



## General elections: Bilawal asks masses to give him a chance

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday appealed to the masses to give him a chance in the general elections 2024 to serve them. This he said while addressing a public gathering in Abbottabad as part of the election campaign. "It is better to give me a chance rather than making people prime minister for second or fourth time," the PPP chairman said.



## Mrs. Dilsad Senol expresses gratitude to Turkiye and Pakistan for their consistent support

The Embassy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) hosted a grand reception commemorating its 40th anniversary. Mrs. Dilsad Senol, the TRNC's Representative in Islamabad, and her husband, Akyn Can Senol, warmly welcomed esteemed guests. (Details on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Meeting



# PM directs all stakeholders to pursue SIFC initiatives to reap dividends

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed all the stakeholders to vigorously pursue the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) initiatives through a collaborative approach to reap the dividend in short to medium terms, besides initiating processes for long term endeavours in the larger national interest.

The prime minister said this while chairing the 7th meeting of the Apex Committee of SIFC that was attended by the Chief of Army Staff, members of the federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers and high level government officials.

The meeting was held to review various initiatives being led through the SIFC forum, a PM Office press release said.

In the meeting, the ministries presented progress on projects identified in key sectors and gave plans to further improve the ecosystem for realizing the envisaged investments in a timely manner.

The committee showed extreme satisfaction on overall progress under the umbrella of SIFC, appreciated the enhancing level of engagements with friendly countries, both public and private entities, and the outreach strategy to proactively engage investors' community, which was translating in enhanced traction and approvals at domestic and global stages.

It reviewed progress on various measures undertaken to improve investment climate and approved policy level interventions to further improve investors' confidence including repatriation of profits, strengthening domestic dispute resolution mechanism, infrastructural and human resource development, and speedy operationalization of EXIM Bank.

The committee also directed to make a comprehensive strategy to address oil and gas issues in a sustainable manner by investing in relevant industries.

The apex body reviewed and appreciated the progress on privatization of State-Owned Enterprises and directed to keep the process at fast pace.

The Chief of Army Staff reassured undaunted resolve of the Pakistan Army to backstop government initiatives in various domains for sustainable recovery of the economy.

## Soldier martyred, four terrorists killed in two KP IBOs: ISPR

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed four terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the general area of Badaber, Peshawar District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Thursday.

According to the ISPR, the security forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which 4 terrorists were killed, including a high-value terrorist Samiullah, terrorist commander Salman, terrorist Imran and terrorist Hazrat Umar, who were highly wanted by Law Enforcement Agencies.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including extortion and target killings in the area.

'DI Khan operation'

In another operation conducted in general area Kula-chi, Dera Ismail Khan District, Lance Naik Muhammad Ejaz Khan embraced martyrdom. He was a resident of Bagh, Azad Kashmir.

On Wednesday, security forces killed seven terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Tank district, ISPR said.

Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Kiri Machan Khel area of the Tank district on the night of November 14-15 following the reported presence of terrorists.

An intense fire exchange took place between the security forces and terrorists, as a result of which seven terrorists were killed, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Terrorist hide-outs were also busted during the operation.

## Solangi to represent Pakistan at Maldives President's oath-taking ceremony

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday left Islamabad for Maldives to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to take place on November 17 in the Maldives.

According to a news statement, the caretaker information minister will represent Pakistan at the oath-taking ceremony of the President of Maldives in line with the directives of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

On the occasion, the minister will also hold meetings with different international leaders.

## IHC extends stay against trial of PTI chief in cipher case

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday extended until November 20 the stay against the trial of the former prime minister in the cipher case.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand.

During today's hearing, the court approved an extension in the stay order on the request of Imran Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja until Monday, November 20. In another development today, the former prime minister approached the Supreme Court (SC), seeking post-arrest bail in missing cipher case.

# Pakistan's economy revives after IMF agreement and reforms: Dr Shamshad

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economic activities have been restored following the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the successful implementation of reforms, Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar said on Thursday. In a media interaction, she said the reforms also led to the improvement of the business environment besides boosting the investors' confidence.

She said The government would continue its efforts to achieve the stability of the overall economy and balanced growth, by reducing debts and carrying out development priorities as well as governance reforms in government enterprises. She told the media that a staff-level agreement was reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday that would later be approved by the IMF Executive Board in the coming days.

In the financial year, under the Kafalat Cash Transfer Programme, stipends will be provided to 9.3 lakh families. The Finance Minister said that under the stand-by agreement, it has been agreed to reduce costs in the energy sector and restore efficiency in the sector. The circular debt of the power and gas sectors has crossed 4 per cent of our Gross National Product (GNP). Urgent action is needed to bring it down. We have started work in this regard and electricity and gas rates have been adjusted, she said that continuing the exchange rate policy based on market dynamics and increasing foreign exchange reserves are among our priorities. She said the government's priorities included a dynamic and accommodating monetary policy to bring inflation back to its target. She said that the process of governance reforms in government enterprises would continue to further improve the business environment, promote investment and create job opportunities.

## Pakistan condemns Israeli bombardment near Jordanian field hospital in Gaza

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the bombardment by Israeli Occupation Forces in the surroundings of a Jordanian field hospital in occupied Gaza, resulting in injuries to seven Jordanian staff members. "This inhumane attack is the latest in a series of attacks on hospitals and medical facilities in Gaza and constitutes a war crime and a flagrant violation of International law," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

She said that Pakistan joined the call for a thorough investigation into the said barbaric incident and other attacks on medical facilities in Gaza and for holding the occupation forces accountable for the war crimes being perpetrated in the occupied Palestinian territories. "The international community must urgently intervene to bring an end to the atrocities being committed in Gaza and for an immediate ceasefire to protect civilian lives and infrastructure," she remarked.

## Pakistan has informed IMF regarding the review of the power tariff

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: She said the government would continue its efforts to achieve the stability of the overall economy and balanced growth, by reducing debts and carrying out development priorities as well as governance reforms in government enterprises.

After the staff-level agreement, Pakistan will receive about 70 million US dollars, after which the amount of assistance to Pakistan under the IMF programme will reach about 1.9 billion dollars.

Under this agreement, "we have made several successful reforms in the last few months that have revived economic activities, through our initiatives. The business-friendly environment improved investor confidence and Pakistan also received support from international partners after these reforms.

## 7th Silk Road International Exposition kicks off in China's Xi'an

**Spokesman Report**

BELJING: The 7th Silk Road International Exposition (SRIE) opened Thursday in Xi'an, the capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, with high-standard opening-up and high-quality development on the agenda. Themed "Trade Expansion, Interconnectivity, Mutual Prosperity," this year's exposition features six thematic exhibitions spread over an area of 72,000 square meters.

Since its launch, the SRIE has achieved fruitful results in building a highland of reform and opening up and promoting the large-scale development of China's western region in the new era. The previous six expositions domestic joint projects reached \$45.4 billion and over 8 trillion yuan, respectively. During this year's SRIE, many international and domestic conferences, forums and series of activities will be held, including the opening ceremony and Silk Road Economic Belt International Cooperation Forum, guest of honor province activities, Silk Road Expo key project promotion conferences and centralized signing ceremonies. This year's SRIE has added, for the first time, an exhibition area for the five Central Asian countries, an exhibition area for international friendly cities in Shaanxi Province, an exhibition area for major foreign cooperation projects.



# UN Women's and US Government launch Punjab's First Anti-Rape Crisis cell

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: As part of the U. S.-funded Tahaffuz program, the Health Department of the Government of Punjab with the technical assistance of UN Women launched Punjab's first Anti-Rape Crisis Cell (ARCC) at Nishtar Medical University Hospital.

Anti-Rape Crisis Cells reflect a collective effort to address sexual violence and empower survivors to seek justice and healing. The facility will serve as a vital resource center, offering a range of services to survivors, including medical and psychological support, legal aid, and counselling. ARCC will operate twenty-four hours a day with proper security. Pakistan's first-ever Anti-Rape Crisis Cell was launched with the support of the United States and the technical assistance of UN Women at Karachi Police Surgeon's Office in August this year.

The establishment of this much-needed facility in Multan marks a crucial step forward in the pursuit of justice and support for survivors of sexual assault. U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome underscored the U. S. government's support for the fight against



sexual violence and in advocating for the protection of survivors' rights in Pakistan. "I commend the government of Punjab and UN Women for establishing the Anti-Rape Crisis Cell. Sexual violence is not only a local concern but a global issue that demands collective action. The international community

stands in solidarity with the efforts to combat sexual violence and provide survivors with the necessary resources for recovery and justice."

Captain (R) Saqib Zafar, Additional Chief Secretary, South Punjab emphasized the Pakistani government's dedication to eradicating sexual violence and

providing comprehensive support to survivors.

UN Women Pakistan Country Representative Sharmeela Rassool in her address highlighted the significance of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells as the bedrock of consolidated services for rape survivors. "Anti-Rape Crisis Cells serve as essential pillars in our collective efforts to combat sexual violence and ensure the rights and the well-being of rape survivors. By providing consolidated services and support, these cells play a pivotal role in empowering survivors to reclaim their lives and seek justice."

Prof. Dr Javed Akram, the caretaker Minister of Health, Punjab, commented that the ARCC facility in Multan reflects the government's focus on uplifting South Punjab. "Today, as we gather to inaugurate Punjab's first Anti-Rape Crisis Cell in South Punjab, we commemorate a significant milestone in our relentless pursuit of justice and safety for all citizens. The establishment of this Crisis Cell is a testament to the dedication of our government and the collaboration of various stakeholders in our ongoing battle against sexual violence."

## Mud pots

ISLAMABAD: People are buying traditional mud pots from shop at Golra area in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Minister of Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik visits MTBC, Bagh Grammar School

**Berou Report**

BAGH: Minister Higher Education Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Zafar Iqbal Malik visited MTBC and Bagh Grammar School. Minister Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik congratulated MTBC for getting the Kashmir Airline license and said that MTBC is rendering excellent services in promoting tourism, IT and other



sectors in Azad Kashmir. The promotion of tourism is very important in terms of increasing the income of Azad Kash-

mir, the government in this regard has also kept tourism in its priorities. Promotion of the sector is inevitable. While

giving a briefing on this occasion, Director Public Relations Zartif Badshah said that under public private partnership, various projects are being worked on in the fields of tourism, education, communication and IT. Mr Zafar Iqbal Malik was also made to visit different departments of the school. Minister of Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik also visited Bagh Grammar School Minister of Higher Education Zafar

Iqbal Malik while talking to the media during his visit to Bagh Grammar School said that Bagh Grammar School is a unique institution of its kind and a modern institution. An atmosphere of competition will be created in the near future from such institutions which is a good growth. Director General education Colleges Kh. Abdul Rehman and other officials were also present on the occasion.

# Saud Khan Wazir Agriculture Officer SW completed PhD degree

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: Saud Khan Agriculture Officer South Waziristan completed his PhD degree under the Supervision of Prof Dr. Inam Ullah from Agronomy department of the university of Agriculture Peshawar on "Grain quality and yield enhancement of durum wheat using different priming sources and foliar zinc application at various growth stages".

Pakistan's population is urbanizing at the fastest pace in the world with an estimated rate of about 1.8% annually. Due to increasing demand for durum wheat products like pasta, macaroni and spaghetti especially among children and women, the introduction of durum wheat enriched with zinc may resolve the



problem of food security, food diversity and zinc deficiency in this huge segment of our population. Two prominent professors from Germany and Turkey evaluated the thesis. The Defense Seminar was arranged at the Main labray VCR room on

14-Nov-2023. The public Defence was Attend by distinguished professors Chairman Agronomy Dr. Habib Akbar, Director Farm

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arif and other faculty members and students. Supervision of Prof Dr. Inamullah

from Agronomy department of the university of Agriculture Peshawar on "Grain quality and yield enhancement of durum wheat using different priming sources and foliar zinc application at various growth stages".

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## People's Party only option for a safe and strong Pakistan

**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Ishrat Hasan, leader of Pakistan People's Party Hyderabad has said that People's Party is the only option for a safe and strong Pakistan, now Bilawal Bhutto will become the Prime Minister. Talking to The Spokesman Newspaper, Ishrat Hasan said that the country needs the political wisdom of Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto at this time, because only the People's Party has the ability to bring the country out of political and economic crises. PPP leader Ishrat Hasan claimed that the popularity of PPP among the people has increased and said that PPP has more public support than before, which is due to record development work and public relations. The PPP leader further said that those who say that PPP does not have public support should watch Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Mithi Event. The historic gathering of people made it clear that people want to see Bilawal Bhutto as the Prime Minister.



## Prime Minister announces 30 projects for Azad Kashmir

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet Development Committee was held here today with Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq in the chair. Besides the cabinet members, the meeting was attended by chief secretary, secretaries and officials of the planning and development department. During the meeting, 30 projects costing more than 15 billion rupees were brought under consideration. Under the Tameer e Kashmir program, a network of roads measuring 816 kilometers and 3 new bridges would be constructed in 28 constituencies at a cost of 14 billion rupees. Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq said that building better road infrastructure and providing the provision of quality education and healthcare facilities were the coalition government's top priorities. He directed the concerned departments to ensure a transparent and timely completion of these projects. The Prime Minister said that the construction of roads will promote tourism in Azad Kashmir and provide the best travel facilities for the people. The Prime Minister said that fair distribution of funds in all the constituencies of the state would be ensured. He asked the relevant authorities to prepare development plans keeping in mind the needs of the people. He said that there would be no compromise on the quality of work and transparency. E-tendering, he said, would be ensured to bring transparency in the execution of projects. He said that the government would use all resources for the welfare and prosperity of the people. The construction of roads will provide the best travel facilities in Azad Kashmir. The prime minister also directed the ministers and all other concerned authorities to ensure effective monitoring of development projects. He also stressed the need for effective on-spot monitoring of the projects. He said that all stakeholders have to keep checks and balances to maintain quality, standard and transparency.

## Development & prosperity of Waziristan is among the top priority of KP Govt: Caretaker Minister

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for commerce, Industries and Crafts and Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah visited South Waziristan Lower on Thursday.

During his one-day visit, the caretaker minister attended a grand jirga of tribal elders, elected representatives and youth at district headquarters Wana as chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan, District Police Officer Farmanullah and heads of all line departments participated in the Jirga.

On this occasion, the officials of the district administration and the police department gave a detailed briefing to the supervising provincial minister regarding the status of development projects in Lower South Waziristan district, government measures to solve public problems and other related issues including law and order.

The caretaker minister also had a special meeting with the elders and youth of South Waziristan Lower district during his visit, while they inquired about the public problems faced at the local level.

## Azad Kashmir minister announces study on water and sanitation policies at Muzaffarabad

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: A seminar was held under the auspices of the Local Government and Rural Development and the Department of Physical Planning and Housing at AJK capital Muzaffarabad. A consultation workshop was held with the support of UNICEF and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources regarding the editing of water and sanitation policies. In the workshop, clean water supply and basic sanitation For the promotion of sanitation facilities, UNICEF, a subsidiary of the United Nations, gave a detailed presentation on Azad Kashmir and informed the participants of the event in detail about the problems arising due to water and sanitation in Azad Kashmir.

Addressing the participants on this occasion, Azad Kashmir Government Spokesperson and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan said that the policies of water and sanitation sectors will be completed by the end of December 2023 for the supply of clean drinking water and the future planning is determined in these policies. Priority will be given. He said that opinions and suggestions of all schools of thought are being included in the editing of the policy.

Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan said that the teachings of the Quran are a beacon for us, the government's priority is to ensure the protection of public health. He also thanked the UNICEF team and said that the



Azad Kashmir government is ready to provide all possible assistance for policy formulation and legislation. Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Shahid Mohiuddin Qadri said in his speech at the ceremony that we appreciate the role of UNICEF for public welfare. There is a dire need for public awareness regarding sanitation and clean water.

He said that scholars, teachers can play their role for the awareness of the community. Secretary PPH Bashir Mughal also thanked the guests and highlighted the effectiveness of the UNICEF program and said that such policy initiatives are very important for public health and collective welfare. He expressed his determination to implement these projects with the support of UNICEF. It is to be remembered that after the eighteenth amendment, these policies have been edited in all the provinces and these policies have been edited to achieve the global development goals. It is very important. Earlier, these advisory workshops have been successfully completed in Poonch Division and Mirpur Division.





Islamabad

15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:14 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
Cantment 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	9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

IRSA releases 93,600 cusecs water



ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 93,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 49,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1509.86 feet and was 109.86 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 24,400 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.85 feet, which was 138.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,200 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 60,300, 47,700, 36,000 and 7,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,400 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Turkish Cyprus celebrating 40th anniversary of foundation

# Mrs. Dilsad Senol expresses gratitude to Turkiye and Pakistan for their consistent support



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) hosted a grand reception commemorating its 40th anniversary. Mrs. Dilsad Senol, the TRNC's Representative in Islamabad, and her husband, Akyn Can Penol, warmly welcomed esteemed guests.

Distinguished attendees included Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defense Committee, Faisal Karim Kundi, Minister of State for the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety of Pakistan, Ms. Kashmala Tariq, Federal Ombudsman for Harassment against Women, Senator Dr. Shehzad Waseem, Former Minister Nisar Memon, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi diplomats, businessmen, media personalities, and Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, the Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan.

The ceremony featured a cake-cutting ceremony follow-

ing the national anthems of both Pakistan and TRNC.

During her speech, Mrs. Dilsad Senol, the TRNC Representative, reflected on the declaration of independence made by the Turkish Cypriot people four decades ago. She emphasized their resilience in preserving their political will and existence despite attempts to suppress them on the island of Cyprus. She highlighted the significant progress made by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in democracy, economy, social equality, human rights, higher education, and tourism, positioning the nation as a prominent figure in the Eastern Mediterranean.

She said "Today, I take pride in highlighting the substantial progress the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has achieved in various domains, including democracy, economy, social equality, and human rights. Our nation stands at the forefront of the Eastern Mediterranean in higher education and tourism, two pivotal sectors driving our economy. As

already an observer member of the Organisation of Islamic Countries as well as Economic Cooperation Organisation, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus lastly joined hands and hearts with the Organisation of Turkic States in 2022, which is a rising international actor".

Mrs Dilsad said turning to the Cyprus issue, it is a well-known fact that many efforts have been made and failed over the past five decades through numerous rounds of United Nations facilitated negotiations, despite the continuous good will and constructive approach shown by the Turkish Cypriot side. These efforts aimed at reaching an agreement under a "bi-zonal and bi-communal federation" based on political equality of the two sides. The last-ditch effort in this direction ended with no result in Crans Montana in 2017 due to Greek Cypriot reluctance to share power and prosperity with the co-owners of the island, the Turkish Cypriot people. This proved one more time that trying



to reach a solution with the existing parameters is yielding no results.

In line with the calls made by UN Secretary General "to think outside the box", we have tabled our new vision regarding the solution of Cyprus issue at the 5+UN informal meeting in Geneva in April 2021, which would bring the much-needed stability, security and cooperation in and around our island with a win-win approach.

The essence of our proposal is to secure the inherent sovereign equality and equal international status of the State of the Turkish Cypriot people, which would constitute a new basis for the parties to start formal negotiations for a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable cooperative relationship. Experience in the past negotiations undoubtedly suggests that establishing equilibrium between the two sides, prior to probable formal negotiations is a prerequisite.

This is the only way to rectify decades of injustice done against the Turkish Cypriot people. The injustice serves no purpose but treats the Greek Cypriot side as if it represents the entire island and allows it to perpetuate the status quo at the expense of the Turkish Cypriot people who live under isolation. It is a mere fact that, even today, the Greek



Cypriot side continues its efforts to obstruct the Turkish Cypriot people from engaging in relations with the international community, even in the fields of sports, culture, education, health and similar humanitarian fields.

In this context, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of our Motherland Turkiye, has made a historical speech at the United Nations General Assembly last year calling on the international community to put an end to the unjust persecution of the Turkish Cypriot People who are being isolated from the rest of the world with restrictions which clearly run counter to United Nations principles, and to formally recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

President Erdoğan repeated this call at the 78th UN General Assembly meeting two months ago and urged the international community to recognize TRNC's sovereignty and establish diplomatic, political, and economic ties. This is a true reflection of the support given to our realistic approach by our motherland Turkiye.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, H. E. Mr. Tahsin Ertugruloğlu, also emphasizes at every platform and I quote: "The Cyprus issue has been on the agenda of the international community for

almost 60 years now and it is so, because the whole issue has been misdiagnosed. The Cyprus issue is an issue of status. The type of negotiations that would bring results can be between the two equals, two existing States on the island, based on their sovereign equality and equal international status".

It is high time for the international community to abandon the unjust and inhumane isolations imposed against Turkish Cypriot people and acknowledge their inherent rights.

It is high time for the recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

On behalf of the Turkish Cypriot People, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to our motherland, Republic of Turkiye, for her unwavering support to our country as well as the brotherly state of Pakistan for her all-time support in our cause.

On this meaningful occasion, may Allah Almighty rest the souls of our martyrs who gave their lives for the independence of the Turkish Cypriots and I would like to express our respect and gratitude to all our Veterans.

Thank you for gracing our reception with your presence. I wish you all an enjoyable evening. HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY!

Photos by Raja Farid

## Mari Petroleum signs MoU with KUFPEC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) is pleased to announce that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) K. S. C. C to collaborate, jointly evaluate, and participate in bidding for selected blocks both in and outside Pakistan in addition to evaluation of potential farm-in opportunities.

The MoU also covers to explore synergies to conduct joint studies for identified countries/regions and form a technical hub of specialist to provide expert opinions and suggest solutions for exploration, subsurface and drilling operations. The parties have also agreed to strengthen strategic relationships, technical capabilities and knowl-



edge transfer between them through potential secondment opportunities in each other offices and fields at their own cost. This MoU is a part of

MPCL's strategy to collaborate with leading E&P companies to increase its exploration acreage, reserves replacement ratio and maximize shareholder's value. This strategy is a part

of the ultimate goal to meet the country's increasing energy demand from indigenous resources and lowering the burden of imported fuels on the national economy.

## NUTECH and SSST Establish Academic Cooperation to Foster Scholarly Exchange program

SARAJEVO: National University of Technology (NUTECH) and Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance academic collaboration and promote scholarly exchange between the two institutions.



The MoU aims to establish a foundation for academic cooperation in various domains, including higher education, skills development, and research. The institutions will collaborate on joint industry projects and products, facilitating the development of advanced technologies such as Information & Communication Technology, Biomedical Technology, Nanotechnology, and Industrial Automation. NUTECH and SSST will work together to nurture the growth of skilled professionals in areas of mutual interest, promoting capacity-building through the exchange of professors and research scholars. The institutions will focus on the development of state-of-the-art laboratories, libraries, and academic programs at NUTECH, creating an enriching environment for students and faculty.

The MoU between NUTECH and SSST will remain valid for a period of five years from the last signature date below. Any amendments or renewals to this agreement will be decided through joint discussions and formalized in writing, signed by both institutions. This academic collaboration embodies a strong commitment to promoting academic excellence, research innovation, and international cooperation.

## Global warming

Ghulam Muhammad Khan

It is a standing problem of the whole world now days. No one can do anything about it, especially the whole word Astronomers. What is the cause of Global warming? No Astronomer is able to find it, why? Though it is not difficult. The Astronomers contention about the sun as stationary is not true.

According to their Astronomy books they say that the sun is moving round some other solar system of the universe is also not true. My observation since 1980 have found that, the earth is stationary and is revolving round-it's Axis at standing fixed position and completes its circle in 24 hours. I found no change at all in its position up till now. Similarly the sun is moving round the earth and completes its cir in 365.25 days in one year.

Everything was moving perfectly; but about 13 years ago Sun changed its fixed movement path and started moving laterally also north of the earth continuously, and is still moving. The previous fixed positions of the sun have changed which were for the shortest day and the longest day of the year.

The sun is very far away; it moves only four (4) minutes in 24 hours from the earth, No instrument can be used to find the movement of the sun; by observation only one can find the sun movement. To find that the sun has changed its fixed movement path. I will suggest the Astronomers to act on two methods. Number one is to check the Equatorial line on earth.

Number two method is when you see a bigger star after sunset, As the sun moves from west to east of earth; you wait till the sun come near the star; it will disappear in the sun light when the sun passes ahead by the star it take a long time about month; you will see the east that the star has come out first and after that you will see the sun.

God has compelled the sun to move towards the north also of the earth. That is why the north side of the earth becomes warm. I don't know what the intention of God is.

(Writer is Civil Engineer and Captain(R) Pakistan Army Engineer Corps)

## NCRC and IRC commemorate Universal Children's Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Universal Children's Day is an annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the convention on the rights of child. Children's rights are human rights. But in too many places today, children's rights are under threat.



International Rescue Committee (IRC), in collaboration with National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), hosted a multi-stakeholder national consultation on how Climate Change is impacting children of Pakistan in commemoration of Universal Children's Day 2023, under the glob-

al theme of "For every child, Every Right".

Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC in her opening remarks noted that the impact of climate change on children

is a matter that demands our collective attention, and today's consultation provides a platform for us to engage in a meaningful dialogue, share insights, and develop strate-

gies that will resonate beyond this room.

The Guest of Honor Khalil George, Caretaker Minister for Human Rights in his keynote speech opined that

Universal Children's Day holds particular significance for Pakistan as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in ensuring the rights and well-being of every child. Our commitment to the rights of unregistered children must go beyond rhetoric.

The panel discussion was moderated by prominent child rights expert Arshad Mahmood and featured eminent speakers such as Shabnam Baloch (Country Director-IRC), Gohar Khan (Chief Projects Officer NADRA), Izza Farrakh (Senior Education Specialist World Bank) and Dr Naem Zafar (Mental Health & Child Rights Expert).



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# North Korea's Alleged Support for Hamas

**Haqifa Nasir**

North Korea has found itself entangled in Israel-Palestinian conflicts. North Korea has officially stated that it supports the Palestinian cause and also accused Israel of escalating conflict with Palestinian group Hamas. According to the Israel ceaseless criminal action against Palestinians has led to the incident of 7th October 2023, when Hamas surprise attacked Israel. The article by Rodong Simmun clearly states that "The international community calls the conflict the consequence of Israel's ceaseless criminal actions against the people of Palestine. The fundamental solution is an independent Palestinian state."

At the beginning of this conflict, it appeared like North Korea had military links with Hamas. Reporters were informed by a representative of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff that it seemed as though North Korea manufactured the high-explosive fragmentation rockets utilized in the October 7 attacks. However, the diplomat did not say if North Korea supplied the rockets directly or through agreements with other countries. According to the official, the JCS also hypothesized that artillery shells discovered close to the Israeli border following the assaults were exported from North Korea but it denied all the allegations.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said on Friday (13 October 2023) that American media outlets were propagating "a groundless and false rumor" about the weaponry, despite North Korea's denial that Hamas had utilized its weapons against Israel. Regardless of denial, on the 5th of November North Korea criticized the US for its military support for Israel, and Kim Jong Un, the country's supreme leader, also ordered to find a way to support Palestinians, including by selling weapons to Middle East militant groups, the Wall Street Journal reported.

In an unexpected endorsement, senior Hamas official Ali Baraka commended Kim Jong Un, declaring him as the sole figure globally capable of launching a strike against the United States. Baraka's praise was voiced during a recent interview with a Lebanese YouTube channel, SpotShot, as reported by the Middle East Research Institute. According to Baraka, North Korea, led by Kim Jong Un, holds a unique position and might eventually intervene, emphasizing a potential alliance between the two nations.

According to Baraka, Russia maintains daily contact with Hamas, and a delegation from Hamas has visited Moscow and is scheduled to visit Beijing and Iran shortly. Although Iran is an ally of Hamas, it cannot strike America; if it chooses to intervene, it could target American bases in the region or Israel, provided that the US explicitly expands its intervention. Michael O'Hanlon,

senior fellow of The Brookings Institution's foreign policy department, on the other hand, stated, "I don't take these comments very seriously because Kim Jong-Un is not going to risk his neck to help Hamas. Vice President David Maxwell of the Center for Asia Pacific Strategy told RFA that Pyongyang was decrying the United States of America through the Gaza war and that a joint attack by Hamas and North Korea was improbable. This, according to North Korea, "is part of its normal blackmail diplomacy."

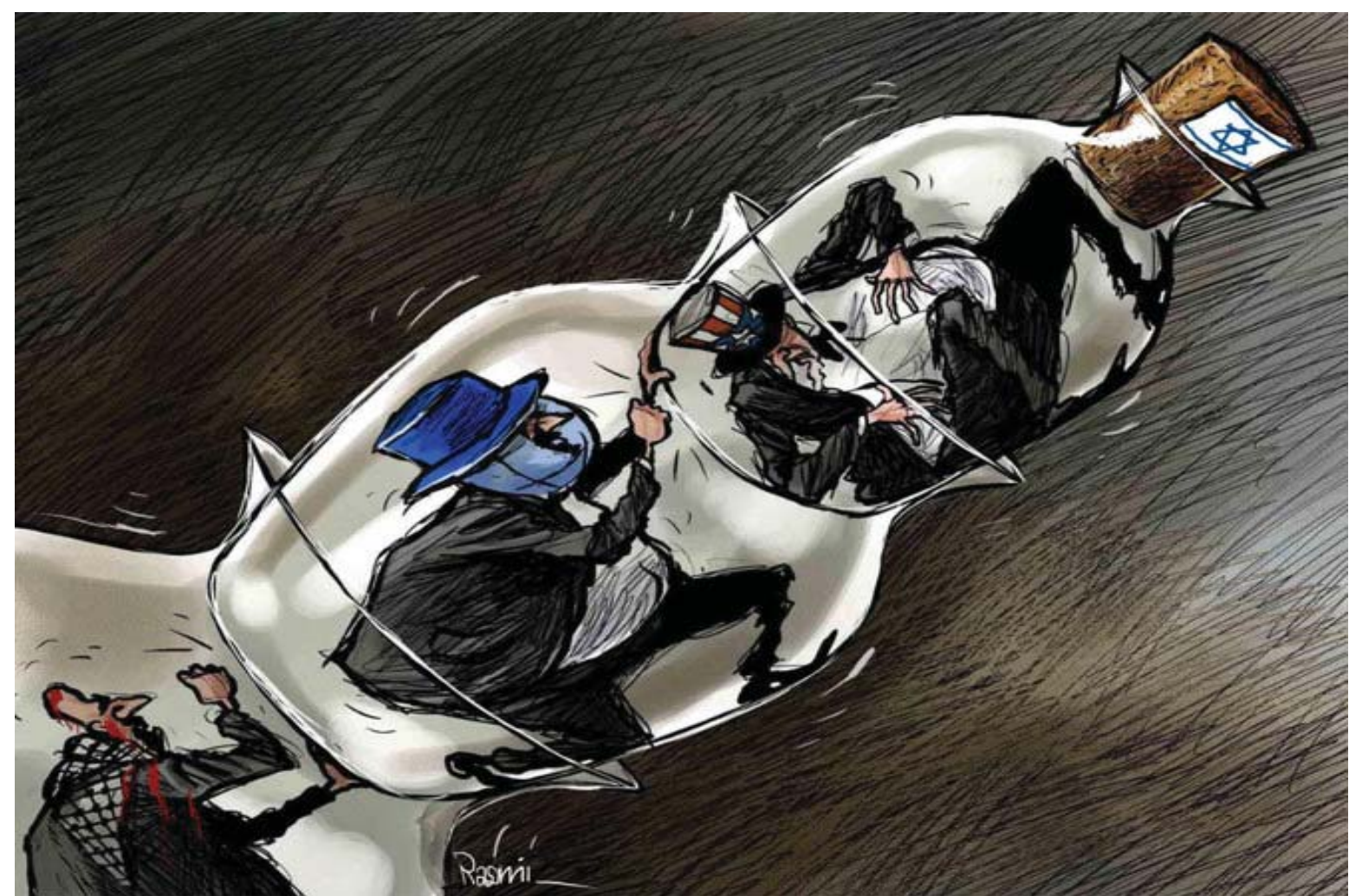
Although Pyongyang has little interest in the Hamas cause, it seeks to limit the United States by being the enemy's friend, according to Patrick M. Cronin, the Asia-Pacific security chair at the Hudson Institute, who stated that North Korea's cooperation with Hamas still constitutes a threat.

But the question raised here is this, Did North Korea help Hamas in the attack? It could be possible that North Korea assisted Hamas in Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against Israel. As the photos from the conflict showed Hamas militants may be using North Korean weapons, including possible F-7 rocket-propelled grenades. But Bruce Bechtol, a professor at Angelo State University in Texas, who has researched North Korea's arms sales said "Hamas using the F-7 for several years. This could be new supplies or from previous shipments going back as far as 2009," and also added that might have received indirectly from Iran or Syria.

The North's official KCNA news agency called the claims of its weapons being used in the attacks "a groundless and false rumor".

But soon on 5th November North Korea openly criticized the United States for its military support for Israel and also ordered to find a way to support Palestinians, including by selling weapons to Middle East militant groups shows that North Korea might have helped Hamas on 7th October attack. The similar weapons, the doubts, taking an open stance, and Hamas's official praises show that North Korea might have provided weapons and support in this devastating attack. North Korea wanted to challenge the power of the US, but individually it was unequal in power and tough challenge but now the Palestinian cause has brought many countries together to stand against the US (the hegemon). Maybe it was a joint plan by Hamas and North Korea, to create this chaos to ally with other countries against the US. The only way they might have considered to challenge US power was bandwagoning. This could be witnessed too that it is taking place as many states have raised voices for the cause of Palestinians and challenging the US. This might be soon let down by the US as it has its strategies but till now it (bandwagoning) is working.

*Writer is student of International Relations in Fatima Jinnah Women University.*



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

## BRI's 10th Anniversary launched in Suzhou, China

Wind Rises from Jiangnan – Suzhou Story Shining on the Silk Road, International Online Communication Activity for the 10th Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been officially launched in Taicang, Suzhou, China. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As an important node city of the Belt and Road, Suzhou, which has deep culture and openness with distinguishing characteristics, has actively integrated into and fully participated in the construction of the Belt and Road, and its cooperation and exchanges with cooperative partners have been expanding over the past ten years.

This activity started with setting sail of Zheng He from Taicang, which will travel along the Silk Road to many countries, focusing on the friendly cooperation between Suzhou and Germany, performing the "marriage of a thousand miles" in industrial cooperation; focusing on the cultural exchanges between Suzhou and Pakistan, presenting a new chapter of ancient charm based on the beauty of the civilization of the World Heritage Sites; stepping into Indonesia to see 'Made in Suzhou' how to help Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway; and travelling to Hungary for a marvelous blend of traditional Kunqu Opera and Hungarian Western music.

"Through four thematic dialogues with BRI partners, it will see the new paths that Suzhou has opened up in international cooperation based on the Belt and Road"

Through four thematic dialogues with BRI partners, it will see the new paths that Suzhou has opened up in international cooperation based on the Belt and Road. This activity will also invite Chinese and foreign mainstream media, domestic and international internet celebrities to promote with multi-perspective and all-media, tell the world the real stories about BRI with the help of camera language and vivid illustrations, in order to demonstrate unity and mutual trust, equality and mutual benefit, tolerance and mutual understanding, win-win cooperation, deliver Suzhou's unique style and new outlook to the world and let the world experience the interaction of industry, humanities, intelligent manufacturing and art between Suzhou and BRI partners.

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

Their contributions extend globally, with participation in numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions, earning international recognition for their efforts in conflict zones, aiding in maintaining peace and stability.

Furthermore, the Pakistan Army is committed to providing education and healthcare facilities to the populace. Establishing schools and colleges, especially in areas lacking educational resources, and operating military hospitals serving both military personnel and civilians, exemplify their dedication to the public welfare.

Their involvement in various social services and community development projects, including vocational training, employment opportunities, and support for marginalized communities, has significantly improved livelihoods and promoted social unity.

The Pakistan Army's contributions surpass their core defense responsibilities, significantly shaping the nation's progress and well-being. Their dedication to national defense, humanitarian aid, developmental endeavors, and community service underscores their commitment to the advancement of Pakistan.

Recognizing their commendable contributions, it's vital to emphasize the necessity for a balance between the military's functions and the supremacy

of civilian governance. While the army's efforts are crucial, they align with democratic principles, ensuring that the military operates within the scope of civilian oversight and upholds the rule of law.

The Pakistani establishment serves as an unbiased overseer and protector of the electoral process's integrity. Their presence aids in preventing electoral fraud, coercion, or irregularities, thereby maintaining the fairness and transparency of elections. It's essential to emphasize that the Establishment's

participation in elections adheres to the country's laws and operates under civilian oversight. Their role remains non-partisan, solely focused on ensuring the integrity and smooth operation of the electoral process, respecting the will of the people and the democratic principles of the nation. The armed forces' role in facilitating seamless elections is invaluable. Their contributions to ensuring security, stability, logistical support, and safeguarding the democratic process are crucial in upholding democratic principles and enabling citizens to freely and safely exercise their right to vote. Their dedication to the sanctity of the electoral process fortifies the pillars of a robust and healthy democracy.

Additionally, the Pakistani Establishment is staunchly committed to remaining neutral. It's imperative for our politicians to understand this reality. There has been a tendency among politicians to seek support from the establish-

ment to win elections. However, when the establishment exhibits neutrality, some elements tend to blame the forces. One political party targeted both civilian and military installations, and when higher authorities opted for military court proceedings, they began speaking against the Army. Our Army Chief and the Pakistan Army have played a significant role in the country's economic revival for the first time. The dollar rate has decreased, anti-smuggling measures have been initiated, the SIFC has been setup, and an agricultural revolution is underway, with equal contributions from our Army Chief and the Pakistan Army.

Readers, it's crucial for everyone to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our Army to the nation. Under the leadership of COAS General Asim Munir, our Army is wholeheartedly committed to maintaining neutrality, a stance that should be comprehended by all segments of our society. The Army has pivotal professional responsibilities, and involving them in controversies isn't constructive. The nation comprehends this reality and will reject the Anti-Establishment Narrative in the forthcoming elections. The people clearly discern who is right and who is wrong. By rejecting anti-state elements, the nation will exhibit its maturity. Our Army is a source of pride for the nation, and the free and secure environment we live in is due to the sacrifices of our brave Army. Efforts to create divisions between the people and the Army will falter, and the country will progress towards prosperity through the collaborative efforts of all societal pillars.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

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

Beyond the economic advantages, advancing cell phone technology for direct satellite communication would significantly decrease China's reliance on foreign tech, fostering greater self-sufficiency. It offers a new avenue for communication within China's military and security apparatus, amplifying its global influence and providing an alternative method to assert power and influence worldwide, yielding numerous economic, strategic, and security benefits.

Moreover, China's mesmerizing strides in research and development transcend conventional boundaries. Their pursuit is poised to revolutionize human endeavors, catapulting humanity into an era of unimaginable progress and development. These efforts hold the potential to entirely transform current practices and methodologies.

In particular, China's substantial investment in quantum computing, leveraging semiconductor technology, is noteworthy. Their focus spans from creating qubits (the fundamental units of information for quantum computers) to developing the intricate circuits linking these qubits and the software essential for quantum computer operations. This commitment signifies an acceleration toward a technological frontier that could redefine the very fabric of human innovation and achievement.

China's robust investment in quantum computing is driven by the belief that it will revolutionize diverse indus-

tries like medicine, finance, and artificial intelligence. The potential applications span from developing groundbreaking drugs to refining financial algorithms and enhancing AI systems. Despite the complexity and challenges inherent in developing quantum computers, China's heavy investment stems from the immense rewards it foresees, positioning itself to lead in this realm for years to come.

Semiconductors and quantum computing stand as pivotal technologies crucial for the future global economy and military capabilities. As a result, both the US and China are significantly investing in their development, leading to strained relations between the two nations.

The US expresses concerns about China's alleged intellectual property theft and potential military utilization of these technologies. Conversely, China is apprehensive about the US's attempts to constrain its ascendancy and maintain its technological edge.

China perceives these actions as hindrances to its economic growth and aspirations of becoming a global technology leader. This mutual unease has contributed to strained relations between the two countries in these critical technological domains.

To reconcile their disparities in semiconductors and quantum computers, the

US and China could initiate collaborative measures. Establishing a joint working group to define shared standards and regulations is a key starting point.

Transparency in research and development is vital, necessitating enhanced public disclosure of programs. Implementing a hotline to report intellectual property theft and agreeing on a moratorium for military use of these technologies could mitigate conflicts. Cooperation requires joint efforts despite challenges, offering substantial benefits compelling both nations to pursue collaboration.

Resolving differences and moving away from antagonistic stances between the US and China holds immense global significance. Their partnership has the potential to drive innovation, propel technological advancements, and foster progress across industries, benefiting not just their populations but also advancing global development.

Collaboration could effectively address critical global challenges like climate change, public health crises, and sustainable development. Moreover, a cooperative stance could ease geopolitical tensions, reducing broader repercussions across regions. This collaboration will also set a precedent for other countries which will help in promoting a more unified global community founded on shared interests and mutual respect.

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



**China-US relations**

# Xi calls on China, US to build together five pillars for bilateral relations

Xinhua

SAN FRANCISCO: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called on China and the United States to assume a new vision and build together five pillars for bilateral relations.

China and the United States should jointly develop a right perception, Xi said during his meeting with U. S. President Joe Biden at Filoli Estate in the U. S. state of California.

China is consistently committed to having a stable, healthy and sustainable relationship with the United States, and China has interests that must be safeguarded, principles that must be upheld, and red lines that must not be crossed, Xi said, expressing hope that the two countries could be partners that respect each other and coexist in peace.

China and the United States should manage disagreements effectively, Xi said. Disagreements should not be a chasm that keeps the two countries apart, he stressed, adding that instead, the two sides should look for ways to build bridges to help them walk toward each other.

It is important that they appreciate each other's principles and red lines, and refrain from flip-flopping, being provocative, and crossing the lines, said



the Chinese president.

They should have more communication, more dialogues and more consultations, and calmly handle their differences as well as accidents, Xi added.

China and the United States should jointly advance mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said. The two countries have broad common interests in a wide range of areas, including traditional areas such as the economy, trade and agriculture, as well as emerging

areas such as climate change and artificial intelligence (AI), he said.

Under the current circumstances, the common interests of the two countries have not decreased, but increased, Xi said.

It is important to fully utilize the restored and new mechanisms in foreign policy, economy, finance, commerce, agriculture and other fields, and carry out cooperation in such areas as counternarcotics, judicial and law

enforcement affairs, AI, and science and technology, he added.

Xi also called on China and the United States to jointly shoulder responsibilities as major countries. The problems facing human society cannot be solved without cooperation between major countries, Xi said.

China and the United States should lead by example, step up coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues, and provide more public goods for the world, he said.

The two sides should keep their initiatives open to each other, or coordinate and connect them for synergy, to benefit the world, Xi added.

Meanwhile, the Chinese president urged China and the United States to jointly promote people-to-people exchanges. The two sides should increase flights, advance tourism cooperation, expand subnational exchanges, strengthen educational cooperation and cooperation on affairs related to the disabled, reduce negative factors that hinder people-to-people exchanges, and encourage and support greater interactions and communication between their people, so as to consolidate the foundation for the healthy development of China-U. S. relations, Xi said.

**Celebrations**

## 75th Anniversary of Establishing Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and Belgium

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Belgium celebrate the historic landmark of the 75th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations this year. The Joint Communique, issued on November 26, 1947, encapsulates the decision of the two governments to accept respective diplomatic missions "to strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual interest." Following the historic decision, the two countries opened diplomatic missions in 1948.



It is a proud moment, as the goals outlined 75 years ago paved the way for a strong bond of friendship.

The upward trajectory of our relations is deeply embedded in people-to-people linkages and frequent high-level contacts at the leadership level. The institution of Bilateral Political Consultation provides a strong foundation for a multifaceted dialogue that holds the potential to deepen this longstanding bilateral relationship. The robust trade between the countries has witnessed continuous growth to mutual benefit.

The depth of bilateral relations encompasses the spirit of solidarity and support demonstrated during times of need, such as disaster management to mitigate natural calamities.

The relationship between Belgium and Pakistan is forward-looking, as both countries are committed to working together on multilateral fora to address common challenges, such as sustainable development and climate change, as well as fundamental values, such as democracy and human rights, providing strength to these relations.

As we celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, we reiterate our commitment to work together towards shaping a better world for future generations.

**Visit**

## Scholars and journalists from 14 Arab countries made a special visit to Xinjiang Islamic Institute!

Haroon Qureshi!

CHINA: On the special invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 20 delegates from 14 Arab countries came to China, headed by Dr. Wasim Maulana, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Syria and journalists. Wherever the delegates went during the visit, the Chinese language was translated into English and Arabic simultaneously. Here Xinjiang Muslims are taught religious education, culture, Islamic history, jurisprudence and interpretation of the Holy Quran and Arabic language. For which China's central government provides most of its revenue. The city of Urumqi is located in the heart of the Uighur region in Xinjiang, northwestern China. The city's name means "good pasture". It is located in a fertile oasis along the northern slopes of the eastern Tien Shan mountain range. As per the scheduled program, when the team arrived at the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, the president of the institute and the vice president of the Islamic Union of Xinjiang Region, Abdul Raqib Tamerniaz, warmly welcomed the delegates. And detailed about the Xinjiang Islamic Institute. Abdul Raqib Taymarniaz himself is a graduate of Al-Azhar University. Tamerniaz told about the history of the institute that the old institute was established in Urumqi city as it was opened in 1987 and due to the increase of students who wanted to study Islamic religion we opened the new institute in the year 2017.



Elaborating further, he said that it cost about 20 million yuan to develop, all of which was paid for by the central government of China. The new institute has an area of about 150,000 square meters and includes 270 rooms for students including their residences. The institute has all the modern facilities in a restaurant and sports ground. A newly designed beautiful mosque has been constructed which has capacity for 1000 worshipers to sit and pray at a time. Where all religious issues are resolved according to Islamic principles except for Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha prayers with five daily prayers. A new thing has been seen here, special machines have been placed to enter the mosque, which is plastic coated on the shoes of the pilgrims entering. You can enter the mosque without taking off your shoes.

# For China and U. S., one's success is an opportunity for the other

Xinhua

BEIJING: Against the picturesque backdrop of the Filoli Estate in the U. S. state of California on Wednesday, a high-stakes meeting captured the world's attention.

In a significant rendezvous, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U. S. counterpart, Joe Biden, have had their first vis-a-vis sit-down since their handshake in Bali, Indonesia, last year.

The two heads of state delved into strategic and overarching issues critical to the direction of China-U. S. relations, and on major issues affecting world peace and development.

Head-of-state diplomacy is the compass and anchor of China-U. S. relations. As the two presidents met, the two countries, as well as the rest of the international community are watching with expecting eyes.

The China-U. S. relationship, the most important bilateral relationship in the world, has kept moving forward amid twists and turns.

For two large countries like China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option. It is unrealistic for one side to remodel



the other, and conflict and confrontation have unbearable consequences for both sides.

Major-country competition is not the prevailing trend of current times and cannot solve the problems facing

China and the United States, or the world at large.

Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed, and one country's success is an opportunity for the other.

As long as they respect each other, coexist in peace and pursue win-win cooperation, China and the United States will be fully capable of rising above differences and find the right way to get along with each other.

**Cooperation**

# Xi-Biden summit yields agreements on cooperation with Xi outlining pillars for ties

Xinhua

SAN FRANCISCO: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U. S. counterpart, Joe Biden, agreed on several key areas of cooperation on Wednesday during a summit which both leaders perceived as a new starting point for stabilizing bilateral ties.

In their meeting at Filoli Estate, a country house approximately 40 km south of San Francisco, California, Xi also elaborated on key foundations for China-U. S. relations and urged the two largest economies to find the right way to get along.

Calling the China-U. S. ties "the most important bilateral relationship in the world," Xi said that the two countries face two options: Either enhancing cooperation for global security and prosperity or clinging to a zero-sum mentality at the risk of inciting confrontation and dividing the world.

"We look to the Xi-Biden meeting with cautious optimism" at a moment when the world is fraught with conflicts, said Richard Black, the representative of Germany-based think tank Schiller Institute at the United Nations.

"Hopefully, (the U. S. administration) will modify its belligerent actions toward China with regards to U. S. actions which violate the one China policy, the applying of economic sanc-

tions, and with attempts to cripple China's economic advancement," he said.

**Agreements After Eventful Year**  
This much-anticipated summit took place a year after the two presidents met in Bali, Indonesia.

China-U. S. relations have had an eventful year, with U. S. politicians trumpeting China's threat through a so-called "balloon incident," as well as Washington's dogged arms sales to Taiwan and its attempts to stifle China's technological advances through export controls and sanctions on Chinese tech companies.

Only later in the year did strained bilateral relations take a turn for the better. U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo all visited China since June. Talks between China's special envoy for climate change Xie Zhenhua and his U. S. counterpart, John Kerry, delivered positive outcomes. The two countries have also set up economic and financial working groups and other exchange mechanisms.

For the first time, the United States sent a high-level official delegation to the just-concluded sixth China International Import Expo.

Commenting on the high-level exchanges between the two sides, Jeffrey Sachs, an econom-

ics professor and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, said he hopes it's a real "attempt by the U. S. administration finally to try to put the relations with China on a more even-keeled, more calm basis."

In recent weeks, there has been some "glimmer of hope" that the United States will "pull back from what has been a wrongheaded trajectory" and actually aim to "establish some normal diplomacy with China" in which economic issues can be negotiated, said Sachs.

During the summit on Wednesday, both leaders agreed to promote and strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two countries in various areas including China-U. S. government talks on AI and the establishment of a working group on counternarcotics cooperation.

They also agreed to resume, on the basis of equality and respect, high-level military-to-military communication, commit to working toward a significant further increase in scheduled passenger flights early next year, and expand educational, student, youth, cultural, sports and business exchanges.

Enhancing exchanges is "offentimes the way that countries come together actually," Neal Benezra, former director of San Francisco Museum of Modern



Art, told Xinhua.

"Those kinds of collaborations can lead to very positive international relations," said Benezra.

"China is a great country and will only grow greater and stronger and more sophisticated in their relationships with the West, and why should we not collaborate together?"

Commenting on the agreements by the two sides, Chairman of Kuhn Foundation Robert Lawrence Kuhn said, "the specif-

ic agreements are important... because these exemplify and reaffirm the commitment of both sides."

**Pillars For Bilateral Ties**

During the summit on Wednesday, Xi said that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the lessons both sides have learned from 50 years of China-U. S. relations as well as the conflicts between major countries in history.

Herlihy, founder and executive producer of The San Francisco Experience Podcast.

"But we also need to cultivate and nurture it (the ties). Like all good relationships, you need to work on (this) relationship," he said.

At the summit, Xi called on both sides to jointly develop a right perception and be partners that respect each other and coexist in peace, jointly manage disagreements effectively, jointly advance mutually beneficial cooperation, jointly shoulder responsibilities as major countries to solve problems facing human society, and jointly promote people-to-people exchanges.

"The five pillars President Xi spelled out should underpin U. S.-China relations," said Tom Watkins, a former advisor to the Michigan-China Innovation Center.

"These principles, or pillars, are a solid foundation on which China and the United States should be able to build a great future for the people of China, the United States and all of humanity," said Watkins.

"All major world issues will ultimately land at their doorsteps, and it is imperative for the United States and China to transcend their differences and address world major issues," he added.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
57,397.02	56,680.06
Day's High	Day's Low
57,549.26	56,531.53
Index Value	Change
21,615,219,078	+716.96
Percentage	Time
+1.26%	16 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,410.97	-75.94
Percentage	Time
-1.01%	16 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,855.72	-135.49
Percentage	Time
+0.39%	16 Nov, 11:48 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,424.41	-95.29
Percentage	Time
-0.28%	16 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	765.31	773.31
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.76	40.16
Danish Krone	41.86	42.26
Euro	306	308
Hong Kong Dollar	36.83	37.18
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.68
Kuwaiti Dinar	932.73	941.73
Malaysian Ringgit	60.97	61.57
New Zealand \$	173.44	175.44
Norwegians Krone	26.39	26.69
Omani Riyal	747.43	755.43
Qatari Riyal	78.99	79.69
Saudi Riyal	76.1	76.8
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.09	27.39
Swiss Franc	324.3	326.8
Thai Bhat	8.08	8.23
U.A.E Dirham	79.4	80.3
UK Pound Sterling	353	356.4
US Dollar	287.2	290

# Agreement to ease pressure on the rupee, boost investor confidence

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Thursday that the government deserves compliments for the success of the IMF review and the staff-level agreement.

Despite strong criticism, the government did not take the path of cheap fame but took the tough decisions that were necessary to save the country, he said.

After the approval of the IMF's executive board, Pakistan will get seven hundred million dollars, which will stabilize the value of the rupee and increase the confidence of investors, he added.

Shahid Rashid Butt said in a statement issued here that after receiving the second tranche of a short-term loan of three billion dollars from the

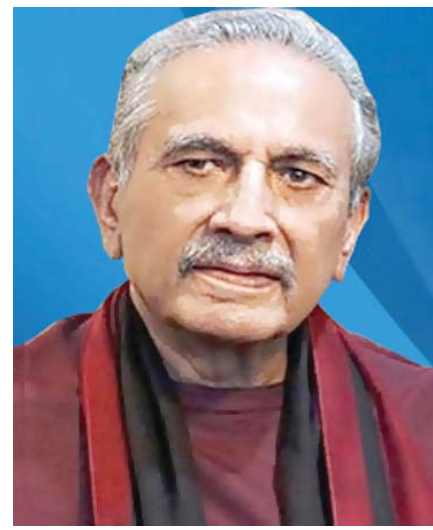
IMF, the total amount received so far by Pakistan will be almost 1.9 billion dollars.

He said that Pakistan has achieved most of the IMF targets, but the exchange rate and other issues remain unresolved, which will be hammered out soon.

The IMF has also said that in the context of the global situation, the prices of food items, etc., may increase while it may be difficult to take loans; therefore, Pakistan should take steps to improve resilience and stabilize its economic foundations, he informed.

The business leader said that proper implementation of the federal budget has brought continuity in policies. At the same time, timely adjustments in electricity and gas prices have helped the government improve its fiscal situation.

Now the pressure on the exchange market is easing, which will provide relief to the masses,



he said, adding that Pakistan has promised to create job opportunities through investment, improve social assistance programs, and try to ease inflation.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the financial condition of the country is improving due to an increase in the price of oil, gas, and electricity and a reduction in expenditure. In contrast, taxation on retailers and the property sector will further improve matters.

The government and IMF have also agreed to reduce the electricity price and cut the circular debt in the electricity and gas sectors, which is now 4 percent of the GDP and has become a significant threat to the people and the economy.

A number of issues have also been agreed upon, including transparency in the foreign exchange market and anti-corruption measures.

## Former PM Nawaz Sharif visits Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, on his historic visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has said that all policies should be formed in consultation with the business community who are the key stakeholders of the economy.

Former prime minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, former finance minister Ishaq Dar, Maryam Nawaz, former ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Khurram Dastgir and Maryam Aurangzeb were accompanied, while former LCCI presidents and executive committee members were also present in the meeting.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar delivered the address of welcome and shed light on the challenges faced by the economy and their solutions. Nawaz Sharif said that it was good to see manifold improvement in the chamber.

Nawaz Sharif said that in 2013, Pakistan was also removed from the grey list. If Allah gives us a chance, we will change the economic fate of the country. He said that we were not ready to come to the government in 2022 but it was necessary to save Pakistan from default in which we succeeded.

He said that we decided to move forward fearlessly for the interest of Pakistan. We



started privatization and liberalization. He said that Pakistan was made peaceful, Zarb-i-Azb and Radal-Fasaad operations were carried out. He said that for the first time in the history of Pakistan, we completed the IMF program, we brought the CPEC, we made plans to extract Thar coal and then generated electricity from it.

The LCCI President said that due to the sharp increase in the prices of electricity, gas and daily necessities of life, problems are piling up. He said that due to continuous devaluation of rupee against dollar we are facing problems like inflation, high cost of production, high markup rate and

high cost of utility etc. Due to the strict measures, the value is strengthened. The difference in the rate of the dollar in the interbank and open market has also been eliminated. There is a great need for stability in the value of the rupee and bringing it below 200 rupees against the dollar is extreme.

Kashif Anwar said that tax net expansion has become inevitable. Our businessmen want to pay taxes but the problem is that our taxation system is very complicated. In this situation, when you are afraid of audits, bank attachment, penalties and surcharges, who will come in the tax net?

## RCCI delegation calls on Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President RCCI Saqib Rafiq called on H. E. Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland in Islamabad. Matters related to enhancing bilateral trade, investment opportunities, exploring non-conventional sectors, facilitation under SIFC, cooperation and connectivity, sector specific information sharing, waste management and recycling, networking and tourism came under discussion.

Talking to the delegation, ambassador Hannu Ripatti said that Finland has a strong desire to strengthen trade ties with Pakistan and to do more business activities in a better way and through Fin Partnership which can facilitate and help imports and exports in both ways. Ambassador while accepting the invitation to visit RCCI said that he was planning to visit various chambers of commerce and industries aiming for better connectivity and cooperation. "Finland reopened its mission in Pakistan after the closure of 10 years," he said.

The ambassador mentioned that a temporary location at the Serena Business Complex was being used but "soon will have the old premises and start



routine operations", including the issuing of visas. He said that the Business Council of Finland will host a business summit in Pakistan in February 2024 and related information will be shared with the chamber of commerce.

While answering to a question, he mentioned that a large number of Pakistani students were pursuing their studies in Finland; however, students were facing problems as they do not have longer-term visas for which applications have to be

forwarded to Abu Dhabi which takes time. RCCI President Saqib Rafiq who also has the portfolio of Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) discussed scope and opportunities in waste management, recycling the waste and energy from the waste.

Senior Vice President, Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, executive committee members Abdul Rauf, Mudasir Maqbool were also present in the meeting.

## Tourism is the hidden treasure of Pakistan: Amin Ullah Baig

**PNP**

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman Capital Office said that Gilgit-Baltistan has a great potential to generate 40,000 megawatts of hydropower. Apart from this, the province also has attractive business and investment opportunities in tourism, minerals, agriculture, and dry fruit sectors.

The economy of Gilgit-Baltistan, a region in northern Pakistan, is primarily based on agriculture, tourism, and mining. The area is rich in



natural resources, including forests, minerals, and water, which present opportunities for economic growth and development.

Federal & GB Governments should consider providing more attractive incentives to investors, especially in the tourism sector, so that

high-quality hotels, roads, and other infrastructures in the area can be developed on modern lines that will attract tourists from all over the world to the region.

Mr. Amin Ullah Baig expressed above while talking to the meeting of all chambers and associations of Gilgit-Baltistan. Group Leaders, Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Executive Members of the Gilgit Chamber, Hunza Chamber, Ghazir Chamber, Skardu Chamber, Hunza Small Chamber & Gilgit Women Chamber & PGMA were present at the meeting.



LAHORE: UBG's presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh and former VP FPCCI Karim Aziz Malik with SM Tanveer, Provincial Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skill Development.

## 7th ICRC Humanitarian Reporting Awards at CEJ, IBA

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Centre for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration (CEJ-IBA), in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), conferred awards upon eight journalists for their outstanding contributions to the field of humanitarian reporting at the 'Humanitarian Reporting Awards 2023', held on November 15.

This year, the awards were conferred in four categories: Mainstream Broadcast (Urdu & Regional languages); Mainstream Print (Urdu and regional languages); Mainstream Print (English), and Online (English, Urdu & Regional languages) for news stories written or produced between October 17, 2022, to September 25, 2023.

Winners and runners-up were selected by a panel of senior journalists from a total of 309 entries from across the country. Jury members included Ghazi Salahuddin - Senior Journalist and staff member at The News International; Ihsanullah Tipu Mehsud - Journalist and Analyst, Co-founder, and Director of News @ khorasandiyary; Afia Salam - Freelance Journalist; and Shahzeb Ahmed Hashim - Journalist, Editor at Dawn.com/Prism.

This year, the CEJ and ICRC also honored the work of three citizen journalists who highlighted the plight of the underserved through video stories. Their entries were selected from a total of 60 submissions received from across the country, by renowned journalists Haroon Rashid and Sana Gulzar.

## NIMA organized lectures on Maritime related topics for students and members

**PNP**

ISLAMABAD: The lectures were attended by 60 x FCS/NDU students of BS, MPhil & PhD and faculty members. Director NIMA, Islamabad Cdre. Bilal Abdul Nasir extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests.

Director NIMA, Islamabad gave a brief introduction of the working domain of NIMA for the information of guests. He later shed light on "Maritime Security", emphasizing the strategic importance of Pakistan's maritime sector and highlighting the significance of the Indian Ocean in global maritime security.

Additionally, Mr. Kamran Hamid Hashmi delivered an enlightening lecture on "Major Powers Interests in the Indian Ocean".

The session served as an invaluable opportunity for students and faculty members to delve into the intricate facets of maritime affairs, gaining diverse perspectives on the strategic importance of oceans in global geopolitics, trade, and security. At the end, Director-General NIMA, Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M) addressed the queries of attendees comprehensively and thanked the participants in his closing remarks.

## Zong 4G Celebrates UAE National Day with Enhanced Connectivity through Roaming Bundles

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: As the UAE's National Day approaches, Zong 4G's UAE Roaming Bundles, truly embody the spirit of celebration and unity. These bundles not only provide seamless connectivity for travelers but also serve

as a testament to Zong 4G's commitment to fostering connections during this special occasion.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G, expressed the company's excitement, stating, "Zong 4G takes pride in contributing to the joy of the occasion.

### National Bank on-boarded new billers in NBP Digital App

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In continuation to its digital banking services, NBP has onboarded new billers in NBP digital app features. NBP customers can also pay their utility bills for FESCO, IESCO, and QESCO through NBP digital app easily. This will not only enhance customers' experience but also facilitate to make payments swiftly.

### Highlighting the latest breakthroughs in the field of biological and biomedical sciences research

**PNP**

KARACHI: The 3rd Annual Biological Sciences Conference, themed "Trailblazing Onwards", celebrated the Aga Khan University's (AKU) 40th year of excellence in research and education. This conference provided biological science researchers within the country a platform to showcase basic science and mechanistic studies in various fields of human and animal biological sciences, as well as gathered experts from the scientific community to share ideas and build collaborations in the field.

National and international speakers, oral presentations and poster displays on cancer biology, infectious diseases, multiomics, stem cells and regenerative medicine, functional foods and natural products, neurosciences, artificial intelligence and healthcare, as well as teaching, learning and assessment in training programmes were all featured at the one-day conference. The oral presentation brought together experts from AKU, but also from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Ziauddin University, Salim Habib University, University of Karachi, NED, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University and Dow University.



# ‘Together we will strive,’ Mohammed Hafeez looks ahead to Team Director Role

**A Sports**

LAHORE: Former Test captain Mohammed Hafeez thanked the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf for appointing him as Team Director Pakistan Men's Team.

"I am honoured and excited to take on the role of Team Director for the Pakistan Men's Cricket Team," the PCB quoted Hafeez.

I would like to thank PCB for trusting my abilities and giving me this challenging responsibility, but I am committed to work collaboratively with the coaching staff and players to contribute in team's success.

"Together we will strive for excellence and bring happiness for our passionate fans."

For the unversed, Mohammad Hafeez replaced Mickey Arthur as the Director of the Pakistan Men's Team on Wednesday



evening as the cricketing body sacked the entire coaching staff including head coach Grant Bradburn and batting coach Andrew Putterick.

"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," PCB announced in a statement.

Besides them, former South African pacer Morne Morkel has already stepped down from his position as the bowling coach of the Pakistan Men's team.

Mohammad Hafeez, who represented Pakistan in 55 Tests, 218 ODIs and 119 T20Is, was recently part of the PCB Cricket Technical Committee but resigned from the role, a few days before the ICC World Cup 2023.

Earlier on Wednesday, the PCB also appointed Shan Masood and Shaheen Shah Afridi as Test and T20I captains respectively.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, the PCB shared the new captains of the national team for the Test and T20I format.

The development came after star batter Babar Azam announced to step down as all-format captain following the team's dismal performance in the ongoing World Cup 2023.

# Asian heavyweights win big to launch World Cup qualifying in style

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Asia's footballing heavyweights made fast starts to the FIFA World Cup Qualifier on Thursday with Australia, Japan and South Korea plundering 17 goals between them in big wins on home soil.

The long road to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico began in earnest in Asia with 36 teams in action Thursday.

Australia, who reached the last 16 at the Qatar 2022 World Cup before bowing out 2-1 to Lionel Messi and eventual champions Argentina, hammered Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne.

It was Australia's biggest victory since 2019 and the perfect present for Graham Arnold, who took charge for the 59th time, a record for a Socceros coach.

Substitute Jamie Maclaren hit a second-half hat-trick in front of nearly 21,000 and it could have been even worse for Bangladesh but Massimo Luongo missed a late penalty.

"Seven goals, but it could have been more, for me too, but three points and we move on," said Melbourne City striker Maclaren.

"I'm not even sure (goalkeeper) Maty (Ryan) had a save to make so proud of the team, but we obviously know the next games are going to be harder."

Australia are in Group I alongside



Palestine and Lebanon, who meet in Sharjah.

In Group B, Ayase Ueda also scored a hat-trick as Japan got their bid to reach an eighth straight World Cup off to an emphatic start with a 5-0 win over Myanmar.

The hosts were missing injured Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma but Feyenoord striker Ueda picked up the slack with a ruthless display of finishing in Osaka.

Daichi Kamada and Ritsu Doan also got on the scoresheet as Japan took early control of a qualifying group that also

includes North Korea and Syria.

Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu demanded even more from his side despite their handsome victory in the World Cup qualifier.

"We had chances to score more goals," said Moriyasu, who took Japan to the last 16 at the Qatar World Cup following stunning wins over Germany and Spain.

Not to be outdone, Jurgen Klinsmann went a little way towards silencing the doubters in South Korea as his side stroled to a 5-0 thumping of Singapore in Seoul.

Tottenham Hotspur forward Son

Heung-min was among the goal-scorers, and it was a cracker, bending the ball left-footed into the top corner from outside the box.

Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers earlier headed home for his second goal in as many matches for his country.

"A huge compliment to the team, a very professional performance," German legend and South Korea coach Klinsmann said.

"Five-nil is a nice scoreline to read but it doesn't really show you the energy and effort you have to invest in order to get to that scoreline," he added.

Also in Group C, Wang Shangyuan scored 16 minutes from time to give China a 2-1 win in Thailand and join South Korea at the top of the early standings.

China host South Korea on Tuesday. In Group F, Vietnam beat the Philippines 2-0 away.

A record eight direct spots and one intercontinental playoff berth are at stake for 2026 for Asian Football Confederation sides, from nine groups of four.

The top two from each group go through to the final qualifying round in Asia.

Among World Cup qualifier games later Thursday, Saudi Arabia host Pakistan, Iran take on Hong Kong and Qatar play Afghanistan.

# Peshawar thump FATA to book Pakistan Cup final berth

**A Sports**

RAWALPINDI: A combined effort from the bowlers led Peshawar to defeat FATA by 44 runs in the first semi-final of the Pakistan Cup at Pindi Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

Earlier, Peshawar had finished first on the points table at the conclusion of the round-robin stage while FATA had finished fourth.

FATA were bundled out for 201 in 41.1 overs in pursuit of the 246-run target set by Peshawar, who were put into bat first.

FATA openers Mohammad Farooq and Samiullah Jnr made 13 off 31 and two off nine with the latter losing his wicket earlier in the fifth over. Salman Khan Jnr scored 46 off 60 before getting caught by Adil Amin off the bowling of

Iftikhar Ahmed.

Rehan Afridi made a meager 13 off 20 before losing his wicket to Azam Khan in the 17th over while Mohammad Sarwar Afridi emerged as his side's highest run-getter scoring 56 off 45 balls featuring three boundaries and three sixes. He was the last batter to be dismissed.

The performance of FATA's lower-order batters remained under par and they failed to withstand Peshawar's bowling attack.

Peshawar's Mohammad Abbas Afridi claimed three wickets and conceded 34 runs while off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed, pacer Mohammad Imran and left-arm spinner Azam Khan claimed two wickets each.

Earlier, Peshawar managed to score

245 at the expense of seven wickets. Opener Sahibzada Farhan played an impressive innings scoring 69 off 76 balls featuring 11 boundaries before being bowled by Khushdil Shah in the 28th over.

Fellow opener Maaz Sadaqat, however, managed to make only 16 off 27 before losing his wicket to Shahid Aziz in the 13th over.

Kamran Ghulam registered a dismal performance making only one off six deliveries before being sent packing by Asif Afridi while Mohammad Harris managed 28 off 28 balls before getting caught by Khushdil Shah off the bowling of Sameen Gul.

Iftikhar Ahmed entered the fray in the 28th over and was sent packing by Khushdil Shah after scoring only five off

14 balls.

Nabi Gul pulled off 43 off 42 before conceding his wicket to Shahid Aziz in the 43rd over. Mohammad Abbas Afridi made only three off four balls before being caught by Usman Khan Shinwari off Shahid.

Adil Amin managed a brisk 56 off 58 balls and continued to play till the end of the innings along with Azam Khan.

Shahid Aziz claimed three scalps at the expense of 55 runs. Khushdil Shah claimed two wickets at the expense of 39 runs while Sameen Gul and Asif Afridi took one wicket each.

Meanwhile, the second semi-final of the ongoing Pakistan Cup between Karachi Region Whites and Multan Region will take place at the same venue on Friday.



President and Group CEO, PTCL and Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf presents the champions trophy to the winning team of 'PTCL Business Solutions Polo Tournament 2023' held in Islamabad.

## Open trials held in Multan for Elite Women's Cricket League

**Asim Tanveer**



MULTAN: Under the auspices of Lodhran Pilot Project and with the support of Bestseller Foundation, in the first phase of Elite Women's League Open Trials for Girls were held at Ground Up Academy Open Trials Government Model School Gulgasht Multan. In which schools More than four hundred women cricketers from various remote areas including colleges, universities, cricket academies, community participated. Trials organized in connection with empowerment of women were supervised by qualified coaches. Multan Sultan head Ali Tareen Khan.. Chief Executive Officer of Ground Up Academy Khawaja Muhammad Anees and Chief Executive Officer of Lodhran Pilot Project Dr. Abdul Saboor conducted the trials session.

And encouraged the participation of girls cricketers. Ali Tareen Khan said in a conversation with the media that Elite Women's League is a link in this chain of efforts to provide the safest field in entertainment and sports to empower women in every sphere of life. Speaking to the media, Dr. Abdul Saboor said that the first phase of the trials session in Multan has been completed and the second phase, which is the elite women's league trials, will be held in Lodhran on November 16.

In the second phase of the elite women's league, which will continue in phases till December 15, six teams will be formed consisting of talented cricketers participating in the trials and an event based on the league matches will also be conducted. He said that for the Elite Women's League, it is practical to make women realize that they have a safe playing field. He also thanked the Bestseller Foundation and Ground Up Academy for their special support.

## Zone-VI Whites Clinched A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Title

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites become Champion of A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after thrilling Victory against Zone-VII Whites by 22 runs at KCCA Stadium.

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

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI Whites won the toss and elected to bat first. Zone-VI Whites scored 180/8 in 45 overs. Abdul Sami 63 3x4, Hammad Alam 24, Sajjad Ahmed 19 not out, Abdullah Jawed 17, Jawad Zameer (mf) 3/27.

In reply Zone-VII Whites 158 all out in 44.1 overs. Captain Hasan Zia 44 4x4, Hassan 32 not out, Noor Zaman 23, Abdul Wahab 20. Asad Omar (mf) 3/32, Niqab Shafiq 2/28, Saad Sakhawat 2/35. Umpires Aqil Adil and Danish Siddiqui, Scorer Mustajab Alam. Tournament live on YouTube Channel.

## Australia edge S. Africa to play India in World Cup final

KOLKATA: Australia sealed their place in Sunday's final of the 50-over World Cup against India following a nery three-wicket victory against South Africa in the second semi-final on Thursday.

Australia bowled out South Africa for a below-par 212 despite David Miller's defiant 101 but the chase was not as straightforward as Pat Cummins and his team would have liked.

Travis Head (62) led Australia's rollicking start before a mid-innings wobble put the five-time champions in a spot of bother.

# Pakistan's lineup for FIFA WC 2026 Qualifiers against Saudi Arabia unveiled

**A Sports**

ALAHSA: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) unveiled Pakistan's lineup for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan, who will feature in the second round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier, will be led by Otis Khan while their hero of the first-round victory over Cambodia, Harun Hamid, has been benched.

Yousuf Butt will serve as the

goalkeeper and will be supported by four defenders Umar Hayat, Mamoon Moosa, Abdullah Iqbal and Junaid Shah.

Pakistan's lineup features two midfielders Alamgir Ghazi and Rahis Nabi while the skipper will lead the four-man attack, comprising Shayek Dost, Abdul Samad and Faeed Ullah.

For the unversed, their highly-anticipated clash against Saudi Arabia will mark their first appearance in the second round of the Asian Qualifiers.

On the contrary, Saudi Arabia

is one of the most dominant side of the continent, having played six FIFA World Cups.

The West-Asian side also upset Lionel Messi's Argentina in last year's World Cup.

The second-round fixture between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will be played here at the Al-Fateh Stadium. The match starts at 7:30 pm local time or 9:30 pm Pakistan Standard Time (PST).

Pakistan last played against Saudi Arabia in 1978 at the latter's home and suffered a 6-0

thrashing.

Besides Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, placed in Group G, will face Jordan and Tajikistan. Each team will take on the rest of the teams twice on the basis of home and away leg.

The top two sides will then proceed to the third round of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Asian Qualifiers.

Whereas, the bottom two sides will advance into the third round of the 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Pakistan head coach Stephen Constantine earlier this week



acknowledged Saudi Arabia as a tough opponent but expressed his hope of doing well against them.

"There is no doubt that Saudi

Arabia are a tough side and we will try to make our best effort against them," stated Constantine.

"We had a few good days here and a week at Islamabad and hopefully we will put in our best," he added.



## China-Pak joint exercise

CHINA: Amid an ongoing joint exercise, Chinese and Pakistani naval warships are for the first time conducting a joint maritime patrol in the northern Arabian Sea.



# China, Pakistan hold first joint naval patrol to safeguard CPEC

### Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Amid an ongoing joint exercise, Chinese and Pakistani naval warships are for the first time conducting a joint maritime patrol in the northern Arabian Sea, a move, experts said on Thursday, was part of the two countries' concrete actions to safeguard the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's Type 054A frigate Linyi and the Pakistan Navy's F-22P frigate Saif formed a task group and launched the joint patrol in waters around major maritime routes and port channels in the northern Arabian Sea, as the China-Pakistan Sea Guardian-3 joint exercise entered the sea phase on Tuesday," the PLA Navy said in a press release on Thursday.

"This marks the first time that the PLA Navy and the Pakistan Navy have held a joint maritime patrol," observers said.

The joint patrol is an important part of the Sea Guardian-3 joint exercise, which is dedicated to displaying the two countries' common duties and firm determination in safeguarding CPEC, according to the press release.

During the joint patrol, the two sides conducted training that included joint search and rescue operations, formation manoeuvring and VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), effectively enhancing their capabilities in jointly dealing with maritime security threats, the PLA Navy said.

During another part of Sea Guardian-3, six warships, including the PLA Navy's Type 052D destroyer Zibo,

Type 054A frigate Jingzhou and Type 903 replenishment ship Qiandaohu as well as the Pakistan Navy's Type 054A/P frigate Shah Jahan, formed a task group and launched the sea phase of the drill in the northern Arabian Sea, the PLA Navy said in a separate press release.

They practiced multiple training operations, including VBSS, aerial photography, air defence, communications and joint anti-submarine training during the first day of the sea phase, with warships from both sides taking turns to act as the command ship, according to the PLA Navy.

Kicked off at the Karachi Naval Dockyard on Saturday, the Sea Guardian-3 consists of a port phase from Saturday to Monday and a sea phase from Tuesday to Friday.

Explaining the differenc-

es between the joint patrol and the sea phase of the joint exercise, Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Thursday that a joint patrol "is a military presence that allows fast response to emergencies and safeguards security in a region, while a joint exercise is training with preset goals and targets".

"The Arabian Sea is important to both China and Pakistan in terms of goods and energy transport, highlighted by CPEC that connects the two countries' economic activities, so it is important for the two countries to safeguard this sea lane from security threats," Song said.

Such type of joint naval patrols would likely become routine, Song said. It was the third and the larg-

est edition of the Sea Guardian exercise.

The first edition was held in 2020 in the northern waters of the Arabian Sea, while the second edition was held in 2022 in the waters off Shanghai.

According to official releases and media reports from both sides, the PLA Navy sent a Type 052D destroyer, two Type 054A frigates, a replenishment ship, a conventional submarine and a submarine support ship, while the Pakistan Navy sent at least two Type 054A/P frigates, two F-22P frigates and an anti-submarine patrol aircraft, plus special forces from both sides.

Observers noted that the Pakistan Navy's main combat vessels were developed by China, and the interoperability between the two countries' navies was at a high level.

## US public support for Israel drops; majority backs a ceasefire: Poll



### News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: A majority of Americans now back a cease-fire in Israeli bomb-out Gaza, despite the Biden administration has strongly spoken against such a move, according to a new poll published Thursday. The Reuters/Ipsos poll's respondents showed less support for Israel than at the start of the conflict, showing changing opinions amid the escalating bombing of Gaza. About 32 percent of respondents said the U.S. should support Israel, down from 41 percent in mid-October, days after the start of the war.

Many now believe that the U.S. should instead be a "neutral mediator" in the conflict instead of taking a side. The rate has increased to 39 percent from 27 percent a month ago. Fifteen percent of respondents said the U.S. should back Palestinian interests in the war, which is largely unchanged. The drop in support, most apparent among older respondents, comes after weeks of relentless airstrikes and a ground campaign in Gaza by the Israeli military, which has drawn criticism of much of the

international community. More than 11,000 Palestinians — including more than 4,600 children — have died in the conflict as of Friday, and humanitarian organizations, notably the United Nations, have led efforts for a cease-fire in order to assist Gaza's civilians. Much of the fighting in recent days has centered on the hospitals of Gaza City, where thousands have sheltered from Israeli airstrikes. Nearly 70 percent of Americans said the Israeli government should pursue a cease-fire, including three-quarters of Democrats and half of Republicans. Israel has come out strongly against a cease-fire effort, and the Israeli government has refused to consider a long-term stop to the fighting. The Tel Aviv regime agreed to four-hour daily "humanitarian pauses" in fighting last week but has refused efforts for longer peace periods. The poll also found that more Americans are willing to support the Ukrainian military with weapons against Russia than Israel. Just under a third of Americans backed weapons for Israel, while just more than 40 percent said they support the same for Ukraine.

## Wasi Shah says government taking practical steps to promote tourism

### Arif Choudhary

LONDON: The government is always ready for all possible cooperation for the development of tourism and is willing to solve the problems related to the tourism sector through better cooperation and linkages for a joint effort, Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah said.

Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah has said that the government is taking practical steps to promote tourism. He has said that there are immense opportunities for tourism in Pakistan which need to be exploited. He expressed these views while giving an interview to the famous media house Warner Brothers at

World Travel Market London.

He said that Pakistan is rich in natural sights and the government is taking steps to welcome foreign tourists to these beautiful valleys and provide protection to them.

State Minister for Tourism Wasi Shah further said that the government stands ready for collaborative initiatives to address challenges in the tourism sector and looks forward to tapping into the vast opportunities for tourism in the country.

On the occasion of World Travel Mart, Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah was the center of media attention and was also appreciated for his good wishes for Pakistan.

## President for promoting tele-medicine and tele-health services in Pakistan

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for promoting tele-medicine and tele-healthcare platforms to improve the outreach of healthcare services to low-income areas of the country. He said that digital platforms could enhance the reach of health services to far-flung areas, besides providing timely advice to people and helping promote preventive healthcare solutions in Pakistan.

The President made these remarks while addressing a ceremony titled "Spirit of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of Female Doctors" organised by Sehat Kahani, in Karachi. Sehat

Kahani's CEO, Sara Saeed Khurram, COO & Co-founder of Sehat Kahani, Dr Iffat Zafar, and other medical professionals working in the field of tele-healthcare services attended the event.

Addressing the event, the President said that nations failed due to lack of education and health facilities, adding that Pakistan needed to focus more on disease-prevention rather than curing the diseases. He also regretted that 28 million children were out of the school in the country.

The President highlighted that women in our country faced different hurdles in society towards their participation in mainstream economic activities. He stressed the



role of institutions in creating greater opportunities to empower and educate women.

The President also presented shields to the doctors in the

field of medicine, from various specialisations, serving all across Pakistan for their exceptional work and dedication to the field of medicine.

Sehat Kahani CEO and co-founder, Dr Sara Saeed Khurram, celebrating the remarkable achievements of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of Female Doctors, said that Sehat Kahani was started to provide female doctors with the opportunity to serve their country. She said that Sehat Kahani—the digital healthcare organisation—not only connected patients to the doctors in Pakistan using its app but also had e-clinics nationwide serving underserved communities. The platform provides individual consultations, corporate and mental health solutions, online diagnostics, and e-pharmacy, she added.

## IT Minister chairs cybersecurity meeting

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif on Thursday chaired a cybersecurity meeting.

During the meeting, discussions were held in detail regarding cybersecurity challenges, with particular emphasis on the operationalization of the National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Dr. Umar emphasized the urgency of establishing and making operational the CERT to effectively counter the rising threats of cyber attacks.

The minister said, "The establishment of the National Computer Emergency Response Team is progressing rapidly. In light



of the growing risks of cyber threats, the CERT Pakistan will be responsible for the supervision and protection of Pakistan's cyberspace. The Cybersecurity Authority will be established soon."

The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary of the Ministry of IT, Ayesha Humaira Moriani, IT Member Syed Javed Imam, and CEO of the National Information Technology Board, Babar Majid Bhatti.

## Chairman PTI only meeting family, lawyers in prison

### Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Pervaiz Elahi's claims regarding former prime minister Imran Khan's jail meetings have been rejected.

The Punjab Prison Department spokesperson refuted news related to PTI chief's meeting with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Union (EU) officials in jail.

The spokesperson stated that PTI chairman Imran Khan only meets his family and lawyers in prison and a record of these meetings is also maintained, the prison spokesperson added.

Former chief minister of Punjab Pervaiz Elahi and PTI chairman Imran Khan has been kept separately with a distance



of 500 meters between their barracks and more than 300 CCTV cameras monitor the security of the prison.

Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi also rebutted the claim made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi regarding the routine visits of representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

and the European Union to Imran Khan at Adiala Jail.

"There is not a single grain of truth in this fantasy and it is truly nothing but a figment of imagination by the senior politico," he wrote in his post on X formerly Twitter.

He urged the media to verify such "hallucinations" with the concerned authorities before publishing such "non-sense".

## JICA sends Local Transportation Infrastructure Course -2023



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will send a group of seven people to Japan for "Local Transportation Infrastructure Course" under "Training Programme for Young Leaders". A send-off ceremony for these 18 days training, was held today at JICA Pakistan Office, Islamabad.

In his remarks to the attendees Mr. Yasumitsu Kinoshita, Chief JICA Pakistan office stated "This Program provides an opportunity for the young professionals from vari-

ous fields / sections of Government to learn and share variable experiences in the respective areas. The knowledge acquired from this programme as well as lessons learned from Japan will be further shared with the Pakistani government and people."

The "Training Programme for Young Leaders" was started by JICA in 1991 and to date around 600 government officials from various ministries and departments of the Government of Pakistan have been sent to Japan for Young leaders' training in various fields of technical and management positions.

## SAPM Malik paves the way for skilled manpower deal with Saudia

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, has officially sealed a significant agreement to supply skilled manpower to Saudi Arabia, particularly for NESMA's ongoing and future projects. SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik formally signed the agreement during a meeting with Samer Essam Abdul-

Samad, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nesma & Partners, in Riyadh.

Speaking on the occasion Malik highlighted the importance of this agreement, stating, "This marks a substantial collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It will open avenues for exporting an abundant Pakistani workforce, contributing significantly to Saudi Arabia's vital infrastructure and development objectives."