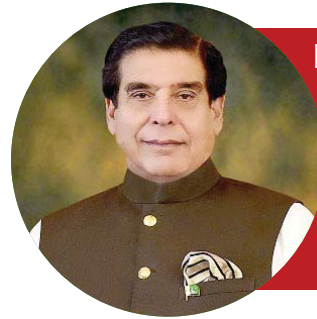




**China continues to play constructive role to achieve lasting peace between Palestine-Israel: Mao Ning**

China will continue to work with relevant parties to play a constructive role in achieving lasting peace between Palestine and Israel through the "two-state solution," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Wednesday. (Details on Page 8)



**Elections crucial for democratic continuity and stability: NA Speaker**

Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf stated on Wednesday that elections are pivotal for the continuity and stability of democracy and for strengthening democratic norms. He emphasized that elections provide people with an opportunity to choose their true representatives. On November 16, 1988, the Pakistani nation chose the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP)... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Addressed**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing "The Margalla Dialogue 2023" on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

**PM reprimands 'bizarre' justifications, narrative on killing of Gaza children by Israel**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday calling Israeli barbarism in Palestine unparalleled even in the medieval era, reprimanded the world's double standards on war ethos and its "bizarre and surreal" rationalization of the killing of children in Gaza. The prime minister, addressing the annual Margalla Dialogue 2023 conference held by Islamabad Policy Research Institute

on "Evolving World Environment: Charting the Course for Our Future," said Israeli forces were targeting vulnerable people

in hospitals and eliminating children.

Referring to his discussions with some diplomats who defended Israeli actions by citing Israeli children's deaths, he expressed his surprise at the argument. However, he reiterated that the killing of any child, regardless of faith or origin, is condemnable. "So how many Palestinian children have to be killed to appease and address the Israeli anger? One, five, ten, 500, 1000, 4,700? Can they give us a number so that we can satisfy those parents to wait as some 10,000 children needed to be killed to address the Israeli anger," he remarked.

He said those claiming to be

the followers of Prophet Moses, were actually following the footsteps of Pharaoh by killing the children which was "utterly unacceptable."

The prime minister, who had also been the IPRI's board member, highlighted the potential for connectivity with the countries in the region including India, and said Pakistan never shied away from establishing trade links with India but it could not be that as trade should be for mutual benefits.

However, he said before such links, it was essential to speak out on the Kashmir conflict as without addressing that issue, it was challenging to have normal

relations with the current Indian regime. He told the gathering that the Kashmir issue demanded attention aligned with the aspirations of its people as despite promises and UN guarantees, the Kashmiris could not be given their right to self-determination. Postponing the issue is not a solution as the historical resilience against colonization is evident, he added.

He observed that the right of Kashmiris people to decide their future could not be denied for long, though. "Neither Pakistan nor India should impose a solution on Kashmiris," he added. He talked about the western borders of Pakistan with Afghanistan

and said that the day Kabul has a legitimate government, issues will start settling down.

Referring to the Hindutva ideology infesting Indian society, he said such policies were a recipe for disaster. He said contrary to the ongoing persecution in India, the minorities in Pakistan were sharing their destinies with Pakistan having deep entrenched roots in business as well as society.

The prime minister said Pakistan was faced with the challenge of non-state actors but the country was prepared to respond that, without needing anyone's tangible assistance. The IPRI president also presented a copy of the book to the prime minister.

**Seven terrorists killed during an IBO in Tank, ISPR**

**Adam Khan Wazir**

TANK: Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Kiri Machan Khel, Tank District, on reported presence of terrorists.

During conduct of the operation, an intense fire exchange took place between its own troops and terrorists, as a result of which seven terrorists were sent to hell.

Terrorists hideouts were also busted during the operation.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numer-



ous terrorist activities including recent target killings of Police in Tank and surrounding areas.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and extended their full support to the security forces in elimination of the menace of terrorism.

**'Let power of intellect overrule military might to save humanity from wars,' President tells world**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said with wars and conflicts resulting in the massacre of innocent people, the world needed a unified approach to saving humanity from the violence of the powerful. "Power of intellect should be the world order taking precedence over the violent forces which quash the spirit of humanity and justice," he said at the Annual Margalla Dialogue 2023.

The event themed 'Evolving world environment: Charting the course of our future' gathered diplomats, thinkers, and intellectuals from various countries. President Alvi said dehumanizing

people had become a norm in the world where vested interests prevailed over humanity. War, he said, was not a solution to resolve any conflict and always resulted in a never-ending vicious cycle of violence. He pointed out that using the right of veto against the cessation of war questioned the ethical standards of the countries concerned. In Gaza, he said the massive killings of Palestinians killed by Israel needed urgent attention by the international community to act and play its role in stopping the bloodshed. He said Israel, in its justification to eliminate Hamas was "killing the Palestinians like savages" and calling the colossal deaths as collateral damage.

**SC adjourns Faizabad sit-in case till Jan 22**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of review petitions pertaining to the Faizabad sit-in case decision till January 22, 2024.

The three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin Ud Din Khan and Justice Athar Minalah, which heard the case pertaining to the implementation of the Faizabad sit-in case judgment, also disposed of the review petition of All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) Quaid Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

During the course of proceedings, Sheikh Rashid's lawyer prayed the court to grant permission to withdraw the review petition of his client.

The CJP observed that it was strange that the review petitions were being withdrawn after four years. Everyone including judges was accountable.

He remarked that the people involved in blocking roads and burning public property were called heroes. Firstly, the statements were given in favour of the sit-in and now the respondents were saying that they did not want to pursue their review petitions.

On the occasion, Attorney General for Pakistan Usman Mansoor Awan presented the notification regarding the formation of an inquiry commission in the Faizabad sit-in case.

The chief justice said that the court expected that the commission would work independently. He questioned that as to why any representative from the Defence Ministry was not included in it.

The chief justice observed that the inquiry commission should have the authority to summon everyone.

**Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises approves revised policy**

**Commerce Desk**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises, today.

The meeting was attended by all members of the Committee as well as Chairman SECP, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries.

As per the directions from the previous meeting of the CCoSEs, the State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023, was re-submitted to the committee for review, after incorporation of feedback received from the members of the committee.

The Committee reviewed the changes incorporated in the draft, and recommended the revised policy for the approval of the Cabinet.

This policy marks a crucial step towards enhancing the governance and operations of State-Owned Enterprises, aligning with the broader objectives outlined in the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023.

**Nawaz Sharif vows solar panel scheme to provide relief in power bills**

**Bureau Report**

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday announced to roll out solar panel scheme in an effort to provide relief to the people of Pakistan in inflated power bills.

The three-time prime minister made these remarks while co-chairing PML-N's meeting in Quetta with party president Shehbaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif vowed to roll out the solar panel scheme in a bid to provide relief to people on their power bills.

"The domestic, commercial, and agricultural consumers will receive relief on their power bills through the solar panel," the former premier said.

He acknowledged the efforts in establishing Danish schools, spearheaded by Shahbaz Sharif, for the education of Balochistan's children.

Nawaz also expressed his determination to provide top-notch education facilities to the children of Balochistan and outlined key infrastructure projects, including the Kuchi Kanal built at a cost of 50 billion rupees. The PML-N supreme took an indirect jibe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying, "What about those who used to talk about bringing tabdeeli in the country? The children should know what happened in the country."

"Gwadar had been connected with Sindh, and a coastal highway was constructed. We are now connecting Quetta with Islamabad through Dera Ismail Khan," he added.

He added, "People were forced to travel from Gwadar to Quetta, consuming more than 24 hours. But we fixed the masses' problems in terms of travelling from Gwadar to Quetta."

He made it clear that the PML-N agenda will not be merely limited to the infrastructure, health, and education sectors.

**Pakistan reaches staff-level agreement with IMF for second tranche**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a staff-level agreement on the first review under Pakistan's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the IMF at the conclusion of delegation-level talks between the two sides in Islamabad.

The agreement is subject to the approval of IMF's Executive Board after approval around US\$700m will be available bringing total disbursements under the program to almost US\$1.9bn.

According to details, the agreement is subject to approval of the IMF's Executive Board and upon approval around 700 million US dollars will become available bringing total disbursements under the program to almost 1.9 billion US dollars.

The agreement supports the authorities' commitment to advance the planned fiscal consolidation, accelerate cost-reducing reforms in the energy sector.

**Petrol, diesel prices reduced in Pakistan**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government has reduced petrol and diesel prices.

The petrol price has been reduced by Rs2.04 per litre, diesel by Rs6.47 per litre, kerosene oil by Rs6.05 per litre and light-speed diesel (LSD) by Rs9.01 per litre.

The new price of petrol was fixed at Rs281.34 per litre, Rs296.71 for diesel, Rs204.98 for kerosene oil and Rs180.45 for light-speed diesel (LSD).

In mid-October, Pakistan made a massive deduction on petrol price by Rs40 per litre.

According to the previous notification issued by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on October 15, the rate of petrol was fixed at Rs283.38 per litre with a reduction of Rs40 per litre.

Whereas, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) had been reduced by Rs 15 per litre to Rs 303.18 and kerosene oil by Rs22.43 per litre to Rs214.85.

However, the petrol and diesel prices were kept unchanged on November 1 for 15 days.

# People's Party has better program than PML-N: Gillani

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that no party has a better program than the People's Party to overcome the economic crisis.

Practical steps have been taken for the development of South Punjab including Multan. If the people give two-thirds majority in the general elections, then we will give great news for a better future of the future generations. He expressed these views in NA 148 Qasim Bela area UC Mohammadpur Ghotia in which Haji Awais Bhopla, Malik Farooq Bhopla, Malik Zahid Bhopla, Malik Khizr Bhopla, Malik Fayaz Bhopla, Malik Shafiq Bhopla, Malik Zubair Bhopla, Malik Ali Hasan Bhopla.

Malik Abbas Bhopla, Malik Yar Muhammad Bhopla, Malik Sajid Bhopla, Malik Yusuf Bhopla, Malik Saeed Bhopla, Malik Waheed Bhop-



la, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Bhopla, Malik Farrukh Bhopla, Malik Irfan Bhopla, Malik Asim Bhopla participated in large numbers. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further said that the People's Party gave the constitution to the country, gave nuclear power, gave

awareness to the people and ensured priority based measures for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation.

However, the people have the best chance to make the People's Party successful with a huge mandate. So that

the People's Party comes to power and once again leads the country on the path of development and prosperity, we hope that the people of UC Muhammadpur Ghotia will make the candidates of the People's Party successful with a heavy mandate in the general elections.



LAHORE: Five member business delegation from Italy Mr Khadim Hussain CEO Hussain Trading, Mr Papini Sergio, Ms Papini Linda, Mr Menconi Alessandro, Ms Madrignani Paola, Mr Andrea Papini and Mr and Mr Abdullah Khadim Hussain posing a group photo during the visit of Hussain Trading Company.

## Prime Minister says survival of Azad Kashmir is in line with Pak's security

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

PALNDARI: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the survival of Azad Kashmir was inescapably linked prosperity, development and stability of Pakistan. He made these assertions while addressing a reception hosted in his honour by minister for Population Welfare Sardar Muhammad Hussain here today. Speaking on the occasion the PM said that welfare of people was the sole mission of his life. He said that cheap electricity was the right of every citizen. "If people pay utility bills, then electricity up to 200 units could be provided free of cost. He said that it was for the first time in the AJK's history that the incumbent government suspended the notification regarding the increase in electricity prices. He said that the subsidy on wheat flour has been restored. The government, he said, has allocated rupees 5 billion endowment fund for the poor, widows, orphans, disabled, children and girls of the state. As per the scheme, he said, 20 thousand would be transferred to the needy persons on monthly basis through their easy paisa account. Regarding the improvement of governance, he said, government employees working in health, education and other government departments would have to prove their metal and show their progress.

He said that Action Committees has raised awareness amongst the masses about the protection of their rights; however, the government won't allow any one whosoever to play with the basic ideology under its guise. National responsibilities, he said, cannot be brushed aside while fighting for individual rights. Referring to the continued bloodshed in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the PM said that it was quite unfortunate that the world was remorselessly watching the barbarism and brutalities being inflicted on our brothers and sisters by the Indian occupation forces. The function was attended by senior Government Minister Colonel R. Waqar Noor, Ministers Sardar Amir Altaf, Ziaul Qamar, Javed Badhanvi, Ansir Abdali, Chaudhry Akhlaq, Malik Zafar, Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani and others. Earlier, the host of the ceremony and Minister for Population Welfare, Irrigation and Small Dams Sardar Muhammad Hussain Advocate welcomed the Prime Minister and the ministers upon their arrival in Palandri.

## ICMA chief says education of accountancy professionals is guarantee of good tomorrow



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Chairman of the Strategic Board of Institute of Cost Management and Accounts International (ICMA) Zia-ul-Mustafi Awan has said that ICMA degree is the guarantee of your good tomorrow and the demand for accountancy education is increasing in Pakistan as well as in the whole world. This institution is a unique institution of its kind whose reputation and quality is increasing with each passing day and today it has become the largest and most extensive accountancy education institution not only in Pakistan but also in Asia and Joint Director Multan Branch Samina Khan And due to the day and night hard work of the expert teachers, it is progressing well.

And your life is incomplete without sports, he expressed these thoughts while addressing the prize distribution ceremony at the end of the two-day sports gala. Therefore, ICMA is no less than a blessing, here all things are taught and taught to join the ranks of developed countries and modern research of account. They also provide excellent training and are second to none in the field of extracurricular activities and sports

Sports are very important for human body and mind. Joint Director Samina Khan Kayani said that women should also actively participate in sports, it creates a new brilliance in them. And Mrs. Zia-ul-Mustafi Awan spoke at the end, prizes were distributed among the position holder students in sports and certificates were distributed among the old students.

**International Diabetes Day**

## Buch International Hospital conducted awareness walk

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Health experts Dr. Zahra Anwar, Dr. Shaista Bilal, Madam Tasneem Zahra have said that diabetes is increasing day by day in Pakistan. One out of every 4 people is suffering from diabetes. A person suffering from diabetes does not know that he is suffering from diabetes. Everyone above the age of 45 should have a medical check-up at least once in 6 months. So that it is possible to prevent diabetes and live a good life. They expressed these views yesterday while addressing the participants of the awareness walk session at Buch International Hospital on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. Health experts said diabetes is a dangerous disease. If it is not addressed.

So human life gets endangered. It is a silent killer. A person can avoid diabetes by making simple diet, daily exercise and minor changes in daily routine. Earlier, events were organized in connection with the World Diabetes Day at Buch International Hospital. In which awareness walk, awareness session and cooking competition were organized. In which the students of food sciences participated. Hospital Chief Operating Officer Abdul Ghaffar Ansari, Dr. Kamran Babar, Dr. Farrukh Zia Tareen, Dr. Shaista Bilal, Dr. Zahra Anwar, Madam Tasneem Zahra, personalities associated with the Department of Medicine, paramedical staff and Bloomfield Hall school children participated in the walk.

Participants of the walk carried diabetes awareness banners. After the walk, a Sugar Friendly Cooking Competition was held at Buch Hospital. In which the students of the Department of Food Sciences participated. Later, a seminar was organized to raise awareness about diabetes. In which doctors gave lectures to the participants regarding diabetes prevention and awareness.

## Protest

RAWALPINDI: Students are presenting tableau during protest in City to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine.



Photo: Online

## Tribal elders N Waziristan pledge to support security forces for peace

**Adam Khan Wazir**

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: North Waziristan Headquarters Shawal Rifles Razmak an important Jirga of military and civil officials, leaders and youth regarding regional development, law, order and other important issues.

Agreed to work together for the development, prosperity and peace of the region.

Commandant Shawal Rifles, Wing Commander 192 Wing, Assistant Commissioner, Tehsildar Razmak participated in the Jirga on behalf of civil and military.

While the tribal elders, youth and civil society representatives of Shakhimar, Shah Wali, Zikar Khel, Priyat, Shini, KaKa Khel, Karich Khel and Rogha Badar in the suburbs of



Razmak and Garium participated in full participation.

On this occasion, the participants of the Jirga expressed their full support to the law enforcement agencies and assured to play a positive role in establish-

ing law and order, various social and developmental issues were also discussed in the Jirga.

Later, the tribal elders Jirga expressed their desire to invite GOC Seven Division Major General Anjum Riaz

to Razmak Sub Division.

The participants of the Jirga expressed their views and said that such Jirgas provide effective communication and bridge between the government officials and the people.

## Development of all NMDs & Waziristan is top priority, caretaker Minister assured a Jirga

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In connection with the visits to the merged districts, the caretaker provincial minister for merged districts Industry and Commerce and Technical Education Aamir Abdullah visited South Waziristan Upper on Wednesday.

Here an important jirga was held at the Political Compound Tank under the chairmanship of the caretaker provincial minister

In which Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Upper Ashfaq Khan and elders of Mahsud /Burki tribes participated.

On this occasion, the tribal elders expressed their views regarding the problems of Upper South Waziristan, development projects, law and order situation and other issues.

Tribal elders said that the promises made at the time of FATA merger with KP were not implemented and the recommendations of the Sartaj Aziz Committee were not finalised.

They further said that the promises made by the federal government to give 100 billion rupees to the merged districts every year have not been fulfilled and due to which the development projects are getting seriously affected.

The elders requested the provincial minister that the provincial government should utilize all the resources to overcome the problems of the people of Upper South Waziristan and lay the net of development projects here.

The elders also demanded the permanence of employees recruited from the ADF fund during the FATA period.

In his address to the Jirga, caretaker provincial minister Aamir Abdullah said that the first priority of the provincial government is the development, prosperity and peace and order of the tribal districts.

## Nishtar Academic Council meeting chaired by VC Nishtar Medical University

**Quratulain Asim**

MULTAN: The academic council meeting of Nishtar Medical University was held yesterday in Nishtar Hospital Auditorium under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed. In the meeting, various academic, teaching, research and administrative matters were discussed including the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Academic Council. Important topics like mentorship program for male and female students along with the launch of new undergraduate courses in Nishtar



University were also discussed and most of the programs were approved through mutual consultation.

In which PRO Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical

University Prof. Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani, Registrar Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Principal Nishtar Medical College Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao, Prof. Dr. Ifkhar Hussain,

Prof. Dr. Ahmad Ejaz Masood, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hussain, Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Prof. Dr. Khalid Usman, Prof. Dr. Masood-ul-Rauf Haraj

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas Naqvi, Prof. Dr. Salim Sheikh, Prof. Dr. Shahid Irshad Rao, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Akhtar, Prof. Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Prof. Dr. Ahmar Hussain, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aamir, Prof. Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Prof. Dr. Zahra Nazish, Prof. Dr. Azam Khan, Prof. Dr. Amjad Bari, Prof. Dr. Arif Mehmood Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Khan, Prof. Dr. Waseem Rabbani, and other members of the academic council attended.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:13 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:27 pm
Maghrib	5:05 pm
Isha	6:31 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

**AIOU sets November 20 as last date for admissions**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set November 20, as the last date for admission in open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of autumn semester 2023. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood extended the last date due to the numerous applications received from interested students. Earlier, the last date was November 7.

Programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B. Com), Associate degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, B. Ed programs, BBA, postgraduate diplomas and certificate courses. Students can apply for admission to these programs until November 20 with late fee charges. Admission forms and prospectus of all the programs are available on the university website. Students can visit our regional offices or call the university helpline at 051-111 112 468 for further information.

**FCT minister calls for urgent action on green belts in Tharparkar**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik while addressing the launching ceremony of "Ecological Baseline Survey Report Tharparkar (Sindh)" on Wednesday has said that socio-economic package is indispensable for livelihood in Tharparkar, botanists, zoologists and technical should effort on it. He said that The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an academic research platform with the help of which we can solve many problems in the environment.

Country Representative International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, ex-Senator Javed Jabbar, Professor Z. B Mirza, Botanical Expert Khairpur University Dr. Muzaffar Hussain Sirohi and CEO



(SECMS) Amir Iqbal also addressed the participant of the ceremony.

Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik while praising the positive initiatives and keen interest of private sectors in the environment said that water is being contaminated in some places of Pakistan. He said that piles of dirt are seen in the water, which is having effect on our environment, all stakehold-

ers should take serious steps to eliminate that piles of dirt.

Caretaker Federal Minister expressed his anger on certain elements for polluting the water and said, "Don't wait for a messiah to clean this region and keep the environment clean", this is our region and we have to keep it clean from dirt and pollution. He said that the dirt we are throwing has a negative impact some-

where in our environment, our life is badly affected by it and closure of schools due to smog is an example of it.

While briefing the Caretaker Federal Minister and other participants regarding the ecological baseline in Tharparkar, it was informed that agriculture and livestock rearing serve as the primary sources of income for the people of Tharparkar, Tharparkar is about 2000 sq. k. landscape and consist of 07 divisions, 95% of the area is covered with sand, Karoonjhar hills and number of water bodies contribute to the region's diverse inhabitants and scenic beauty. The Minister informed that as of 2017, the population of Tharparkar was 1.64 million, the annual population growth rate is 3.14% and about 83.8 people live per square kilometer, 50 transects 800 to 1200 meters have been laid in Tharparkar for bird survey.

**Exchanging Views**

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with H.E. Dr. rEza Amiri Moghadam Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan at Naval Headquarters on Wednesday.



**City Desk**

**OGDCL, KUFPEC partner to explore joint business opportunities and expertise sharing**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A senior level delegation from Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), Kuwait, led by Mr. Tareq M. Ebrahim (EVP - Operations) and including Mr. Ali Taha Al-Temimi (Country Head - KUFPEC, Pakistan), Mr. Bader Al-Matar (Manager Asia Region), Mr. Nawwaf AlSalem (Manager Exploration), Mr. Khaled Al-Athainah (Manager Exploration, Pakistan) and Mr. Abdul Ghafoor (Sr. Specialist Geologist, Pakistan), visited OGDCL Head office today and met with Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak MD / CEO along with senior management team of OGDCL.

During the visit, an MOU has been signed between the



two companies. The objective of this MOU is to formalize joint evaluation of potential business opportunities in upstream projects in Pakistan and internationally, participation in bid rounds, joint studies, formation of a pool of technical experts / specialists from both

companies, knowledge sharing and secondment of officers.

KUFPEC is a JV Partner with OGDCL in Qadirpur and Makhad blocks.

Both sides have agreed to constitute dedicated working groups for implementing agreed objectives in the MoU. The lead-

ership of both companies will monitor progress on quarterly basis in order to ensure meaningful and effective cooperation between the companies. Mr. Tareq M. Ebrahim on recommendation of MD/CEO - OGDCL agreed to hold a workshop of technical experts on production optimization, as Kuwait has made significant progress in this domain and Pakistan can benefit from their experience.

Mr. Tareq M. Ebrahim underlined the commitment of KUFPEC of augmenting its presence in Pakistan by expanding the footprints in the E&P sector of the country in collaboration with OGDCL. The Kuwaiti delegation reiterated Pakistan's importance in their business strategy for the region.



Unity Foods CEO Highlights Agricultural Opportunities for Investors at The Future Summit.

**Spotify's RADAR Program Boosts Pakistani Artists to New Heights in the Past Year**



**City Desk**

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

RADAR Pakistan Celebrates First Year with Featured Artists Hasan Raheem, Taha G, Maanu, and Hassan & Roshaan

In 2023, the most played artists on the RADAR Pakistan playlist include Hasan Raheem, Taha G, Maanu, Abdul Hannan, and Hassan & Roshaan, among others. Similarly, the most played tracks on the playlist for the same year include hits like Maanu's "4U," Hassan & Roshaan's "Bandhan" and "Sukoon," Hasan Raheem's "Joona," Taha G's "Dil Kay Isharay" and many more, which continue to captivate the audience.

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

**Investors lost billions of rupees due to negative statements from FBR: Adil Bhatti**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Renowned businessman Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that Negative propaganda by FBR in national media on real estate sector is not acceptable anymore. Those who invest in the land of Pakistan are being presented as enemies of the country. Where the thieves are sitting, FBR's eyes are closed and those patriotic Pakistanis who want to invest in their homeland even in these difficult situations, FBR officials are trying to hide their incompetence and failure by issuing negative statements day by day due to which the investors have lost billions of rupees.

Adil Bhatti said that We inform the FBR authorities that if they do not stop the negative propaganda about the real estate and construction sector, the backbone of Pakistan's economy, then the real estate community should protest outside the FBR offices in every city. We are patriotic and peaceful people and stability and improvement in the country's economy is our top priority. We are always ready to provide all possible help for the improvement of the country's economy, but for this there is a need for positive approach and positive steps by the government and FBR especially. We appeal to the concerned authorities to stop negative propaganda related to the real estate sector and take decisions in consultation with the stakeholders for the betterment of the economy.

**Smog battle: Punjab schools, offices get holiday on Nov 18**

**LAHORE:**

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced Wednesday that schools and offices across the province would remain shut on Saturday (November 18) as the authorities step up their efforts to curb smog.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air today approached 195, considered unhealthy — and during the week it also hit 400, considered hazardous.

Naqvi's announcement at a press conference in the provincial capital days after Lahore High Court's Justice Shahid Karim Monday ordered the government to close all schools and colleges on Saturdays in Punjab as the provincial authorities failed to curb smog.

Pakistan's second-largest city, with a population of 11 million, has been repeatedly ranked the world's most polluted city. People have been advised to stay home and wear masks, with many residents having trouble breathing.

A four-day holiday was observed in smog-hit areas of the province on last week — from Friday to Sunday — and some businesses were also asked to shut down, but later allowed to remain operational as rains had subdued the smog.

"Air pollution is increasing due to smog," Naqvi told journalists, as he pointed out that 90% of the crop burning in winter takes place and 10% in Pakistan — which is a major contributor to smog.

To deal with this, the interim chief minister said farmers will be supported in purchasing modern machinery. "We are taking other measures to curb smog as well."

**Tobacco Harm Reduction strategies can save 1.2 million lives in Pakistan**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Traditional measures for tobacco control have hit a plateau, that is why the right time has arrived to switch to far effective and globally accepted 'tobacco harm reduction' strategies if we wish to save more than 1.2 million precious lives in Pakistan.

The spectrum of THR products reduce toxic exposures by 80% and reduce tobacco-related causes of premature death by 70%.

This was said by a renowned researcher and policy advisor Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Junaid here at a round table discussion titled 'Break Thru Science'

with regard to integrated harm reduction into tobacco control, arranged by 'Irada' at a local hotel.

Referring to a research study launched in London, titled 'Integrating Harm Reduction Into Tobacco Control Pakistan, South Africa, Bangladesh and Kazakhstan, Dr. Rizwan said, "This report aims at providing the policymakers and public health experts with estimates of the potential benefit of tobacco harm reduction.

Key findings of the study indicate that significant lives can be saved in countries like Pakistan, South Africa, Bangladesh and Kazakhstan through the widespread adoption of 'tobacco harm

reduction' strategies and related measures regarding tobacco control policies.

By adopting THR strategies, Kazakhstan could prevent 165000 premature deaths in the next four decades, while South Africa, Bangladesh and Pakistan could save 320000, 920000, and 1200000 lives, respectively. "In Pakistan, the government already possesses the tools for transformation, it only needs to recognize that 'tobacco harm reduction' products which have already been used by 112 million people worldwide, are truly instrumental in resolving this crisis of national loss," Dr. Rizwan concluded.

Dr. Rizwan further added that in the

last two decades, remarkable progress has been made across the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceutical innovation and diagnostics led by private companies and supported in part by leading health research funders like the National Institutes of Health. The result is seen in terms of a range of THR products that have also met the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) criteria of being "appropriate for the protection of public health", he added. It is pertinent to mention that 'Irada' is an initiative to recognize the important role 'tobacco harm reduction' has to play in minimizing the health impact of smoking in Pakistan.

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# Joe Biden and Xi-JinPing's duel on Semiconductors - I

**D**uring an interactive session hosted by the Chinese embassy, Mr. Victor Zhikai Gao, Vice President of the Centre for China and Globalization (CCG), covered several significant Chinese initiatives and projects. He discussed the Belt and Road initiative's impact on partner countries, emphasizing its benefits. Additionally, he highlighted China's rapid progress and development, particularly focusing on the crucial role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in infrastructure, energy, fiber optics, Gwadar port, and airport development.

He added that the US's actions, using its influence to block approximately \$30 billion worth of semiconductor chip exports to China annually, aimed to hinder China's advancements in high-tech domains such as space and military technologies, artificial intelligence, big data management, and quantum computing will eventually fail and underscored the need for collaboration and partnerships in these emerging fields which could potentially propel the world into an unprecedented era of rapid development and prosperity unmatched in history.

Mr. Gao highlighted China's resilience against embargoes, citing the development of their own versions of cell phones and iPhones capable of satellite communication in the highest orbits. He emphasized the revolutionary potential of this technology, envisioning a transformation in global communication and information access. If fully realized, this innovation could expand cell phone coverage to unreachable areas, enhance reliability in emergencies, boost internet speeds, and introduce new services like global roaming and direct device-to-device communication. This advancement promises increased accessibility, reliability, and speed in communication, significantly impacting both lives and the global economy.

As of now, according to Mr. Gao, only Huawei, a Chinese company, has achieved direct communication capability with high-orbit satellites. In contrast, the US and Russia, despite heavy investments in research and development, have focused on different satellite technologies. The US is directing efforts towards "non-geostationary satellites" (NGS), closer to Earth than traditional geostationary ones, while Russia concentrates on "medium Earth orbit" (MEO) satellites, positioned between NGS and low Earth orbits (LEO). Mr. Gao argued that these approaches are inferior to the Chinese strategy on several fronts.

China's cell phone market already holds the global top spot, and the capacity to communicate with high-orbit satellites would provide Chinese cell phone companies a significant edge.

This advantage lies in their ability to offer services worldwide, irrespective of existing cellular networks. Satellites boast higher resilience than cellular towers, ensuring more dependable services, particularly in remote or disaster-prone areas. Moreover, this technology promises faster internet speeds, enabling Chinese cell phone companies to deliver swifter data rates and improved access to online content. Additionally, it opens avenues for novel services like global roaming and direct device-to-device communication, granting these companies a competitive edge over their rivals.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

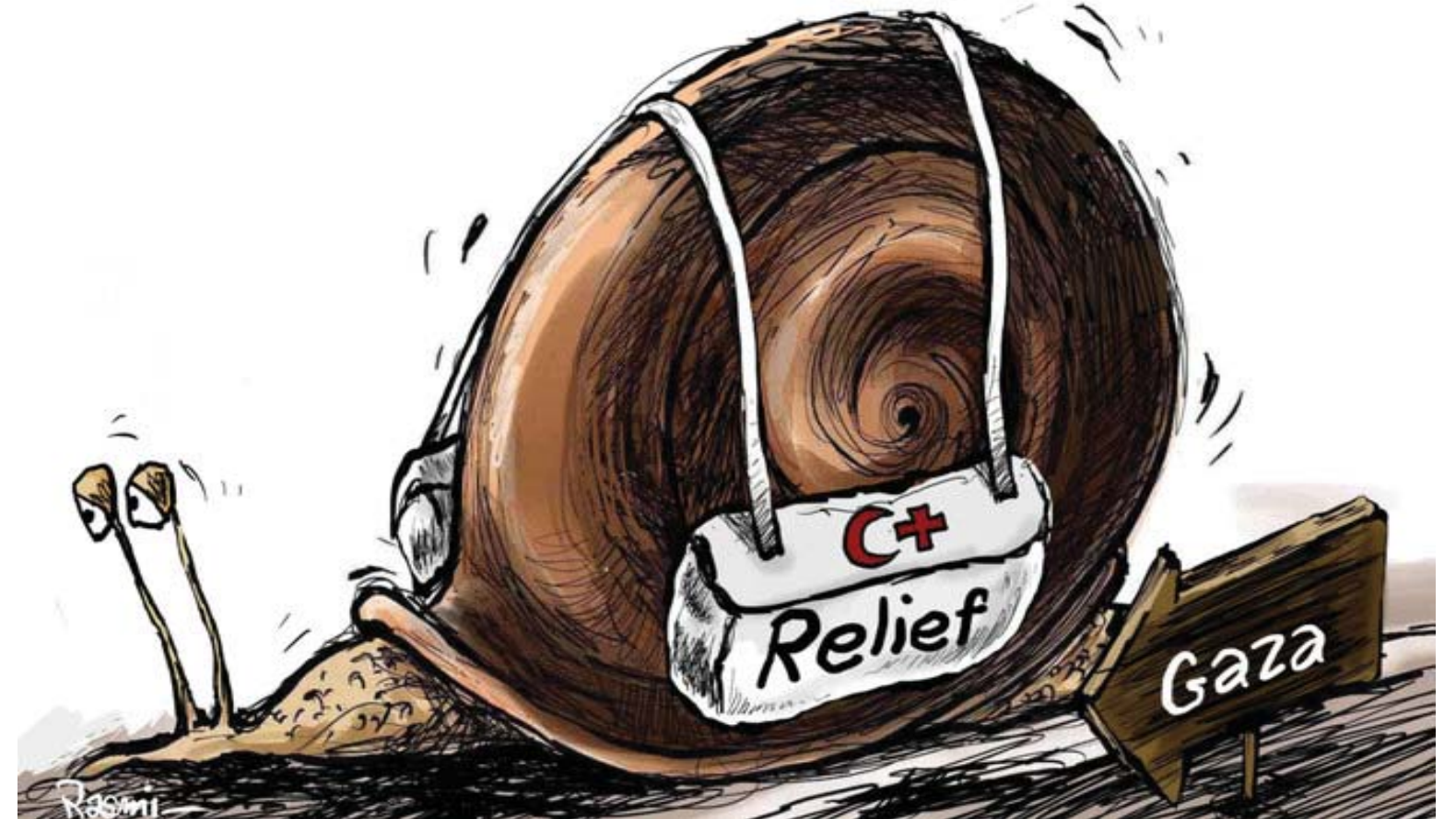
Moreover, Mr. Gao emphasized the futility of traditional warfare between China and the USA. He underscored that despite both countries' military strengths, the crucial battlefronts of this post-modern era would likely unfold in economic domains.

He particularly highlighted the significance of the anticipated summit between US President Mr. Biden and Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping, slated to occur during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings (APEC) in San Francisco, California, on Wednesday, November 15th, 2023. This summit holds immense importance as it marks a pivotal moment where key discussions between the two nations' leaders are expected to transpire.

During his hour-long address, Mr. Victor Gao primarily emphasized that Mr. Xi has in his pocket a lot of bargaining chips; the Chinese supremacy in ideology, economics, trade, and military prowess and its commitment to global peace and development through capital-intensive initiatives launched in collaboration with partner countries worldwide.

Gao noted that undeterred by the embargoes and combined USA, Europe opposition China has embarked on a mission to reduce its dependence on critical and sensitive technologies, notably semiconductor chips.

The upcoming meeting of these influential leaders won't solely revolve around specific contentious issues such as the Taiwan matter, substantial military hard-



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

## UN chief calls for immediate ceasefire in besieged Gaza 'in the name of humanity'

**A**s Israeli military continues to pound Gaza, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has renewed his call for an immediate ceasefire in the besieged enclave "in the name of humanity". In a brief statement issued Tuesday after the collapse of several medical services in Gaza, the UN chief said he was "deeply concerned by the horrible situation in several hospitals" and by "the dramatic loss of life."

Subsequently, and during the daily press conference of his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, confirmed that since Monday, all hospitals in the northern half of the Gaza Strip except one — al-Shifa — where 500 patients remain — have been out of service. The spokesperson said those services had gotten disrupted by the disabling of electrical medical devices resulting from shortage of fuel. On the other hand, the lack of fuel in Gaza — since Israel refuses to allow the entry of gasoline or diesel — has already caused a water distribution plant in the south of the enclave to be out of service on Monday, affecting 100,000 people. Besides, if Israel does not lift its fuel ban, the trucks that now bring in humanitarian aid — 1,096 to date, 150 yesterday alone — will stop entering within 48 hours.. The Israeli Foreign Minister, Eli Cohen, on an official visit to Geneva to pressure international organizations in favor of the release of the hostages in Gaza, assured today that UN Secretary General Guterres "does not deserve to be head of the United Nations". "He has not promoted any peace process in the region," claimed Cohen, accompanied by relatives of hostages kidnapped in Gaza, at a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations, shortly before meeting with the Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Iran, a country that advocates the destruction of Israel, should not be a member of the United Nations, but you can see how Guterres sits with them," Cohen added.

Worldwide protesters have taken to the streets, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, one of protest in San Francisco, Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets of San Francisco, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, as the city prepares to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The gathering took place in the city's downtown on Tuesday evening, with crowds chanting "Genocidal Joe, he must go," according to local media.

According to the San Francisco Standard, some speakers who addressed the demonstrators urged the US — Israel's key supporter — to stop contributing billions of dollars in military aid and instead focus on fighting poverty in America.

The APEC summit, an international forum that includes 21 nations and accounts for around 60% of global GDP, opened on Saturday and is scheduled to wrap up on Friday.

## Elections, negativity and anti-establishment narrative - I

**W**hen we think of the military, our minds often turn to its role in safeguarding national borders and interests abroad. Yet, its significance within a country's internal affairs and stability is equally paramount. Beyond its defense against external threats, the armed forces serve as a fundamental pillar in upholding law, order, and stability within the nation's boundaries.

The foundation of a thriving society rests upon internal security, and the military, with its specialized training and resources, plays a pivotal role in maintaining this stability. During times of crises such as natural disasters, civil unrest, or terrorist threats, the military stands at the ready to offer support and ensure the safety and security of civilians. While internal security matters primarily fall under the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies, the military is often called upon to reinforce these efforts in situations that surpass their capacity. Their expertise, discipline, and logistical capabilities enable them to respond swiftly to emergencies, safeguarding civilians, infrastructure, and institutions.

Additionally, the military plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law by assisting civil authorities in maintaining order, especially in conflict-affected regions or areas threatened by

criminal activities. Their presence acts as a deterrent, deterring potential escalations and providing a sense of security to the populace. Moreover, their expertise extends to safeguarding critical infrastructure and strategic assets, ensuring the continuity of essential services and preventing disruptions during crises. This responsibility also encompasses cybersecurity as the digital landscape becomes increasingly vital to a nation's functioning and security.

In numerous countries, the military significantly contributes to community development and humanitarian aid. They are often at the forefront of relief efforts during natural disasters, providing essential services, medical aid, and logistical support to affected areas. This not only showcases their adaptability but also their commitment to serving the community beyond their traditional defense roles.

The significance of the military in internal affairs goes beyond the physical aspect; their presence symbolizes authority, stability, and unity. It acts as a deterrent against internal conflicts and external interference, thereby fostering an environment conducive to economic development and social progress. The importance of the military for a country's internal affairs cannot be overstated. Their multifaceted role in ensuring security, stability, and resilience forms the backbone of a functional and prosperous society. As guard-

ians of a nation's internal well-being, the armed forces stand as a symbol of safety, preparedness, and service to the community.

The Pakistan Army stands as a multifaceted institution that has significantly influenced the nation's trajectory. Its impact extends well beyond traditional duties of safeguarding borders and ensuring national security, touching various aspects of citizens' lives and the country as a whole.

At its core, the Pakistan Army is tasked with defending the nation against external threats. Its unwavering efforts in upholding national security and safeguarding Pakistan's territorial integrity are unmatched. The sacrifices and steadfast commitment shown during times of conflict stand as a testament to their valor and dedication.

In addition to their defensive role, the Pakistan Army has been a leading force in providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief during crises. Their swift responses and effective management in the face of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and other calamities have been pivotal in saving lives, offering aid, and reconstructing communities.

The Pakistan Army actively engages in diverse development and infrastructure projects across the country. Through initiatives like the Army Welfare Trust and Frontier Works Organization, they have played a pivotal role in constructing roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and critical infrastructure, particularly in remote and underdeveloped regions.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Revolutionising Education: Pakistan's Journey towards Quality Education - II

Fizza Kazmi

**T**he launch of the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2018-2025 demonstrates the country's commitment to education reform and improving learning outcomes.

To ensure the marginalized class receives quality education, the government has launched initiatives such as the National Education for All Program. This program focuses on enrolling out-of-school children, providing them with quality learning opportunities and equal access to educational resources. Furthermore, public-private partnerships have played a significant role in improving the quality of education in Pakistan. Several non-governmental organizations and private institutions have partnered with the government to establish schools and provide innovative teaching techniques and resources, especially in marginalized areas.

Pakistan has also fostered collaborations with various foreign NGOs and countries to enhance its education system. Partnerships with international organizations such as UNESCO and UNICEF have enabled the country to gain valuable insights, resources, and support necessary for upgrading education quality. Organizations such as The Citizens Foundation (TCF) and Alif Laila Book Bus Society have undertaken commendable initiatives to provide quality education to marginalized communities. These initiatives focus on creating conducive learning environments, training teachers, and implementing innovative teaching methodologies.

As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan is actively working towards Goal 4: Quality Education. By aligning strategies and reforms with SDG targets, the country aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, fostering lifelong learning opportunities.

Prominent personalities in Pakistan have voiced their support for quality education, with Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai stating, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world." This powerful quote resonates with the essence of quality education, emphasizing its potential in transforming societies.

To uplift the society's quality of education, a multi-pronged approach needs to be implemented in Pakistan. Firstly, infrastructure development is underway, with the construction of new schools, expansion of existing facilities, and provision of essential educational resources.

Secondly, one of the most effective ways to improve education quality is to embrace modern teaching methodologies. Integrated technologies, such as smart boards, e-learning platforms, and virtual labs, can make lessons more interactive, engaging, and tailored to individual student needs. These tools also encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, preparing students for the demands of the 21st-century workforce. Creating an inclusive education system that supports students of diverse backgrounds and abilities is crucial for improving educational quality. By embracing inclusive practices, schools can provide personalized support for students with special needs, linguistic minorities, and economically disadvan-

tagged backgrounds.

Investing in the professional development of teachers is vital to delivering high-quality education. Ongoing training programs can equip teachers with updated knowledge and teaching techniques, enabling them to create innovative lesson plans that cater to diverse learning styles and abilities. Encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among educators also helps to enhance teaching practices.

Actively involving parents in their child's educational journey can have a significant impact on overall scholastic achievement. Schools can organize regular parent-teacher meetings, workshops, and orientations to keep parents informed about their child's progress and provide guidance on their involvement in their education. This collaboration creates a supportive learning environment that positively influences students' motivation and engagement.

Furthermore, Pakistan is focusing on curriculum reforms to make education more relevant, engaging, and globally competitive. By incorporating critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills into the curriculum, students will be equipped to meet the challenges of the modern world.

In conclusion, Pakistan's journey towards quality education is gaining momentum. Through strategic planning, collaborations with foreign entities, and initiatives targeted at marginalized communities, the nation is making significant progress. By embracing the transformative power of education, Pakistan is revolutionizing its education system to create a brighter future for all its citizens.

# President Alvi urges foreign investors to benefit from country's improved business climate

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday citing the immense potential and opportunities for investment, said Pakistan desired to strengthen cooperation with friendly countries in the fields of investment, culture and tourism.

The president, in a meeting with the honorary consul general's of different countries based in Peshawar, reiterated Pakistan's resolve to enhance trade and investment ties with the friendly countries. He urged the consul general's to strengthen their linkages with Pakistan's chambers of commerce and industries.

The consul general's who met the president included those of Tunisia, Russia, Turkiye, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Japan, Czech Republic, South Korea and Brazil. Delegation led by Ammad Rasheed Dean of Honefy consul general's and consul general of Tunisia

The delegation apprised the president of the role of the honorary consul general's for promotion of international ties and mutual trade.

President Alvi also urged the consul



general's to play their role to attract investment to Pakistan. In the meeting, he also reiterated Pakistan's concerns on the prevailing situation in Gaza and stressed the need for immediate cease-fire.

## Chairman PRCS Strengthens Robust Bilateral Relations in Meeting with Malaysian High Commissioner



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, paid a visit to the Malaysian Embassy in Islamabad, engaging in a substantial meeting with Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan.

The focal point of the discussions centered on the robust relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia, characterized by mutual affection and shared commitment. High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Mazlan commended PRCS for its praiseworthy efforts during emergencies and disasters.

Acknowledging the Pakistan Red Crescent Society's proactive involvement in addressing natural disasters, Malaysian High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Mazlan expressed gratitude for the organization's initiatives during the devastating floods in Pakistan the previous year. He mentioned the collaborative efforts between Malaysia and Malaysian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Mercy Malaysia and Yayasan Taqwa Malaysia to aid families affected by the monsoon floods in Pakistan during that period. While recognizing the dire situation, Chairman Laghari underscored the importance of collaboration, emphasizing its necessity not only during disasters but also in peacetime to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable communities in the country.

PRCS Chairman briefed the Malaysian High Commissioner about his interactions with Malaysian delegates during the Movement Induction Course organized by the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Malaysia last year. During the course, he emphasized the need to strengthen relations between both National Societies for future joint humanitarian collaborations and ventures. Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's rehabilitation efforts, including the construction of permanent shelter houses and the installation of solarized water filtration plants in the affected areas of the country following last year's devastating floods. He proposed collaboration between PRCS and Malaysia on various healthcare and community-based initiatives.

As the meeting concluded, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presented a memento to High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, symbolizing the enduring partnership between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the Malaysian Embassy. Both dignitaries expressed their dedication to further strengthening the bonds that unite the two nations.

# Conference on the 10th Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) held in Karachi

### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Ambassador of China in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated the dedication to improving people's livelihoods, expediting aid funds, boosting Pakistan's exports to China, and achieving year-round operation of the Khunjerab Pass, thus underlining the enduring commitment to the success and prosperity of the CPEC initiative. He was addressing online at the Conference on the 10th anniversary of Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) he Conference was Presided by Yang Yundong Consul General of China in Karachi organized by Adpulse IMC (Pvt) Ltd.

Jiang Zaidong, highlighted the profound impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it commemorates its 10th anniversary. Notably, CPEC has attracted \$25.4 billion in direct investment, generated 236,000 jobs, and played a pivotal role in advancing essential infrastructure, including the development of 510 km of highways and the addition of over 8,000 megawatts of electricity over the past decade.

He said that during the recent third Belt and Road (BR) Forum in Beijing, President Xi Jinping outlined eight significant measures aimed at strengthening high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, outlining a transformative path for global economic growth. This vision encompasses expediting the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Air Silk Road, fostering an inclusive global economy, and supporting both prominent projects and smaller yet impactful livelihood initiatives.

In a momentous presidential address, Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong reinforced the commitment to building a community with a shared future for mankind through the Belt and Road Initiative, marking a decade of progress and paving the way for even more extensive international collaboration in the years to come.

Yundong highlighted the transformative journey of the BRI from a visionary idea to a practical platform for international cooperation. The initiative, proposed by Chinese Pres-



ident Xi Jinping in 2013, has evolved into a beacon of open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial collaboration, involving more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations.

Yundong said the Forum emphasized unity, cooperation, openness, and win-win outcomes, rejecting division, confrontation, isolation, or a zero-sum mentality. Participants committed to a new stage of high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation, focusing on sustainable and resilient infrastructure, the 'Digital Silk Road,' and comprehensive practical cooperation.

Regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Yundong said the first phase was deemed successful, with both countries actively working on the second phase. Yundong emphasized the commitment to an "upgraded version" of the corridor, focusing on growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness. The recent agreements signed during the Forum between China and Pakistan further solidify their cooperation in various sectors, promising substantial benefits for both nations.

Brigadier Haris Nawaz, the Interior

Minister of the Government of Sindh, Highlighting the pivotal role played by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in fostering international cooperation and economic development, the Interior Minister emphasized the importance of the conference as a vital platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations. The event aims to promote regional connectivity, trade, and mutual understanding.

The Interior Minister conveyed his trust that the conference will yield fruitful insights and foster partnerships contributing to the continued success of the Belt and Road Initiative. He emphasized the collective effort to shape a more prosperous and interconnected world.

The "International Conference on the 10th Anniversary of Belt and Road Initiatives" is set to take place in the vibrant city of Karachi and is expected to draw participants and experts from various fields to engage in discussions aimed at advancing regional cooperation and development.

In a welcoming address, Manzar Naqvi acknowledged the significant role of the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) in global infrastructure development over the past decade. He noted that CPEC has become a pivotal force by linking China's western regions to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan. Beyond its physical components of highways, railways, and pipelines, CPEC symbolizes the establishment of a robust economic relationship between the two nations.

A documentary chronicling the decade of the Belt and Road Initiative, produced by Adpulse, was screened during the event, providing insights into the initiative's achievements.

Various prominent figures, including Kaleem Farooqui, Abdul Basit (CEO, GFS Builder), Abdur Rehman (CEO, Siddique Sons), Faisal Hussain (CEO, Organic Meat Company), Seema Mughal (Vice Chancellor, Greenwich University), Asif Sam Sam (Chairman ABAD) and Khurram Jaffrani, addressed the conference. They commended China's role in connecting nations and bridging continents through the Belt and Road Initiative, recognizing its positive impact on fostering international collaboration and economic growth.

# Pakistan ready to showcase its rich tourism potential at China

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: China Outbound Travel & Tourism Mart (COTTM) is regarded as the industry's most important platform and remains the only business to business event that focuses purely on the burgeoning outbound market.

Under the leadership of State Minister for Tourism and SAPM on Youth Affairs Wasi Shah, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) along with eight private stakeholders is participating in China Outbound Travel & Tourism Mart (COTTM) Beijing China from 15 to 17 November. The Pakistan Pavilion at China Outbound Travel & Tourism Market (COTTM) was officially inaugurated by Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi.

While speaking on the occasion Ambassador Khalil Hashmi said that The Pak-China friendship is a robust and enduring alliance that has strengthened diplomatic, economic, and cultural



ties between Pakistan and China. Rooted in shared values and mutual respect, this friendship has flourished over the years, fostering cooperation in various fields. He further said that events like COTTM will help the tour operators of both the countries and will help build

B2B linkages between them.

Mr. Wasi Shah in his statement said that Pakistan's participation in this leading tourism mart will help strengthen the tourism exchange between the two countries and help in developing B2B linkages between the tour operators of both

sides. He further said that the friendship of Pakistan with the brotherly nation of China was stronger than mountains, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey, whereas Pakistan welcomed its Chinese friends to invest with open arms in the country.

Aftab Rana, MD PTDC said that PTDC has sent a delegation of eight tour operator companies and PTDC officials to participate in China Outbound Travel and Tourism Mart which will be greatly helpful to build B2B linkages between the tour operators of both the countries and as result tourist traffic between the two countries will further increase.

He added that China is very important market for Pakistan to attract inbound tourists. The Government of Pakistan and China have declared 2023 as Pak-China Year of Tourism Exchange. PTDC have been working with our Pak Embassy in China and China Embassy in Islamabad to create business to business linkages in tourism sector.

## World Science Day for Peace and Development 2023

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to commemorate 'World Science Day' in Pakistan, UNESCO in collaboration with the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) organized a Convention of Scientists at Pakistan Science Foundation on the 15th November 2023 in Islamabad to raise awareness around the quality and equitability of Pakistan's STEM education system.

Since 2001, World Science Day for Peace and Development, is celebrated to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging and important contemporary issues relevant to science. This year's global theme of the Day is focused on 'Building Trust in Science'.

During the event, in their remarks, Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, Director UNESCO, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig, S. I., Chairman PSF, Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECO Science Foundation, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS and Dr. Abida Raza, Technical Director, National Center of Industrial Biotechnology, PMAS- Arid Agriculture University highlighted the importance of STEM education in Pakistan.

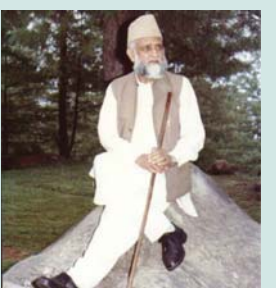
The event was attended by government officials, scientists, researchers, science communicators, and science journalists.

In connection with this year's World Science Day, three interactive sessions for students are organized on 15 and 16 November 2023 at the Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad. These sessions are focused on hands-on activities like extracting DNA from fruits, effective laboratory and science communication, and fun with inertia. These sessions will help to build the interest of students in STEM fields.

## Azad Kashmir PM hails Azad Kashmir's late Mujahid e Awwal

### Bureau Chief

MUZAFFARABAD: Later Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq visited the shrine of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan in Ghaziabad and recited Fatiha. Government Minister Ansir Abdali, Government Adviser Sardar Ahmad Sagheer were also present. On this occasion, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq said that Mujahid e Awwal started the struggle for Kashmir Azadi Movement, the idea of Pakistan's accession, and the stability of Pakistan as a state. His ideologies and thoughts span centuries. The existence of these great personalities is considered as a sign of good fortune for any nation. These people are capital not for any particular area but for the entire humanity. The people of Azad Kashmir are fortunate in the sense that they had the opportunity to benefit from Mujahid e Awwal's wise, loyal and unparalleled leadership for 60 years. He said that Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was not only recognized in Pakistan but also globally, who dedicated his entire life for the right of self-determination, national dignity, statehood, and the idea of joining Pakistan. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan was a fearless, courageous, courageous, audacious and a living example of the philosophy of self-reliance, who united the nation against the Dogra tyranny in the most difficult and unfavorable circumstances and started Jihad for its freedom. He was his example in creating rest, fundamentalism, God-fearing and selfless service and kept burning the freedom movement of Kashmir during his presidency and prime ministership. Ali Khan, Raja Abdul Sattar, Hafiz Abdul Samad, Abdul Sami Abbasi, Raja Abdul Jabbar Khan, Izharul Haq Abbasi, Adeel Abbasi and other Muslim Conference workers were also present on this occasion.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
56,680.06	56,665.93
Day's High	Day's Low
56,846.67	56,433.04
Index Value	Change
18,987,013,328	+14.13
Percentage	Time
+0.02%	15 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,486.91	+46.44
Percentage	Time
+0.62%	15 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,942.22	+114.52
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	15 Nov, 12:10 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,519.70	+823.77
Percentage	Time
+2.52%	15 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	764.66	772.66
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.76	40.16
Danish Krone	41.86	42.26
Euro	307.5	309.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.83	37.18
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.68
Kuwaiti Dinar	932.65	941.65
Malaysian Ringgit	60.97	61.57
New Zealand \$	172.07	174.07
Norwegians Krone	26.39	26.69
Omani Riyal	746.81	754.81
Qatari Riyal	78.99	79.69
Saudi Riyal	76.75	77.5
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.09	27.39
Swiss Franc	322.85	325.35
Thai Bhat	8.08	8.23
U.A.E Dirham	79.4	80.2
UK Pound Sterling	354	357.5
US Dollar	288.5	291

**IMF loan a short-term option**

# Political parties must agree on Charter of Economy before elections: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the IMF loan was a short-term option to save the country from bankruptcy.

The poor and the middle class are forced to bear the entire burden of the IMF conditions as a large portion of the economy remains undocumented, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the inflation has broken the backs of tens of millions of people with no hope for them in sight.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that our taxation system is flawed and the share of direct taxes is very low; therefore, nobles and feudal lords are not burdened by the strict conditions of the IMF.

Non-filers, non-taxpayers, or nominal tax-paying sectors also escaped the effects of strict conditions, and taxpayer sectors have faced the problem, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that, on the one hand, poverty has increased, and the lives of the majority have become difficult, while on the other hand, the wealth of a handful of people has increased at an astonishing speed, and this process is still in full swing.

There was a little talk of change only when the wrong economic choices started to shake the foundations of the country, he said, adding that the IMF was persuaded to lend with great difficulty, but so far, no fundamental progress has been made towards privatizing failed state enterprises and documenting the economy.

The business leader said that the tax system is still imbalanced; those who earn billions of rupees are exempt from paying tax, while those who earn a few thousand pay heavy taxes.



Mian Zahid Hussain said that increased taxes have broken the backs of the people as

well as the tax-paying business sectors, while the continuous increase in the prices of electricity, gas, and oil has compensated for the deficit.

Energy prices have further distressed the poor while rising business costs have threatened the future of agricultural and industrial production and exports in the country, for which it is imperative to reduce business costs.

Mian Zahid Hussain furthered that it is necessary to balance the tax system, to end the undocumented economy, to end the capacity of non-filers, and to sell the failed government institutions immediately.

Fundamental changes in policies should be made to improve the economy, while the time has come for all the political parties to come together on one platform before the election and agree on a charter of the economy so that the confidence of domestic and foreign investors is restored because the country is now quite weak and cannot withstand further economic shocks.

**Swiss delegation visit**

## Swiss investors keen to tie up with Pakistan in herbal medicines

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Switzerland's herbal medicines company Herbamed AG led by its Managing Director Christoph Züllig visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed keen interest to tap the Pakistani market for business collaboration in herbal medicines.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the herbal medicines is a booming industry around the world while its global market is set to reach US\$ 107 billion by the year 2024, therefore, he stressed that Pakistan and Switzerland should develop strong collaboration to share expertise and technology for the manufacturing of herbal medicines to export them around the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director Christoph Züllig, Herbamed AG of Switzerland said that his company is manufacturing herbal medicines for the treatment of various diseases including



hypertension, diabetes, liver problems, stomach problems, fever & common cold, prostrate and many others with no side effects and they want to penetrate the Pakistani market to address the health issues of patients with quality products with no side effects.

Faaz Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI emphasized that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore new business opportunities available in each country.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI

said that Pakistan has great potential for tourism and Switzerland should cooperate with its expertise and technology to improve tourism infrastructure in Pakistan.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President and Secretary General UBG said that Pakistan and Switzerland should organize single country exhibitions in each other country to introduce their products and promote business collaborations.

Nasir Qureshi Senior Member ICCI also highlighted the potential of mutual cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector between the two countries.

**Gas crisis**

## Govt should protect people and economy from the consequences

**Tariq Khattak**

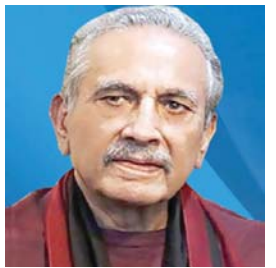
ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Wednesday that after the sharp increase in gas prices, a gas crisis has started across the country, which will intensify next month.

Steps should be taken to deal with it, as the crisis will hurt the masses and hit the economy, he said.

The price of LPG is also skyrocketing, which should be reduced to save people from the annoyance of a harsh winter, he added.

Shahid Rashid Butt, while talking to the businessperson, said that the government should not delay the necessary steps to deal with the natural gas and LPG crises.

He informed that many foreign gas exploration companies have left the country due to discouragement, while the performance



of local companies is unsatisfactory, due to which LNG is being imported by spending substantial foreign exchange.

LNG imports are a drain on scarce resources, but at the same time, they provide some relief to people and industries dependent on gas.

He said that advance agreements are made with international gas supply companies in which the interests of the country are not taken into account. Cancellation of gas supply contracts with international suppliers has become the norm, and a proper mechanism has yet to be put in place to enforce the contract.

## National Skills Passport Initiative to Recognize Migrant Workers

**Commerce desk**

ISLAMABAD: National Skills Passport initiative will prove to be a gateway to obtain recognition of Pakistani migrants, their skills and ensure decent employment opportunities for returnees.

The National Skills Passport provides a comprehensive catalogue of an individual's skills, obtained through formal and informal channels, and provides a migrant worker with documentation of gained qualifications, skills, competencies, and experience in a systematic manner.

The National Skills Passport is linked with the Recognition of Prior Learning platform, which formally assesses, certifies, and recognizes the competencies acquired through informal and unregulated processes.

The Consultation event was jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) here in collaboration with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development (MOPHRD) and was attended by representatives from government departments, employers' and workers' organizations, and development partners, said a press release.

Majyd Aziz, Former President of the Employers' Federation of Pakistan in his keynote address, stated that the National Skills Passport is not just a card, but it is the digital portfolio of an individual to find a decent work opportunity locally and internationally.

Country Director of ILO Geir Tonstol said "We are pleased to acknowledge that the Government of Pakistan has taken commendable steps to protect the rights of migrant workers through digital registration, licensing of overseas employment promoters, authentication of foreign employment, grievance redressal mechanisms and welfare programmes for migrant workers and their families.

Hasnain Mazhar, EFP Director, and Syed Nazir Ali, EFP Secretary General, gave a detailed multimedia presentation on how NSP would function so that it would be user-friendly for workers. They added that this is a unique project for Pakistan and thanked ILO, NAVTTC, MOPHRD and NADRA for their total support.

## Shrimps on sale

KARACHI: A street vendor is selling fishes and shrimps along the road side at Sadr area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# First Safe City project to complete in January 2024: Sindh Home Minister

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home & Prisons Department Brig. (R) Haris Nawaz, has announced to make Karachi Safe City Project functional from January next year which will provide a big relief to the citizens of Karachi from street crimes. The Safe City Project is a must to make Karachi a Safe City. He added that due to the expulsion of illegal immigrants, the crime rate in the city has also come down. He was addressing members of SITE Association of Industry on the occasion of his visit, accompanied by high police officials.

Brig.(R) Haris Nawaz said that COAS is concerned on economic issues of the country. Green Pakistan initia-

tive is one of them. In addition, Mines & Mineral need to explore. We have trillion dollar reserves in various parts of the country such as Quetta, Balochistan, Sindh.

In response to complaints of traffic congestion at Entry/Exit points of SITE, particularly at Nazimabad and Shershah, the Minister issued instructions to clear the road within one week. On the suggestion of Jawed Bilwani, the Minister advised to call a joint meeting of concerned Deputy Commissioners and SSPs in the office of the Association in the next week. The Minister assured full cooperation to the members of the Association.

Earlier, SAI President Muhammad Kamran Arbi, welcoming the Chief Guest, presented a brief introduction

of the SITE area. Briefing on SITE Association Fire Station, he requested the Minister to provide sufficient number of staff required to run SITE Association Fire Station on 24 hours' basis together with the trained firefighters.

Chief Coordinator Saleem Parekh thanked the Minister for sparing time for the meeting and suggested a system of check & balance and also stressed the need to widely publicize the same to ensure continuity of policies.

Speaking on the occasion, Patron-in-Chief Zubair Motiwala drew the attention of the Minister towards unfriendly business atmosphere and in particular, highlighted the power & gas tariff issues. He said that the electricity tariff is touching 62/- per unit and gas



prices have increased by 130 pc. Former President & Chairman of Law & Order sub-committee of the Association Abdul Hadi on this occa-

sion gave detailed briefing on law & order related issues of the area which included increase in crime rate in SITE area during past one year.

## Committee formed for operational readiness of issuance of Govt Debt Securities at PSX

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 15: The Ministry of Finance has formed a committee, comprising experts from the financial sector, to finalize the modalities for the issuance and trading of government securities on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

The Committee, headed by the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Mr. Akif Saeed, is mandated to develop the overall infrastructure, including the required systems and processes with sufficient operational efficiency, transparency, and readi-

ness for the issuance, registration, trading, and transfer of government debt securities through PSX.

The Committee will review and evaluate the operational capabilities of PSX, CDC, and NCCPL and the available infrastructure and trading system for the issuance, registration, and transfer of government debt securities. It will collaborate with all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance, SBP, SECP, and PSX, to provide a seamless integration of existing practices to ensure market integrity and investor protection in trading GDS at PSX.

# Mohammad Hafeez replaces Mickey Arthur as Director Men's cricket team

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The PCB on Wednesday appointed former test captain Mohammad Hafeez as Director of the Pakistan Men's cricket team replacing Mickey Arthur who is likely to be reassigned some coaching role at the National Cricket Academy (NCA).

The change has come in the aftermath of the poor performance of the Pakistan

cricket team in the ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup 2023 in India where the team won four matches out of nine and finished fifth on the points table.

Captain Babar Azam has already stepped down as all-format captain of the team while the PCB has decided to change portfolios of the coaching staff which will work at the NCA.

Mohammad Hafeez has featured for Pakistan in 55 Tests, 218 ODIs and 119



T20Is and has scored 12,780 runs and has taken 253 wickets.

Mohammad Hafeez recently served on the PCB Cricket Technical Committee. The former all-rounder was part of Pakistan Men's team which won the ICC Champions Trophy in England in 2017.

The PCB will announce the new coaching staff for the upcoming series in Australia and New Zealand in due course.

## Shan Masood, Shaheen Shah Afridi appointed test, T20I captains

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The PCB has appointed Shan Masood as the Test captain of Pakistan Men's Cricket Team, while Shaheen Shah Afridi has been named T20I captain.

34-year-old Shan has featured in 30 Tests, scoring 1,597 runs, which includes four centuries and seven half-centuries.

Shan has been appointed captain till the end of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. Shan's first assignment as captain will be a three-match Test series against Australia in Australia starting from 14 December.

Meanwhile, left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah will lead Pakistan Men's Team in the T20I format and his first assignment as captain will be the five-match T20I series in New Zealand from 12 to 21 January. 23-year-old Shaheen has bagged 64 wickets in 52 T20Is. Shaheen has also captained Lahore Qalandars in HBL PSL and has helped the side win the tournament twice in two years in the 2022 and 2023 editions.

Shan and Shaheen were appointed captains after Babar Azam today stepped down from all three formats of the game. Pakistan's captain in the ODI format will be announced in due course.



## Babar Azam steps down as all-format captain

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Babar Azam has decided to step down as all-format captain of the Pakistan Men's cricket team in the aftermath of the poor performance of team in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India under his command.

According to a PCB press release on Wednesday, Babar Azam was offered to continue as Test team captain by the Chairman PCB's Management Committee to which the maestro batter declined and expressed his desire to continue to serve as a batter in all formats for the team.

The PCB press release said, "PCB Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf and Babar Azam met at the PCB headquarters in Lahore today and had a cordial meeting to discuss various aspects and the World Cup performance. Babar was asked to continue as Test captain, while he has been relieved of captaincy in white-ball cricket for him to focus on one format.

After consultation with his family, Babar decided to step down and PCB stands behind his decision."

PCB respects his decision and continues to support him as a player.

Chairman PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf said: "Babar



Azam is truly a world-class player and we want him to continue to thrive as a player. He is one of the best batters Pakistan has ever produced. He is our asset, and we will continue to support him. His batting prowess is a testament to his dedication and skill. He is a role model for the present generation.

"We want to see him grow as a great batter and now without his additional burden of the captaincy, he can focus more on his performances to reach even greater heights. We respect his decision and will continue to back him."

Babar has featured in 49 Tests and

scored 3,772 runs which includes nine centuries and 26 half-centuries.

Similarly, the PCB has also decided to appoint new coaching staff for the upcoming test and T20I series in Australia and New Zealand.

The PCB further said, "The PCB has changed the portfolio of the entire coaching staff including Director Cricket Mickey Arthur. All coaches will continue to work in National Cricket Academy while PCB will announce the new coaching staff in due course for the upcoming series in Australia and New Zealand."

## ITF Pakistan ₹30 World Junior Tennis Championship, 2023



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: "Rising Pakistan tennis player, Ahmed Nael Qureshi outplayed Japanese challenger Toki Adachi 2-0 in the Boys' Singles quarterfinal of the ITF Pakistan ₹30 World Junior Tennis Championships-II 2023 on Wednesday at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad. The final score-line was 6-2, 6-3.

Ahmad Nael Qureshi is the only remaining Pakistani in the Boys' Singles event, after comfortably beating Toki Adachi from Japan in straight sets. Nael played consistently well throughout the match and never let his Japanese opponent take control.

In the Boys' Doubles event, Salar Khan / Mohammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) upset 3rd seeds Hamza Roman / Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) with the score-line of 2-6, 6-4 (10-4) in a closely fought, exciting match.

**Results:**

Boys' Singles (Quarterfinals):  
Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) beat Toki Adachi (JPN) 6-2, 6-3  
Kamonpanyakorn Thadapong (THA) beat Hamid Israr (PAK) 6-3, 6-3  
Yoshito ODA (JPN) beat Mohammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) 6-1, 6-2  
Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Asad Zaman (PAK) 6-2, 6-2

Girls' Singles (Quarterfinals):  
Sajida Razick (SRI) beat Phitchayapak Srimuk (THA) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1  
Bahar Kilic (TUR) beat Saina Jayesh Vaida (SGP) 6-2, 6-2  
Anastasia Melnikova (RUS) beat Madina Omarova (KAZ) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1  
Victoria Sedova (RUS) beat Hinata Wada (JPN) 6-0, 6-0

Boys' Doubles (Quarterfinals):  
Toki Adachi (JPN) / Yoshito ODA (JPN) beat Hamid Israr / Bilal Asim (PAK) 6-4, 6-1

Salar Khan / Mohammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) beat Hamza Roman / Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) 2-6, 6-4 (10-4)

Aahil Kalil (SR) / Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Amir Mazari / Kashan Tariq (PAK) 6-2, 6-1

Girls' Double (Quarterfinals):  
Fatima Ali Raja / Zainab Ali Raja (PAK) beat Aashnika Kasturi (AUS) / Zara Khan (PAK) 6-1, 6-0

Bihar Kilic (TUR) / Saajida Razick (SRI) beat Sheeza Sajid / Soha Ali (PAK) 6-1, 6-0

Victoria Sedova (RUS) / Anastasia Melnikova (RSU) beat Madina Omarova (KAZ) / Hinata WADA (JPN) 6-4, 6-3

Venuli Senari (SR) / Srimuk (THA) beat Amna Ali Qayum (PAK) / Saina Jayesh (SGP) 2-6, 6-4 (10-2)."

## PSL Governing Council meeting held on Tuesday



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: A meeting of the HBL Pakistan Super League governing council was held today at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore. The meeting was chaired by Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee.

All six HBL PSL franchisees were represented along with PCB officials who engaged in a fruitful and detailed discussion on a wide range of issues including the HBL PSL9 edition's operational and logistical matters and the draft of HBL PSL9 which is tentatively scheduled to take place in mid-December immediately after the conclusion of National T20 Cup.

With the general election announced to take place in February 2024, it was unanimously agreed that formal advice be expeditiously sought from the government of Pakistan concerning finalising the exact dates for the HBL PSL9.

Franchisees also urged the PCB to accelerate the process for the sale of PSL Media rights.

## 47th Aibak Polo Cup



**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Master Paints and Pebble Breaker triumphed over their opponents in the gripping encounters of the Patrons 47th Aibak Polo Cup here at the Lahore Polo Club grounds on Wednesday.

In the opening match of the day, Master Paints clinched a narrow victory against DS/Sheikho Steel, with a final score of 9-8½. Iranian polo sensation Amirreza Behboudi showcased exceptional skills, netting all nine goals for Master Paints. On the opposing side, Argentina's Nicholas Roberts demonstrated his prowess by converting all eight goals for DS Polo/Sheikho Steel.

The second match of the day proved to be a nail-biter as Pebble Breaker secured a hard-fought win against Barry's Polo with a scoreline of 6½-5. Abdul Rehman Monnoo led the charge with three goals, while Bilal Haye contributed two, and Agha Musa Ali Khan added one for Pebble Breaker, which held a half-goal handicap advantage. Raja Jalal Arslan notched three goals, and Ibrahim Khalil scored a brace for Barry's Polo.

Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, accompanied by executive committee members, players and their families, graced the event, witnessing the enthralling and exciting polo matches.

## Pak cueists grab silver, bronze medals in World Snooker C'ship

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueist Ahsan Ramzan lost to Michael Georgiou of Cyprus in the final of the IBSF World 6 Red Snooker Championship 2023 at Doha, Qatar on Wednesday. Michael downed Ahsan Ramzan by 6-4 (22-36, 39-7(39), 30-37, 34-26(34), 13-48(31), 33-22, 12-50, 47-06, 71-0(71), 41-20) in the final.

Meanwhile, earlier in the semifinals, Ahsan downed Ali Alobaidli of Qatar by 6-4 (57-0, 35-32, 41-10, 12-43, 35-18, 14-39, 14-31, 0-46(36), 37-25, 41-01) and Michael beat Pakistan's Muhammad Naseem Akhtar by 6-5 (65-0(64), 06-42(33), 39-22(33), 68-0(68), 25-44, 67-0(67), 0-40, 4-44, 46-08(37), 0-45(41), 32-24). Ahsan bagged a silver while Naseem won a bronze medal in the World 6 Red Snooker Championship.

## National Basketball Championship to commence from Nov 20

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The National Basketball Championship for Men 2023 is slated to be held from November 20 to 24 at the Government College University (GCU) Lahore under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF).

# India thump New Zealand to reach ICC World Cup 2023 final

**A Sports**

MUMBAI: Batting maestro Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer's magnificent hundreds, followed by Mohammed Shami's seven-fer propelled India to defeat New Zealand by 70 runs and qualify for the ICC World Cup 2023 final.

Set to chase a daunting 398-run target, New Zealand's batting lineup unfolded in the penultimate over and could score 327 in response despite Daryl Mitchell's 134.

New Zealand got off to an unwanted start to a daunting pursuit as they lost both their openers Devon Conway (13) and Rachin Ravindra (13) inside eight overs with just 39 runs on the board.

Daryl Mitchell and skipper Kane Williamson kept the Blackcaps in the run chase despite the early debacle as the pair put together a 181-run partnership for the third wicket.

The third-wicket partnership put the Indian bowlers under pressure before Mohammed Shami returned to the attack and removed the New Zealand captain in the 33rd over.

He scored 69 in 73 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries and a six.

New Zealand then suffered another blow to their pursuit when Shami struck again to remove Tom Latham for a two-ball duck in the same over.

Mitchell then joined forces with Glenn Phillips to add 75 runs for the fifth wicket but Jasprit Bumrah broke the threatening partnership by dismissing the latter, who scored a brisk 41.

Phillips' 33-ball knock featured four boundaries and two sixes.

Mohammed Shami then put New Zealand further to the backfoot by getting rid of Mark Chapman (2) before putting a final nail in the coffin by claiming the prized scalp of Mitchell.

Daryl Mitchell top-scored for New Zealand with a gutsy 134 in 119 deliveries, laced up with nine boundaries and seven sixes.

Indian bowlers then ran through New Zealand's lower order and bundled out the former runners-up for 327 in 48.5 overs.

Mohammed Shami led the bowling attack for India with brilliant figures of 7/57 in 9.5 overs while Kuldeep Yadav, Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj made one scalp each.

Rohit Sharma once again provided India with a blistering start after winning the toss scoring 47 runs off 29 balls featuring four boundaries and as many sixes.

He departed in the ninth over, bowled by Tim Southee with 71 runs on the board as Kane Williamson took a magnificent catch to dismiss his Indian counterpart.

Virat Kohli joined Shubman Gill and together they knitted a solid



93-run partnership from 86 balls before Gill was retired hurt due to cramps.

Shreyas Iyer then joined Virat Kohli and they ran riot against New Zealand bowlers, adding 163 runs from 128

balls for the second wicket.

Virat Kohli broke two records during the partnership as went past Sachin Tendulkar's 673 runs in the 2003 World Cup to score the most runs in a single edition of the World

Cup with 701 runs.

Virat Kohli also became the first batter to score 50 centuries in ODI cricket leaving behind Sachin Tendulkar with 49 centuries.

Virat Kohli's record-breaking innings ended on the final ball of the 44th over by Tim Southee as Devon Conway pocketed a low catch at deep square leg.

He scored a total of 117 runs off 113 balls, featuring nine boundaries and two sixes.

Shreyas Iyer also scored a century, scoring a brisk 105 runs from 70 balls, with the help of four boundaries and eight sixes.

KL Rahul remained not out at 39 off 20, to see India reach a mammoth 397 runs in their allocated 50 overs.

Tim Southee topped the wickets chart for New Zealand with three wickets, however, he conceded 100 runs from his ten overs, while Trent Boult picked one wicket for 86 runs.

## Israeli brutality

Gaza: People mourn as they stand behind a metal fence before the burial of victims killed in an Israeli bombardment in Khan Younis.



## Israeli occupation army storms the Al-Shifa Hospital complex



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Affairs and Expatriates calls for raising the level of international reactions to the storming of hospitals and imposing deterrent international sanctions on the occupying state.

Netanyahu underestimates international reactions and brags about storming the Shifa Medical Complex. The invasion of the Shifa complex tests the ability and credibility of the UN Security Council to impose a ceasefire.

Warns of the dangers of the occupation army singling out the Shifa Medical Complex and its consequences.

The Ministry reaffirms that the occupation army's storming of the Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza is a blatant and heinous violation of international law, and warns of the consequences of the occupation army creating misleading fabrications about the reality of the hospital to distort the humanitarian service it provides, especially since the occupation army had stormed Al-Rantisi Hospital and tried to plant evidence to They prove that the hospital was being used for military purposes with the aim of negating the protection guaranteed by international law.

And here are the occupation soldiers, and about 20 hours ago they entered the hospital and were moving alone inside it without anyone accompanying them and without anyone knowing what they did or were doing and what equipment or weapons they brought with them to claim that they had found them, and all the hospital facilities are completely closed.

No one can move between these facilities, and there are snipers and weapons that shoot at anyone who moves except for the Israeli soldiers. Even the medical teams and the hospital administration do not know where the invading soldiers

are and what they have been doing all this time. Currently, the occupation soldiers are detaining civilians in the Al-Shifa Complex and using them as human shields. We have not heard from those parties that rushed to confirm the Israeli allegations regarding Al-Shifa Hospital any confirmation that the hospital is free of any hostage detention or use for military purposes. Unfortunately, these parties do not have the courage or audacity to admit their mistakes, and they still insist on either ignoring the facts or repeating lies, as they have done repeatedly on previous occasions that our memories still preserve.

The Ministry believes that while statements rejecting the storming of hospitals, specifically Al-Shifa, began to be issued by some countries, Netanyahu responded to everyone, including those countries that have not yet issued their statements, that countries asked him not to storm Al-Shifa, and now he is storming it. In other words, he says: Say what you want and I will do what I want. This is evidence that this level of international reaction is not effective or sufficient to deter Netanyahu or prevent him from storming not only Shifa, but any other hospital.

The Ministry calls for raising the level of reactions, including thinking about imposing international or individual sanctions, or thinking about going to the International Criminal Court and submitting referrals against Netanyahu and the rest of the Israeli officials, or agreeing on a draft resolution in the Security Council that imposes a ceasefire and binds everyone to it.

The Ministry stresses that what is important is to break free from the self-control that countries have surrounded themselves with and to think about taking deterrent measures that stop Netanyahu at the limits of his commitment to international humanitarian law and the law of war.

## ML-1 to become favorable transit route for region: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said the Main Line (ML-1) railway project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove a favourable transit route for countries in the region. The prime minister vowed to complete ML-1 on a priority basis, saying the project would also improve connectivity between the country's seaports with its economic zones.

Chairing a meeting to discuss ML-1 here at the PM House, the prime minister said the project would contribute to the improvement of communication network in the coun-



try. PM Kakar said there existed huge potential for foreign investment in Pakistan Railways and stressed the need for early materialization of its projects. He stressed meeting the targets of the project

within stipulated time and directed the formulation of a comprehensive reform strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximize the benefits of the ML-1. Emphasizing transparency in the implementation

of ML-1, he said, the project would result in the creation of new employment opportunities and reduced travel time and freight rates. The meeting was told that the ML-1 project was in its final stage of modal-

ities and its ground-breaking would be performed by early next year. The project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood will be upgraded as per international standards. In the next phase, the 796-kilometre-long rail track from Multan to Peshawar will be laid in line with the requirements of the future. The meeting was attended by caretaker federal ministers including Shamshad Akhtar and Sami Saeed, PM's Adviser Ahad Khan, PM's Special Assistant Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the ministries concerned.

## UK marks King Charles III's birthday with climate themed event

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission in Islamabad hosted the first 'King's Birthday Party' since 1951, marking His Majesty, King Charles III's 75th birthday. Utilised as a 'national day' by the UK, the event had an environment and climate change theme. This was reflective of both the King's interests and the high priority given to this work by the UK.

Speaking to an audience of over 700 high profile attendees, including the Chief Guest Foreign Minister, Jalil

Abbas Jilani, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, outlined the depth of UK-Pakistan cooperation on the environment and climate change. Noting that since the 2022 floods, the UK has more than doubled investment in climate finance, and climate resilience and adaptation in Pakistan.

Jane Marriott also used the occasion to announce the start of two new climate related initiatives. This included the start of phase two of the UK's Climate Finance Accelerator Programme, which



will see eight innovative Pakistani-based projects receive technical support to help them find private investment to tackle

climate-related issues. As well as a new programme to expand a piloted AI-based 'Early Warning Forest Fire Detection System'

to cover more forested areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa as well as the Federal Capital Territory, which will help protect lives, jobs, livelihoods and Pakistan's biodiversity.

UK High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott CMG OBE said the following:

"With terrible conflicts occurring around the world, international focus on climate change is being tested. However, with COP28 just round the corner, and with time not on our side, it is essential that conversations and actions on climate change continue."

## China's Vice Foreign Minister meets with Ambassador Hashmi

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong met with Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi.

Sun Weidong welcomed Ambassador Hashmi to China to assume his new post, according to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Wednesday. The two sides had an exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest and concern and agreed to follow through on the important common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

## Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production Mr. Gohar Ijaz, Minister for Privatisation Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad, Minister for IT & Telecommunications Mr. Umar Saif, Minister for Power and Petroleum Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister for Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed, Advisor to PM on Finance Mr. Waqar Masood, Chairman SECP, Federal



Secretaries, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries.

The ECC considered a summary of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, & Coordination regarding the "Approval of Increase in Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of 262 Drugs under hardship Category as recommended by DPC in its 56th and 57th Meetings." The ECC, after detailed discussion and deliberation, asked the

Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination to come up by Tuesday next, with well-informed and well-considered recommendations involving a proper and judicious analysis of the pricing mechanism. The ECC also asked the Ministry to engage with the provincial health departments and ensure the finalization of its recommendations in a rational, balanced and rule-based manner addressing the concerns of the industry and protecting the interests of the ailing consumers already facing inflationary pressures.

The ECC also considered a summary submitted by the Ministry of Industries and Production for import

of 200 KMT Urea fertilizer for the Rabi season. The ECC decided that the option of import of fertilizer through government-to-government arrangement be explored in the first instance. The ECC also decided to transfer the Entire Cash Credit Limit along with accrued markup to National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) with provinces to pick up the cost of import.

The ECC further considered and approved a summary submitted by Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) for provision of funds worth Rs. 423.726 million as technical supplementary grant for PSDP projects of the Petroleum Division.

## Elections crucial for democratic continuity and stability: NA Speaker

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Perviz Ashraf stated on Wednesday that elections are pivotal for the continuity and stability of democracy and for strengthening democratic norms. He emphasized that elections provide people with an opportunity to choose their true representatives.

On November 16, 1988, the Pakistani nation chose the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) in general elections, and Mohtarama Shaheed

Benazir Bhutto was elected as the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added. He underscored, "PPP believes in the power granted by the people and always respects the people's choice." Speaker National Assembly Raja Perviz Ashraf also said that Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto made unmatched sacrifices for the continuity of the democratic process in Pakistan. He highlighted that the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law are also essential for inculcating democratic norms in any society. Furthermore, the Speaker added, "Free and fair elections would ensure effective governance in every society."

## China continues to play constructive role to achieve lasting peace between Palestine-Israel: Mao Ning



BEIJING: China will continue to work with relevant parties to play a constructive role in achieving lasting peace between Palestine and Israel through the "two-state solution," she added. About the situation in Gaza, she said that the Chinese side is worried and sad about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

As the rotating president of the Security Council this month, China will comply with the call of the international community, strengthen coordination with relevant parties, especially Arab countries, uphold justice, build consensus, and promote the Security Council to take responsible measures to de-escalate conflicts, protect civilians, ease the humanitarian situation, and restore the peace process. Responsibility and meaningful action, she added.

ue to work with relevant parties to play a positive and constructive role in efforts to cease fire and war, de-escalate conflicts, ease the humanitarian situation, and ultimately achieve lasting peace between Palestine and Israel through the "two-state solution," she added. About the situation in Gaza, she said that the Chinese side is worried and sad about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

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