barbaric aggression against the Palestinian people, in the Occupied Palesby the OIC Extraordinary Execu-

international protection for the Palestinian people.

OIC countries' envoys in Brussels call for immediate ceasefire in Gaza; hold Israel accountable for war crimes They reiterated the call issued at the end of the 10th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to end inhumane Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, and the call made by the OIC Group in its statement during the Special Session underscoring that a ceasefire was urgently needed. The ambassadors of the OIC member states underlined the urgency to provide imme-The presser was held in the face of diate, safe and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid, particularly food, water, fuel, electricity, medical needs and non-food emergency items to the tinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip including through the UN Gaza Strip. Reiterating the call made institutions and particularly the United Nations Relief and Work's Agentive Committee Meeting of Foreign cy for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). Ministers, held on October 18, 2023, They reiterated their categorical for an immediate cessation of this ille- rejection of any attempt to violently gal and inhumane Israeli aggression, and forcibly displace the Palestinian

the envoys also asked for providing population, the majority of whom are already refugees, from the Gaza Strip or to transfer the crisis created by the Israeli occupation to the neighbouring countries.

Member States to urgently engage in concerted efforts to halt Israel's barbaric military assaults on Palestinian civilians and put an end to the ethnic cleansing undertaken by Israel against the Palestinian people in its occupied territories. The ambassadors reaffirmed their support to the Palestinian people to uphold their inalienable legitimate rights to self-determination, sovereignty and independence of the State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (East Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. Ambassador of Pakistan in Brussels Amna Baloch, in her remarks at the press conference, reiterated the call for immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza and said that Pakistan firmly stood with the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.



## PRCS Chairman calls on Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

ISLAMABAD: PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari met with the Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Her Excellency Dilsad Senol, in Islamabad on Monday. H. E. Dilsad Senol warmly welcomed Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari to the Northern Cyprus Embassy. Both the dignitaries engaged in discussions encompassing various topics, including bilateral relations and the importance of strengthening cooperation for the betterment of humanity.

In the course of the meeting, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari provided a comprehensive overview of the programs and initiatives undertaken by the Pakistan Red Crescent Soci- tance in 55 districts, benefit- household items. ety (PRCS), particularly in



ting over 2.7 million people response to the recent floods through the provision of tents, underscored PRCS's substantial aiding more than 12.4 million Laghari presented a commemin Pakistan. He highlighted food, non-food items, shelter, contributions since the 2005 beneficiaries. He empha-orative shield from PRCS to

the organization's active assis- cash assistance, and essential earthquake, with responses sized the extensive network Ambassador Dilsad Senol.

to over 45 major emergencies Chairman Laghari also and disasters across Pakistan.

oration between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the Northern Cyprus Turkish Red Crescent on various healthcare and community-based initiatives through different programs and projects. Additionally, he extended an invitation to Ambassador Dilsad Senol to visit the PRCS National Headquarters.

of 6 million volunteers across Pakistan and proposed collab-

Ambassador Dilsad Senol praised the exceptional services of PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically commending their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families. She assured that cooperation with the Red Crescent would be strengthened to ensure uninterrupted service to humanity. During the occasion Chairman

## Jazz Pioneers VoLTE Roaming Services in Partnership with AT&T (USA)

ISLAMABAD: In yet another industry-first move, Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has launched Voice over LTE (VoLTE) roaming services in collaboration with AT&T to provide seamless connectivity to customers traveling to the US. This revolutionary initiative also ensures superior voice quality and faster call setup times for Jazz customers while roaming in the United States.

As a testament to its commitment to Jazz is the first operator in Pakistan the US. This initiative is particularly



innovation and customer satisfaction, to offer VoLTE roaming services for

2G and 3G services on their network, making VoLTE the only available option for voice and SMS services for Jazz customers connected to AT&T

Also commenting on the development, Asif Aziz, Chief Business Office Jazz, said, "We are thrilled to partner with AT&T (USA) to pioneer VoLTE roaming services for customers traveling to the US. This major milestone reflects our customer obsession which drives Jazz to be always on the lookout for cutting-edge solutions to facilitate Pakistanis in newer ways. We hope the mobile technology.

significant as AT&T no longer offers partnership goes a long way and serves as a fresh benchmark for customer-focused services in the industry."

> Jazz became the first operator to successfully launch Voice Over LTE (VoLTE) in 2019 with partners Huawei and Nokia, before making it available across its network in 2021. Continuing its streak of industry-first initiatives, the company introduced its WiFi calling service, branded as JazzFi, earlier this year to give customers an enhanced indoor coverage experience. Now with VoLTE US roaming, Jazz has reached another milestone in

#### Brand Spectrum Wins 2023 Gold Dragon for Pepsi's #RideForChange



ISLAMABAD: Brand Spectrum received international recognition from the Dragon of Asia Awards 2023. The agency earnedthe topmost honor of a Gold Dragon in the category of 'Best Event or Experiential Marketing Campaign' for its outstanding execution of client Pepsi Cola International Pakistan's impactful #Ride-For Change campaign.

"This award serves as a testament to our team's diligent efforts to serve our clientele," said Anwar Kabir, CEO of Brand Spectrum. "It can be a challenge to consistently deliver campaigns that stand apart from the expected and mundane in today's brutally competitive market, but our highly enterprising team has always managed to do just that. I'm very grateful to Pepsi Cola International Pakistan for trusting us with their vision of empowering Pakistani women and girls of all walks of life through this generous initiative. We are thrilled to receive this award and congratulate everyone involved."

The Dragon of Asia Awards recognizes exceptional creative work in the world of marketing communications across the continent including here in Pakistan. All the entries received are judged by selection of industry leaders on the criteria of strategic relevance, originality, creative execution and effectiveness. Broken down into different categories, the highest honor is that of a Gold Dragon. Winners of this year's awards were announced at a ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this past October.

Recipient of the prized Gold Dragon, Brand Spectrum worked in collaboration with Pepsi Cola International Pakistan to train 10,000 enrolled female students of universities and colleges in Lahore and Karachi in riding motorcycles. #RideForChange benefitted from the support of traffic authorities in these cities, as a result of which all of the 10,000 females were issued learner driver permits. The inspirational campaign, conceptualized and executed under the dynamic leadership of Brand Spectrum, aimed at solving mobility issues that confront so many young women in Pakistan, hindering their professional and personal growth.

"Winning this prestigious award demonstrates that brands can achieve so much more by generating goodwill in the general public and we will continue to further this in all our endeavors," said Anwar Kabir, CEO of Brand Spectrum.

## Introbotic warfare in military: The dark side of artificial intelligence

👺 Khadija Anjum

rtificial Intelligence (AI) in military, techway countries interact and defend themselves in today's world. AI involves using weapon goes wrong? Is it morally advanced computers and robots that acceptable to entrust machines with can make decisions, sometimes without direct human input. This technological risk of these systems malfunctioning shift is significant and has far-reaching or being hacked, leading to unintendimplications for global politics, ethics, ed escalations or conflicts. Al's impact and security. This article explores the various impacts of AI on international relations and the challenges it poses in the realm of autonomous weapons.

One of the most noticeable effects of AI in military technology is the emergence of a new kind of arms race. Unlike the nuclear arms race of the ing crucial infrastructure and causing past, this competition revolves around developing intelligent machines and systems capable of acting on their own. es, quickly identifying and neutral-Major Powers around the world are izing cyber threats. AI is altering the investing heavily in AI research and development, driven by the fear of falling behind in a field that promises to revolutionize warfare. This race isn't just about being the strongest; it's also es, potentially leveling the playing

ison to others. Autonomous weapons, the divide between technologically which can engage targets without human intervention, are at the heart of the AI military debate. The idea of nology is reshaping the machines making life-and-death decisions raises profound ethical questions. Who is responsible if an autonomous such critical decisions? There's also the extends beyond physical warfare into the digital realm. AI enhances both offensive and defensive capabilities in cyber warfare, making the digital world a new battlefield. Cyber-attacks powered by AI can be more sophisticated and harder to detect, targetwidespread disruption. Conversely, AI can bolster a country's digital defenstraditional balance of military power. It enables smaller nations to amplify their military capabilities without the need for large conventional forcabout not being vulnerable in compar-field. However, there's also a risk that

advanced nations and those without such capabilities will widen, leading to new global power dynamics. Countries like the United States, China, and Russia are leading the development of AI-driven military technologies. These nations view AI as a strategic asset in maintaining or enhancing their military prowess and geopolitical influence. For instance, the U.S. Department of Defense has heavily invested in AI for various applications, including data analysis and autonomous drone operations. China, under its "Military-Civil Fusion" strategy, is aggressively pursuing AI to strengthen its military capabilities, aiming for technological parity or superiority over the U.S. Similarly, Russia has focused on integrating AI in its defense systems, viewing it as essential for maintaining strategic balance. However, the rapid advancement of AI in military technology raises significant ethical and security concerns. The primary concern is the potential for autonomous weapons to make life-or-death decisions without human oversight, raising questions about accountability and the potential for unintended escalation in conflicts.



and calls for regulatory frameworks. One notable effort in this regard is the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), where discussions about a potential treaty to ban or restrict lethal autonomous weapons systems have been ongoing. However, consensus among major powers remains elusive, reflecting differing national interests and secu-

This has led to international debates rity priorities. The impact of AI military technology on countries like Pakistan is multifaceted. Pakistan, situated in a volatile region and facing diverse security challenges, may view AI as a means to enhance its defense capabilities, particularly in areas like surveillance and border security. However, the proliferation of AI technologies also poses challenges, such as an arms race in the region and the risk of techno-

logical asymmetry with neighboring countries

Overall, the integration of AI into military technology is a game-changer, profoundly affecting international relations and global security. While AI offers significant advantages in terms of enhanced military capabilities and operational efficiency, it also presents unique challenges. These include ethical dilemmas, the potential for increased cyber warfare, shifts in global power structures, and the complexities of modern diplomacy. The world is in dire need of collaborative efforts to address these challenges, ensuring the safe and ethical use of AI in military contexts. As we move forward, it's crucial that international discussions and agreements evolve in tandem with these technological advancements. Only through proactive and cooperative global governance can we navigate the intricacies of this new era and maintain a stable, secure, and ethically sound international order in the age of autonomous weapons.

Writer is Student of BS-International Relations in Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi

#### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

macx	Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
56,523.58	55,391.36 <b>Day's Low</b>			
Day's High				
56,583.59	55,644.67			
Index Value	idex Value Change			
16,210,875,487	+1132.22			
Percentage	Time			
+2.04%	13 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
7,425.86	+65.31			
Percentage	Time			
+0.89%	13 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT			
. 5.55%	GMT			
. 5.5575	' '			
USA: Dow Jones I	GMT Industrial Average			
USA: Dow Jones I Index Value	GMT ndustrial Average Change			
USA: Dow Jones Index Value 34,373.35	GMT Industrial Average Change +90.25			

-0.052%	GMT+9
<b>Open Market</b>	Forex Rates

Change

+17.00

**Time** 

13 Nov, 3:15 pm

**Index Value** 

32,585.11

Percentage

-0.052%

-		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	763.49	771.49
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.59	39.99
Danish Krone	41.13	41.53
Euro	306	308.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.76	37.11
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.68
Kuwaiti Dinar	927.08	936.08
Malaysian Ringgit	60.98	61.58
NewZealand \$	169.23	171.23
Norwegians Krone	25.83	26.13
Omani Riyal	745.66	753.66
Qatari Riyal	78.87	79.57
Saudi Riyal	76.5	77.25
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	26.32	26.62
Swiss Franc	317.99	320.49
Thai Bhat	7.99	8.14
U.A.E Dirham	79.75	80.5
UK Pound Sterling	353	356.5
US Dollar	287	289.5

#### Descon Oxychem Achieves HACCP Certification

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Descon Oxychem Ltd, a leading producer of hydrogen peroxide in the region, has secured the coveted HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) certification.

The HACCP certification is not merely a recognition, but a testament to the  $rigorous\, standards\, the\, company\, upholds$ in the hydrogen peroxide industry. This internationally recognized mark is a crucial prerequisite for entering key global markets, ensuring that its products meet the highest standards of safety and quality.

CEO of Descon Oxychem, Mohsin Zia. has stated "We have met the stringent requirements of the HACCP certification, demonstrating our dedication to ensuring the highest levels of safety and quality in our products. Descon Oxychem is excited about the international opportunities that the certification promises for the business. We are dedicated to continuing our tradition of excellence, offering top-tier hydrogen peroxide products to our valued customers while exploring new markets and expanding our global footprint".

#### **Economic situation**

## Businesses anticipate political stability following elections, says Mian Zahid Hussain

#### **55** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the political situation has started to normalize after several months of turmoil.

The business community is optimistic about the upcoming election and the prospect of a stable, elected government as a result, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that people hope that the elected government will be able to get the country out of its problems with the help of a public mandate.

veteran business leader said that apart from ation will improve further. the election, satisfactory news is coming from many sides. The IMF review is also expected to months before October, the volume of remittion. He attributed the improvement to the to ten billion dollars.

be completed soon, as a result of which Pakistan will be able to get a tranche of \$710 million.

The stock market has crossed 56 thousand points, and a five percent export increase has also been noted in the last month. Remittances increased in October after a long period of decline. The volume of remittances last month was 2.5 billion dollars, 9.6% higher than September and 11.5% higher than October last year.

The business leader said that the increase in remittances was not unexpected. The dollar gap in the open and interbank markets has narrowed, so many people are now sending money through banks instead of Handi.

If the operation against dollar smugglers and Speaking to the business community, the hoarders is continued in the same way, the situ-



tances was 2 to 2.2 billion dollars, after which Mian Zahid Hussain added that for the six there has been a clear change in the situa-

emigrants from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

He further said that the stabilization of the value of the rupee and reforms in the rules of exchange companies by the central bank have

also had a positive impact on the situation. "If there is political stability as a result of the election, domestic and foreign investment will also increase," he said, adding that under SIFC, the prospects of huge foreign investment are also bright, which will have a positive impact on business, employment, production, and

Mian Zahid Hussain observed that Pakistan's exports equal 10.5% of GDP, while Bangladesh's exports are 12.9% of its GDP, Sri Lanka's are 21.5%, and India's exports are 22.4%.

There is scope for import substitution in

energy and agriculture, which can save eight

#### World Travel Market

LONDON: Mr Wasi Shah Advisor to Tourism for P. M, M. A. Azeem Qureshi, MD Legend Hotels and Resorts and other dignitaries posing a group photo on the occasion of World Travel Market at London.



## ICCI and KATI call for promoting ease of doing business to revive the economy

#### **55** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Faraz ur Rehman, President, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) said that Pakistan's exports have dwindled by 5% during July-September this year compared to last year while the country needs a substantial increase in exports to revive the economy. He stressed that the government should address the key issues of the export sector enabling it to play an active role in steering the economy out of crisis situation. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Prominent businessmen of the city including Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI and Ms. Rizwana Asif, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were also present on this occasion

Faraz ur Rehman said that the export sector needs easy credit to expand & grow, but the 22 percent interest rate in Pakistan is a major obstacle in its development, due to which, during July-October this year, the credit to private sector credit shrunk by over 290% compared



sector can bring the economy out of the current troubles, however, it needs lower production cost and ease of doing business to put the economy on the path of sustainable growth. He resolved that KATI will play its to promote the interests of the business community.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, of Commerce and Industry, said that the FBR has assured the IMF to bring 1.5 million new taxpavers into the tax system by the end of June 2024. Howevcountry is creating problems for

tial taxpavers shy away from this system. He urged that the government, in consultation with the stakeholders, should bring drastic reforms in the tax system to make it business friendly, which will significantly role in cooperation with ICCI increase the country's tax revenue. He said that appointing more tax officers in the RTOs is not the real solution to the President, Islamabad Chamber problem, rather reduced tax rates and a simple tax system can attract more taxpayers.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI, said that the business community is driving the er, the current tax system of the economy and the government should consult them to formuto the same period of last year. taxpayers instead of facilitating late short- and long-term poli-

cies for revival of the economy. Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the United Business Group has nominated a young and emerging industrialist from Islamabad as its Presidential candidate for FPCCI and hoped that after winning, he would set new standards of serving the cause of the business community.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI resolved that if he wins the FPCCI election, he will work closely with the government to address the key issues of the business community and facilitate them in business

#### SECP registers 2,463 new companies in October 2023 298, real estate development

#### **E** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,463 new companies in October 2023, raising the total number of registered companies to 205,456. The cumulative capitalization (paid-up capital) of newly incorporated companies is PKR 4.24 billion.

About 56% of companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41% were registered as single-member companies. The remaining 3% were registered as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships (LLPs), and foreign companies. Almost 99.6 percent of companies were registered online, and three foreign companies have also established places of business in Pakistan.

ing with 322, services with and taxation departments.

& construction with 290, education with 107, tourism with 100,, food & beverages with 90, ecommerce and mining & quarrying with 67 each, corporate agricultural farming with 63, marketing & advertisement with 61, textile with 55, pharmaceutical with 54, transport with 49, engineering and chemical with 45 each, power generation with 44, healthcare with 32, cosmetics & toiletries with 31, broadcasting & telecasting with 30, lodging with 28, communications with 24, cables & electrical goods, and paper & board with 16 each, and 203 companies were registered in other sectors.

As a result of integration with FBR and other provincial departments, the SECP eService was used by 2,281 companies for registration with FBR; 61 companies got registration with the The information tech- Employees Old Age Benefit nology sector took the Institute (EOBI); 27 compalead with incorporation nies with PESSI/SESSI; and with 326 companies, trad- 34 companies with the excise

#### Drop in Int Oil Prices

#### **FPCCI Demands** Rs. 18 - 20 reduction for the coming fortnight

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has demanded that the federal government should announce a reduction of 18 - 20 rupees per liter in the prices of petroleum products as international oil prices are showing a declining trend despite the harrowing ongoing conflict and supply cuts announced by Saudi Arabia and Russia till December 2023. I can project that these major producers of oil will continue their cuts beyond December 2023, he added.

Mr. Sheikh added that international oil prices are now down to \$81.30 per barrel and that is below 50-day moving average of \$85.70. This indicates that

global oil demand outlook is bearish; and, as per latest statistics, demand from both U. S. &China is down and U. S. reserves are up as well by 11.9 million barrels.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that this phenomenon categorically establishes the fact that the global economy is on a downslide cumulatively - and, wars between Russia & Ukraine and Israel - Palestine are the principle factors in the development of this bleak economic scenario for the world.

Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, apprised that exporters badly need a breather in the cost of production index as Pakistan's competitiveness has taken a hit grossly due to the multiple.

#### **Empowering Future Technologists**

## Huawei ICT Academy and Competition at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam

#### **Suhrab Thaheem**

n 2020, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan approved the establishment of the Huawei ICT Academy at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) in Tandojam. Since its inception, the academy has become a cornerstone for over 200 students, offering them a gateway to the latest information technology (IT) knowledge. Beyond education, the academy provides students with free vouchers for international certifications, ensuring they are equipped with the skills necessary to thrive in the ever-evolv-

Huawei ICT Academy is bridging the gap between academia and industries. By waiting beside of the latest technological advancements, students and instructors are well-prepared to meet industry demands. Huawei's commitment to keeping its stakeholders updated on cuttingedge technology ensures that graduates are industry-ready, enhancing their employability.

Students at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, have shown a growing interest in the Huawei Certified ICT Associate (HCIA) program and the Huawei ICT Competition. These platforms serve as necessary paths for students to showcase their skills, compete at an international level, and validate their exper-One of the significant achievements of the tise. The competition is not just a contest; it is





a pathway for students to secure high-paying jobs in Pakistan and abroad based on merit, thereby opening doors to a promising future.

The Huawei ICT Competition is particularly significant for its impact on students facing financial constraints. Serving as a beacon for the poor, active, and needy students, the competi-

tion acts as a leveling ground, allowing participants to prove their mettle irrespective of their background. The platform not only offers a chance for personal and professional growth but also serves as a means to break through economic barriers

As a Huawei ICT instructor, I have personally witnessed the immense value that this platform brings. The learning experience has been enriching, and the cooperative environment fostered by Huawei has contributed to a positive and conducive learning atmosphere. The company's commitment to education and the development of human capital is evident through its support for instructors, ensuring that they, too, benefit from the partnership.

The Huawei ICT Academy and Competition at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, have emerged as catalysts for transforming students into competent IT professionals. By providing a seamless blend of education, certification, and competition, Huawei is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of technology in Pakistan. The initiatives not only empower students but also contribute significantly to the nation's progress by creating a skilled and competitive workforce in the global IT

Writer is Assistant Professor/Huawei ICT Instructor in Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Sindh

## Schools can use state-owned sports grounds for their sports, says adviser

**Example 2** Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz has announced that the schools which do not have their own grounds, can use sports venues of Sports Board Punjab for their sports activities and events; he made this announcement while talking to media during visit to Govt Shuhda-e-APS School Model Town on Monday.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz, who also visited nearby Govt Junior Model High School, inspected different sports facilities on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz was accompanied by Director Youth Affairs and Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Rana Nadeem Anjum, PRO to Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah during his

Principals of Govt APS School Model Town and Govt Junior Model High



Saeed Malik, dozens of teachers and a large number of students were also present on this occasion.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz inspected sports facilities including hockey astro-turf and cricket ground and played cricket and table tennis with school students in both the educational institutions.

Talking to media at Govt APS School Model Town, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that Sports Board

School Rana Atta Muhammad and M Punjab is taking effective measures for he added. improving the sports facilities in schools on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi. "Definitely, there are some issues when it comes to school sports and work is underway to resolve these issues and improve the sports infrastructure in schools," he added.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that an effective sports plan is being devised for schools and this plan will be finalized within a period of one week. "The sports culture will be promoted in schools according to this sports plan,"

Answering a question regarding sports grounds in schools, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that the grounds in schools played a key role in providing a healthy atmosphere to young students. "There is no doubt that schools are incomplete without grounds".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz on this occasion directed the officers concerned to provide all necessary sports gear to school students.

## Peshawar U19 clinch National U19 Championship with victory over Karachi Whites

**Sports Desk** 

Peshawar U19 emerged on top after defeating Karachi Whites U19 by one wicket in a thriller to clinch the National U19 Championship. While chasing the target of 278 on the last day, impressive batting by Afkar Durani, Najab Khan and Ahmed Hussain allowed Peshawar U19 to take the ascendancy in the fourday National U19 Championship final held at Rana Naved ul Hasan Cricket Academy, Sheikhupura.

Karachi Whites U19 resumed their innings on day four from 88-5 in 31 overs. After batting for a further 24.2 overs, they were dismissed for 164. Ali Hassan (46, 111b, 3x4s) was the highest scorer of the innings. He was followed by Mohammad Fahad Amin, who hit 38 from 52, including six boundaries.

Mohammad Shoaib Afr Karachi Whites U19 batters. His efforts grabbed two wickets each.

Peshawar U19's chase was driven by



a four-wicket haul to help restrict the (44,55b, 2x4s) were the other contributhe Karachi Whites bowlers attempted Abdul Moiz 3-38) and 278-9, 54.3 overs tors with the bat. Despite losing succeswere complemented by Mohammad sive wickets, Peshawar U19 were able Irfan and Jawad Ali, both of whom to get over the line with just a wicket to the final for his 96 in the first innings 2-44, Naveed Ahmed Khan 2-55) spare in the 55th over.

Naveed Ahmed Khan and Syed Tayy-

Afkar Durani (75, 107b, 5x4s, 1x6), who ab Hussain took two wickets each while provided a solid foundation. Najab Khan Mohammad Fahad Amin and Baseer Mohammad Junaid 27, Mohammad (41, 44b, 9x4s, 1x6) and Ahmad Hussain Shah returned with one scalp each, as to derail the chase.

> followed by 41 in the second innings. Karachi Whites U19 captain Saad

Baig took home the best wicket-keeper, best batter and player of the tournament awards for his tally of 750 runs and 27 dismissals behind the stumps in the season. Karachi Whites off-spinner Naveed Ahmed Khan was declared best bowler of the tournament for picking

Scores in brief

Peshawar U19 beat Karachi Whites U19 by one wicket

Karachi Whites 333-9, 75 overs (Saad Baig 96, Wahaj Riaz 85, Ali Hassan 57; Ahmed Hussain 5-61, Mohammad Irfan 2-59) and 164 all out, 55.2 overs (Ali Hassan 46, Mohammad Fahad Amin 38; Mohammad Shoaib Afridi 4-27, Mohammad Irfan 2-4, Jawad Ali 2-46)

Peshawar U19 220 all out, 60.1 overs (Najab Khan 96, Anees Khan 28, Irfan 26: Mohammad Fahad Amin 5-50. (Afkar Durani 75, Ahmad Hussain 44, Najab Khan was named player of Najab Khan 41; Syed Tayyab Hussain

> Player of the final - Najab Khan (Peshawar U19)

## Virender Sehwag, Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji go into ICC Hall of Fame

**₿** Sports Desk

LAHORE: India's Virender Sehwag, Sri Lankan batsman Aravinda de Silva and pioneering Indian women's captain Diana Edulji have been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame, the game's governing body announced Monday.

They will be honoured at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai during the World Cup semi-final between India and New Zealand on Wednesday.

The International Cricket Council has recognised 109 players in the ICC Cricket Hall Of Fame since its launch in 2009. De Silva, 58, enjoyed a 19-year inter-

DE SILVA SEHWAG national career for Sri Lanka, playing a

starring role in their memorable World Cup triumph in 1996.

In 93 Tests, he scored 6,361 runs at an average of 42.97 and collected 9,284 runs from 308 ODIs while taking 106 wickets.

De Silva made his Test debut at Lord's

Lanka recorded its first-ever Test win in Indian women's cricket history. against India.

record individual score of 267 against New Zealand at Wellington.

Virender Sehwag, 45, played a key part in India's World Cup winning campaign at home in 2011, and scored over 17,000 runs in international cricket during a stellar 14-vear career.

He transformed the opener's role in Test cricket through his trademark explosive approach to batting.

Edulji, who became the first Indian Fame, played a pioneering role in estab-

in 1984, and a year later scored 75 as Sri lishing the most successful domestic team

A right-handed batter and slow left-In 1991, he struck a then-national arm bowler, Edulji took 109 wickets in Test and ODIs. When she retired after the World Cup in 1993, she had taken more wickets in international cricket than anyone except Australia's Lyn Fullston.

"These three figures have revolutionised the sport in their own way, and have provided fans with some of the most unforgettable moments in recent memory," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement.

 $\hbox{``Their lasting contributions to cricket}$ woman to be inducted into the Hall of mean they are richly deserving of their status in the ICC Hall of Fame."

#### 2009 T20 World Cup-winning team to celebrate historic victory in US



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's ICC T20 World Cup 2009 winning team will celebrate the monumental victory in the United States of

World Cup-winning captain Younis Khan, alongside Shahid Afridi, Misbah Ul Haq, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal attended the star-studded ceremony here on Monday.

In a media briefing, it was revealed that the former cricketers will celebrate the title victory in different states of the US. The celebration tour will commence on April 28 amid which the former cricketers will partake in the meet and greet sessions

and will also be featuring in an exhibition match. According to the event organizer, the purpose of the celebration tour is to promote cricket among the Pakistanis living in the US. Speaking on the occasion, World Cup-winning captain Younis Khan stated that he wished that the national team had won more titles during this period.

'I wish we had won more cups during that time. I believe we should have had more titles," said Khan.

"For the first time, the 2009 victory will be celebrated in America. We want to celebrate this historic victory again," he added. Pakistan's hero of the semi-final and final Shahid Afridi revealed that he had high hopes for Babar Azam's men but the national side failed to live up to that despite the conditions being

"I had high hopes for this team. We had the players and the conditions were in our favour as well. We did not perform as per our skills," said Afridi.

Afridi further commented on the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the future of Babar Azam as Pakistan captain and threw his weight behind the latter to continue to lead the side on Australia tour.

Former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik also commented on the national team's dismal campaign at the ICC World Cup 2023. The all-rounder further stated that he does not hold any grudge towards Babar Azam and termed him a brilliant batter.

"People think that I am against Babar Azam. There is nothing like that. He is a wonderful player. He is criticised due to his captaincy. I also believe that he can do wonders as a play-

Meanwhile, another former cricketer from Pakistan's 2009 T20 World Cup-winning squad Umar Gul, who is rumoured to be the top contender to replace Morne Morkel as Pakistan

bowling coach, shared that he heard the news on social media. "I saw on social media that maybe I am being considered for

bowling coach but I have not been contacted yet," shared Gul. The former pacer, however, stated that he is willing to serve Pakistan Cricket again if gets the opportunity.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan were crowned the T20 hampions under Younis Khan's leadership when the national team outclassed Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the 2009 T20

#### Zone-VI (W) to meet Zone-VII(W) in Final of A.S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket today

**Sports Desk** 

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites will meet Zone-VII Whites in the Final of A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament on Tuesday 14th November at KCCA Stadium.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsored by A. S. Natural Stone.

The Two teams will be selected from the following players before the start of the Final.

Zone-VI Whites Abdul Sami Khan, M. Turab Khan, Obaid Rashid, Niqab Shafiq, Asad Omer, Talal Mehmood, Saad Sakhawat, M. Murtaza Taqi, Hammad Alam, Hamza Naeem, Muhammad Azaan, Saad Ahmed, M. Abdullah Javed, Aash Malik, Sajjad Ahmed, Zain ul Abdain, Hamza Mehmood, Gulam Ahmed, Zaryab Shah, M. Tahir, Sommaya Aamir and Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui.

Zone-VII Whites. Ali Sher, Asim Khan, Hafiz ur Rehman, Noor Zaman Khan, Adil Khan, Hassan, Hassan Zia, Ameer Hamza, Sohail Khan, Muhammad Adil, Ikram Uddin, S. Jawad Zameer and M. Azaan Ali. Umires Faheem Ahmed Bukhari and Aqil Adil, Scorer Mustajab Alam.

## Novak Djokovic top of the world after sinking Rune at ATP Finals

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Novak Djokovic will finish the year as world number one for a court," said Djokovic. record-extending eighth time after beating Holger Rune 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (1/7), 6-3 in his opening match at the ATP Finals on Sunday.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion needed just one win or a defeat for young rival Carlos Alcaraz in order to secure top spot in the ATP rankings for 2023 and prevailed in a three-hour Green Group clash with spirited debutant Rune.

Djokovic, on a run of 19 straight

all-time record winner of major titles. The 36-year-old came into the at the third attempt. Finals in Turin off the back of his seventh triumph at the Paris Masters, and after the pair slugged each other

which would take him one ahead of concede the set.

retired great Roger Federer.

there were a lot of emotions on the

"I could feel it, I was very eager to win the match and get that monkey off my back... Obviously a big objective, a an opponent who played brilliantly... big goal has been achieved, everything else now is a bonus."

Novak Djokovic looked on course for victory when he took a brutal opening set in decisive fashion, prevailing in the tie-break with a stunning cross-court return winner.

And the match looked to have turned decisively in the third game of wins, has had an age-defying year, the second set, when after Rune won winning three Slams to become the the first two Djokovic broke back in a brilliant 11-point game eventually won

Rune kept plugging away, however, his 40th victory at a Masters 100 event. with bigger and bigger hits Djok-Those are two more records to add ovic slipped in the tie-break, missing to a long and growing list for Djokovic, a simple volley to draw level on the who is hunting a seventh Finals title second point and then collapsing to

But after briefly losing it for allow-"It means a lot. You could see that ing Rune to break back in game three of the third set, kicking his rackets in a rage, Djokovic composed himself and saw out a historic win.

> he had a lot of courage today," added Novak Djokovic in Italian.

> "If I want to keep up with these youngsters I'm going to have to work even harder!"

> Home hope Jannik Sinner got off to a near-perfect start by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, delighting the crowd in Italy's north-

> Sinner has had the best season of his career to date, winning four tournaments and is set to become the first Italian ever to finish a season in the ATP top five.

> The 22-year-old comfortably dealt with 2019 champion Tsitsipas in front of an enthusiastic crowd, not dropping a service game nor facing a break point in the whole match.

"The atmosphere was really, really nice. It's huge pleasure for me to play here in Turin, in Italy," Sinner told reporters.

'Obviously a little bit more pressure, "I found a way to win today against but I managed it really well today, so

Afterwards, Greek Tsitsipas denied he had any physical problems even though he looked way below his best, telling reporters "I'm healthy. I'm ready to compete."

The 25-year-old had to play down reports of an elbow injury which curtailed practice ahead of his tournament opener.

"I'm absolutely fine and I'm ready to play this tournament. Turin is one of the most important events of the year for me," he said. On Monday, Alcaraz makes his ATP

Finals debut in the Red Group against Alexander Zverev, the second seed Novak Djokovic's closest challenger. However the Wimbledon cham-

pion is in uncertain form after being

dumped out of the Paris Masters by

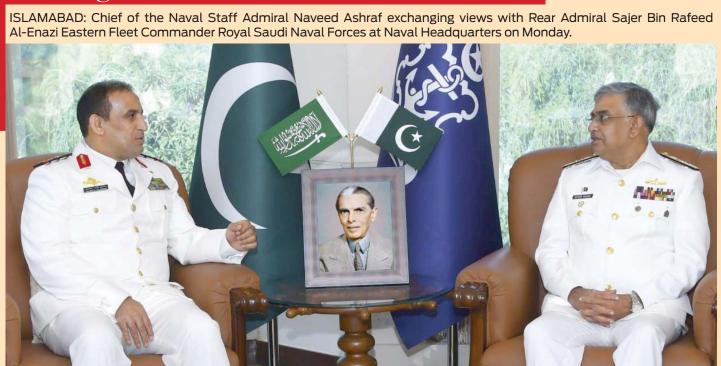


following return from an injury lay-off. The Spaniard hadn't played since problems.

Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin the Shanghai Masters in early October due to lower back and left foot

## The Spokesman

## Meeting



S Joint Press Conference

## Pakistan Navy, China Navy announce joint naval exercise on Sea Guardian 2023

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A joint press conference regarding Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 was held at Karachi, today. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik from Pakistan Navy and Senior Captain Qi Jian from People's Liberation Army PLA (N) briefed the audience about objectives, contours and conduct of the

Commodore Asim Sohail Malik said that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed strategically unique and strong relationship. He expressed that this exercise will further strengthen decades old and time tested friendship of both countries and will also open conference, PLA (Navy) Senior It aims at enhancing defense



two friendly navies against

new avenues for future mari- Captain Qi Jian said that time cooperation between this exercise is committed to strengthen all-weather stracommon threats in the region. tegic cooperative partnership While addressing the press between the two countries.

cooperation, professional exchanges, facilitating the establishment of a regular mechanism for joint exercise along with demonstrating the common mission and determination of the two countries to defend China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. and further building a closer China-Pakistan communitv with a shared future in the new era.

Frontline Destroyer, Frigates, Helicopters, Rescue Ship, Submarine and Special Forces from Pakistan Navy and Peoples Liberation Armys are participating in the exercise.

The exercise is divided into two phases i.e Harbour and Sea phase. During harbour

deepening activities both navies shared their experiences on contemporary maritime security threats and challenges through various workshops, seminars and table top discussions.

While, the Sea Phase to be conducted in North Arabian Sea from 14 till 16 Nov 23, would encompass advance level naval operations i.e. maritime security Ops, tactical maneuvers, various warfare related exercises and Search &Rescue operations to deal with variety of threats at sea.

First bilateral Exercise Sea Guardian with People's Liberation Army (Navy) was held in 2014 and has regularly been conducted each year alternately in Pakistan and China.

#### 'It's not a Summit. It's a Pit' - Residents of Gaza **Scoff at Arab Summit**

#### Monitoring Desk

What did Palestinians in Gaza think of the outcome of the Arab, Muslim Summit? The Palestine Chronicle spoke with some of them.

An extraordinary joint summit of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was held in Riyadh on

The participants agreed that it is necessary to stop Israel's military operations as soon as possible, organize the delivery of aid to the peaceful population, and create functioning security mechanisms.

But what did Palestinians in Gaza think of the outcome of the meeting? The Palestine Chronicle spoke with some of them.

#### 'Scent of Betrayal

"The scent of betrayal is a putrid odor wafting in every corner of the Arab world. We don't want condemnation or denunciation; we want actions to stop the war and halt the continuous crimes of the occupation in the Gaza Strip for the past 36 days," said Talal Al-Taweel.

"Gaza needs an end to the war, not words," expressed author, Hassan Al-Qatrawi.

"In the Arab Summit, they explain what is happening in Gaza, as if the world doesn't know what is happening to us. What nonsense is this? Gaza needs an immediate cessation of the war and does not need all this expressive talk," he added.

Haydar Ibrahim commented on the Arab Summit, saying, "One of the conditions for the victory of Gaza is that everyone abandons it, leaving us with only the one, all-powerful Lord. This war is revealing and exposing, especially those we thought were educated thinkers and influencers of public opinion. The war has revealed their true faces."

Responding to the outcomes of the Arab Summit, Ibrahim Rabah stated, "We are still steadfast in Jabaliya camp; we will never leave it. We remain and will not budge. We will not leave our country. We will remain in the heart of Jabalia camp."

Mu'taz Abdel-Ati, a resident of northern Gaza said, "Words no longer have any benefit; we want action. We want a real movement that opens the Rafah crossing, a move that allows the entry of urgent aid and saves the people of Gaza. We are tired of hearing words."(The Palestine Chronicle)

#### Planning minister gets briefing on Climate-PIMA

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday got briefing on the Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA, besides the suggested action plan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The briefing was given during a meeting, chaired by the Planning minister and attended by the Secretary Planning Ministry, Member Climate Change & Food Security, Chief Growth and employment at the Planning Commission, Joint Chief Economist (Ops), Joint Chief Economist for Macroeconomics at the Planning Commission and other relevant stakeholders, a news release said.

During the meeting, Chief Growth & Employment in detail highlighted the various aspects of PIMA and towards a sustainable and resilient Climate-PIMA and its action plan. future.



The action plan underscores the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework, integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects. This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climatesmart policies and practices.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to leading Pakistan

### Former PM Gillani addressed to worker convention

#### 👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister snd Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani is addressing the worker convention organized by Malik Rafiq in Labor Colony Industrial Estate of NA 148.

Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the development work that I did fifty years ago and fifty years later no one could do it. We have worked on education, health, highway, and airport. We have asked Chairman Planning



so that the Industrial Estate Flyover can be built soon.

The one who made me the Prime Minister, Speaker and the people of the constituency will support me in the general remaining Rs 40-50 crore for thoughts at the labor conven-

in Labor Colony Industrial Estate of NA 148.

During the speech he asked on this occasion, son of Nazim Acting President, I hope that Hussain (deceased) Barris- years ago and 50 years later ter Syed Mudassar Hussain Shah, Syed Jamal Nasir, to immediately release the elections, he expressed these Rana Ibrahim Madani, Farhan Gilani, Malik A Saf the Industrial Estate Flyover tion organized by Malik Rafiq Labar, Chaudhry Obaidul-

lah also spoke. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani also said that I did a lot of things during my tenure, the things I did 50 when I was Speaker, no one could do it.

He said that People's Party is the only People'e Democratic party which has always

given employment to the poor unemployed youth.

Under the Benazir Income Support Program, millions of women are still getting financial assistance, similarly, measures have been taken at all levels to solve other problems of the people. All abilities will be utilized

## Meeting with Management of House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC)

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation Mr. Fawad Hasan the management of House Build-

ing Finance Company Limited (HBFC). Mr. Imran Ahad, CEO HBFC apprised the minister on the recent performance of the company together with immediate and short term plans. The company has seen a significant turnaround in its financial health which is also

reflected in the recent upgrade of sary work by 15th December,2023 credit rating by two scales to AA(-). in consultation with financial advisor HBFC has issued a total portfolio of and Secretary, Privatisation Commis-18 billion Rupees with 14000 active sion.

borrowers. It presently covers only 0.03% market share with a manifold growth potential considering even the regional countries like India and Fawad chaired a meeting with Bangladesh. It was agreed that efforts will be made to complete all neces-



## China's envoy: Xi's vision offers new opportunities for developing countries

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador sador Zaidong reiterated his nation's Jiang Zaidong on Monday said Pres- commitment to achieving the common ident Xi Jinping's eight major steps outlined at the 3rd Belt and Road Forum have offered new opportunities for developing countries.

Addressing the audience of an event titled "China's diplomacy with neighbouring countries" under the framethe envoy highlighted the far-reaching impact of Chinese organisational practices on developing nations, catalysing their robust development. Giving an overview of the Chinese

modernisation and diplomacy, the ambassador highlighted the significance of the practices in instilling hope and confidence, especially among countries aspiring to a shared future.

He lauded China's accomplishments under President Xi's leadership, particularly the noteworthy achieveout of poverty, surpassing the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by a decade.

As regards the ongoing discussions on China's modernization, Ambas-

prosperity of all Chinese citizens and improving the lives of ordinary people.

Shifting focus to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador highlighted its early harvest, citing impressive figures such as \$25.4 billion in direct investment work of the "Dosti Park Club" here, and jobs creation for 236,000 indi-

Highlighting CPEC's impact on infrastructure development, he noted the completion of 510 kilometers of highways, and build 886 kilometers of national core transmission grid, and 8,020 megawatts of electricity projects. CPEC would further improve the lives of Pakistan's people and the new international airport at Gwadar would also be functional soon, he added.

"We are also bringing benefits for people in Balochistan including ment of lifting 800 million people 10,000 solar panels," he said and added that the figures showed tangible benefits for local communities, significantly boosting Pakistan's economic and social development.

Expressing optimism about CPEC's



viating Pakistan's electricity shortages and enhancing local commutes through projects like the Orange Line in Lahore, Ambassador Zaidong remarked, "CPEC truly demonstrates that Chinese people are dedicated to bringing tangible benefits to local communities and aiding Pakistan in achieving superior development".

Proposing three key collaboration points for the future—consolida-Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

continuous improvement, the ambassador highlighted the importance of building upon successful initiatives like ML-1 and KKH rerouting projects. Anticipating new develop-

ments, he announced a delegation from Xinjiang province aiming to promote cooperation in agriculture, demonstrate agricultural zones, and propose counterpart cooperation in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The

tion, deepening existing projects, and ambassador expressed willingness to enhance collaboration in the mining sector, reinforcing the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and contributing to Pakistan's sustained development.

> Prof Victor Gao, Chairman of China Energy Security Institute said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would be AI-integrated finally and it would be greener, smarter and more integrated. Outrightly rejecting India-Middle

East-EU Economic Corridor (IMEEC) as an alternate to the BRI, Prof Gao said that the IMEEC is a political move in nature and is impractical on ground.

Prof Victor Gao said that Pakistan played a key role in bringing about a breakthrough in diplomatic ties of US and China in 1971 by secretly flowing the then US secretary of state Henry Kissinger into China which paved the way for US-China relations.

Prof Gao said that efforts to contain China had failed and China today has emerged a dominant EV cars producer globally.

"We are following the idea of CPC General Secretary Deng Xiaopeng who always stressed for development, development and development. Within past four decades, China has developed into world's second largest economy - thanks to stability, peace and development which go hand in hand. Pakistan should follow and maintain peace and focus development. In the new era, Pakistan would have to at least have three things, including data generation, semiconductors, etc,"