

Shehbaz Sharif, others acquitted in Ashiana housing case

An accountability court in Lahore on Saturday acquitted former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and others in the Ashiana-e-Iqbal Housing Scheme case. AC judge Ali Zulqurnain announced the verdict and acquitted Shehbaz Sharif, senior bureaucrat Fawad Hasan Fawad, former director general of the Lahore Development Authority Ahad Khan Cheema and others in the case.



Kazakhstan seeks \$150 billion in foreign investment by 2029: PM

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smaïlov, leaders of top international companies, and experts reviewed Kazakhstan's emerging opportunities and challenges in building investment infrastructure for long-term sustainable growth as part of the Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable (KGIIR) on Nov. 17 in Astana. In his welcoming speech, Smaïlov said that "despite the current global challenges, Kazakhstan's economy... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Israel is committing genocide against Hospitals in Gaza - Palestinian Minister of Health

Wafa

GAZA: Palestinian Minister of Health, Mai Alkaila, said on Saturday that the Israeli occupation is committing genocide against the entire healthcare system in the Gaza Strip, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

Speaking at a press conference held at the ministry's headquarters in Ramallah, Alkaila called on the United Nations, international health organizations, and the International Committee of the Red Cross to exert pressure on Israel to allow the transport of the remaining children and patients from Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza to hospitals in the West Bank or Egypt.

Alkaila held Israeli authorities fully responsible for their lives.

"How long hospitals,



patients, and medical teams in Gaza and the West Bank would remain hostages to the onslaught, destruction, targeting, and blockade by the

Israeli occupation forces without accountability or condemnation from the international community?" she questioned. Alkaila highlighted that no

hospital in Gaza has the capacity to accommodate the massive number of wounded under nonstop Israeli bombardment. "Where is the stance of

doctors and healthcare professionals worldwide regarding the atrocities committed against their colleagues in the Palestinian healthcare sector in Gaza and the West Bank?" Alkaila addressed the global health community.

The minister expressed concern over the spread of numerous infectious diseases, including diarrheal diseases affecting over 50,000 individuals, predominantly children. Respiratory infections and skin diseases such as chickenpox and scabies have also surged in Gaza, she added, citing reports from the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Alkaila called for an immediate cessation of the Israeli genocide in Gaza and the West Bank, demanding a halt to the targeting, shelling, and blockade of medical and healthcare facilities.

Collective Pain

Israeli massacres in Gaza continue and, with every Palestinian killed or wounded, a life is destroyed. But the pain of Palestinians is a collective pain that no amount of words or images can sufficiently convey.

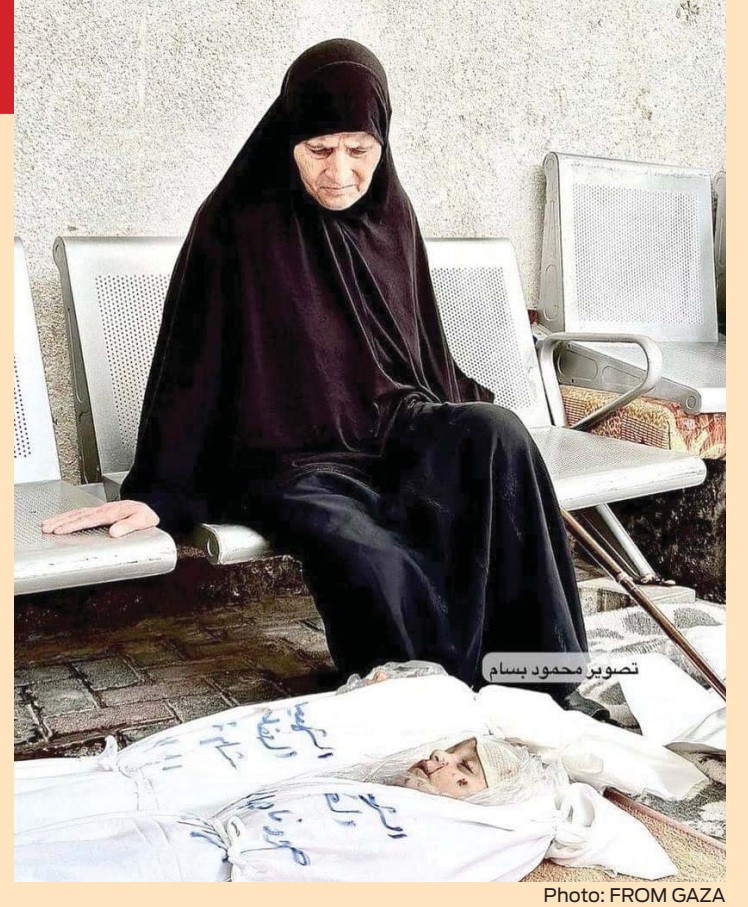


Photo: FROM GAZA

Security Force kill 4 terrorists in North Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On 18 November 23, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area, Khaisoor, North Waziristan District, on reported presence of terrorists.

Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which 4 x terrorists were sent to hell, including a High Value Target (HVT), Terrorist ring leader Ibra-

him @ Musa, who was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies.

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

Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

International impunity Israel enjoys for 75 years must come to an end

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine welcomes the referral to the International Criminal Court on the Situation in the State of Palestine by the Republic of South Africa, The People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Union of Comoros, and the republic of Djibouti.

The international impunity Israel enjoys and has enjoyed for 75 years must come to an end.

On the heels of the deadliest year for the Palestinian people and a catastrophic humanitarian situation caused by the commission of crimes listed in the Rome Statute, the referral is asking the Office of the Prosecutor to vigorously investigate the crimes under its jurisdiction and within the context of the Situation in the State of



Palestine. The State of Palestine recalls that States Parties to the Rome Statute indeed have a responsi-

bility and an obligation to cooperate with the Court and ensure an objective, impartial, and independent investigation.

Maldives President Muizzu, Solangi discuss expansion of cooperation in various fields

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Saturday met with the newly-elected President of Maldives Muhammad Muizzu. In the meeting, important issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations, economic cooperation and appointment of Ambassador of Maldives to Pakistan were discussed.

On behalf of Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, the Government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, the information minister congratulated Muhammed Muizzu on his election as President and expressed his best wishes for him.

During the meeting, both the leaders reiterated commitment to work together to promote regional cooperation.

They also expressed commitment to further strengthen mutual relations between the two countries. The caretaker federal minister of information extended invitation to President Muizzu to visit Pakistan which he



accepted. The President of Maldives thanked Murtaza Solangi for representing the Government of Pakistan at his swing in ceremony.

President Muizzu said that Maldives would soon appoint its ambassador to Pakistan. He said that his country was desirous of further strengthening diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan valued its relationship with Maldives. The two countries are linked by an unbreakable brotherly bond of devotion, he added.

He said that bilateral diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Maldives would further be strengthened in future. As a member country of SAARC, he said Pakistan was committed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Maldives in all fields. Foreign Minister of Maldives, senior officials of Maldives and High Commissioner of Pakistan

Khadija Shah challenges detention order in LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporter Khadija Shah has challenged her 30-day detention in the Lahore High Court on Saturday.

In her petition, Shah has named the provincial government, Lahore DC, provincial police chief, and superintendent Kot Lakhpat Jail, among others as respondents.

The plea termed the charges filed by law enforcers as "false and baseless".

The Lahore administration Friday ordered the detention of PTI activist Khadija Shah for 30 days under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) ordinance.

DC Rafia Haider issued the order after an anti-terrorism court (ATC) granted post-arrest bail to Khadija Shah yesterday in the final case linked to the May 9 riots. According to the order, SP Cantt Division Lahore and the district intelligence branch recommended Shah's detention under 3-MPO for the period of 30 days.

"It is feared that Khadija Shah may create a law and order situation as she had been involved in May 9 violence," the notification added.

ATC grants five-day physical remand of Lahore car crash accused

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court granted five days' physical remand of teenage accused Afnan Shafiqat, involved in road crash that claimed six lives in DHA Lahore.

Police told the court that the accused crushed six people to death adding that accused Afnan was not issued driving licence.

The investigation officer pleaded to the court physical remand of the accused for investigation.

The incident resulted in the loss of six members of a family including Rukhsana Bibi, her son Hasnain, daughter-in-law Ayesha, son-in-law Sajjad, four-month-old grandson Huzaifa, and granddaughter Anaya.

Earthquake jolts Gilgit and adjoining areas

Monitoring Desk

GILGIT: An earthquake of 3.3 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Gilgit and its adjoining areas on Saturday.

The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Gilgit and the adjoining areas. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from any part of Swat so far.

According to NSMC Islamabad, the depth of the quake was recorded at 45 kilometers and the epicenter was 84 kilometers in the North West. Earlier, a mild earthquake jolted different parts of Karachi on Monday. No loss was reported as per initial reports.

A mild earthquake of 3.1 magnitude on the Richter Scale jolted different areas of Karachi - the capital of Sindh province - on Monday night.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre Islamabad, the depth of the quake was recorded at 15 kilometers and the epicenter was near the Quaidabad area of Karachi. The areas where tremors were felt include Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Cattle Colony, different areas of Malir District, Quaidabad, Shah Latif Town, Sherpao Colony, Landhi, Muzaffarabad Colony, Steel Town and their adjoining areas.

Interior Ministry challenges SC verdict on military trials of civilians

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has also filed an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) against the decision of a five-member bench, declaring as 'unconstitutional' the trial of civilians in military courts.

On Oct 23 ruling, the Supreme Court (SC) had declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest were ultra vires the Constitution.

Headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, the bench ruled that 103 identified persons, as well as others who were or might be similarly placed on the list in relation to the events arising from and out of May 9 and 10, be tried by criminal courts of competent jurisdiction under the ordinary and/or special law of the land.

The petitions, questioning the legitimacy of trying civilians in military courts, were



filed by former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, senior lawyer Barrister Aitezaz Ahsan and others.

Former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, through their respective chief secretaries; and the government, through the secretary of the defence ministry, were named respondents in the case.

However, earlier in the day, the caretaker Sindh government clarified that it had not filed an appeal challenging the Supreme Court's verdict.

A spokesperson said that there was unfounded impression that the provincial government had challenged the SC's verdict. The spokesperson declared such speculations as "baseless".

Israeli Air Force Commander Threatens to Bomb Arab Countries

GRAB

ISRAEL: Israeli Air Force Commander Tomer Bar has stated that Tel Aviv had plans to launch attacks "all over the Middle East", Israeli media reported.

"The Air Force as the strategic arm of the State of Israel is prepared and operates all over the Middle East and in every required arena," Bar said in a statement on Thursday, adding: "We are well prepared with operational plans for the northern arena."

The Israeli military official's statements came days after the Yemeni armed forces - affiliated with the Houthi Ansar Allah group - announced on

Tuesday evening the launch of a batch of ballistic missiles at various Israeli targets, including sensitive targets in the Eilat region.

The military spokesperson for the Houthis, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, confirmed in a statement at the time that they "Launched a batch of ballistic missiles at various targets in the occupied Palestinian territories, including sensitive targets in the Umm Al-Rashrash area (Eilat)".

"This came, according to Saree, "only 24 hours after another military operation was carried out by (Yemeni) armed forces with drones aimed at the same targets."

US Ambassador Donald Blome meet with Yousif Raza Gilani and other politicians

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Parliamentary Leader of PPP in Senate, Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani hosted The US Ambassador Donald Blome and Consul General Of US Ms Kirstin K Hawkins at Gilani house Multan.4

During the meeting they discussed strengthening the enduring relationship between Pakistan & the United States and expressed a desire to enhance bilateral ties between US and Pakistan and also discussed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, economic ties, and detailed discussion pertaining to the political landscape of South Punjab in election 2024.



Mr Gilani emphasised that economic stability can be attained from political stability.

This meeting was attended by various political parties representatives of South Punjab Former Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana, Former Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Dost Muhammad Khan Khosa, Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, Mr Ayaz Khan Niazi, Ms Meena Laghari Ex MNA, Mr Khalid Khan Khakwani, Ms Natasha Doltana Ex MNA and Ms Shehnaaz Saleem.

Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani Ex MPA, Abdulkadir Gilani Ex MNA and Ali Haider Gilani Former provincial Minister Punjab they received the delegation.

DFP concerned over sharp spike in killing of innocent civilians in IIOJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir



SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has voiced its serious concern over sharp spike in killing of innocent civilians at the hands of the Indian occupied forces in Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal, while referring to the ruthless killing of civilians by the Indian forces in Uri and Kulgam area of south Kashmir, said that the Indian occupation forces have turned the Kashmir valley into a slaughter house where innocent and educated youths were killed in fake encounters after being labeled as "terrorists".

Terming continued bloodshed and violence in the region as a matter of great concern, he said that it was high time that the international community should hold the Indian government accountable for the war crimes being committed by its forces against the Kashmiris people.

He said that the Indian rouge army that enjoys blanket impunity under a regime of black laws has crossed all limits of barbarism and brutality in Kashmir.

Traders & Wazir tribes stage protests on 2nd day at Angoor Adda

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: At Pak Afghan border Angor Adda gate, four major tribes of Ahmadzai Wazir staged a protest from the last two days, about the suspension of trade at the gate and all other legitimate demands.

It was unanimously decided in the Jirga that from 4 o'clock today, the traffic of vehicles from both sides will be stopped at Angoor Adda Gate in protest.

Apart from Zali Khel, Toji Khel, Gangi Khel and Khojal Khel, tribe all political parties, Wana councilor alliance, business community, trade union participated in the protest in large numbers.

On this occasion Malik Muhammad Umar Wazir, VC Chairman Angoor Adda Maulana Muhammad Sharif, Maulana Tasbi Ullah, National Democratic Movement South Waziristan Lower Said Muhammad Wazir, Wana Councilors alliance President Sahib Khan Wazir, and Malik Bobrai Wazir said.

That last year unanimously presented 18 demands to the local authorities and the authorities assured to resolve them soon and it has not been resolved till date.

Malik Bobrai announced that all entrances and exits of Wana Angoor Adda Bazar will be closed from today, and also made it clear that Angoor Adda Customs office will be closed in protest.

There will be no public relations with government officials, in case of violation, a fine of 50,000 will be imposed.

A committee consisting of 200 people was formed by the protesters.

The protesters presented 18 demands to the government through the media, which are as follows.

Functional all government educational institutions in Angoor Adda and steps should be taken to make health centers functional within 15 days.

At the gate, the local people of Angoor Adda should be allowed to have a lump.

Convocation 2023 at Minhaj University Lahore held

News Desk



LAHORE: The Convocation 2023 at Minhaj University Lahore unfolded as a splendid celebration of academic achievements, graced by distinguished personalities and led by Muhammad Abdullah, the esteemed Controller of Examinations, alongside the revered presence of Dr. Sajid Mahmood Shazad, the Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Khurram Shazad, the Registrar.

The full dress rehearsal held recently was marked by an atmosphere brimming with enthusiasm and anticipation as faculty members, graduates, degree candidates, gold medalists, Roll of Honor recipients, candidates for Merit Certificates, and esteemed Ph. D. scholars gathered to commemorate their academic milestones.

Muhammad Abdullah, Controller of Examinations, played a pivotal role in orchestrating the event, ensuring a seamless and prestigious affair highlighting the University's scholars' dedication and hard work.

The Convocation served as a platform to recognize and honour the exceptional achievements of the graduates in various academic disciplines. It allowed the distinguished figures to share words of wisdom and inspiration, guiding the graduates as they embarked on their journey beyond academia.

The event was a testament to Minhaj University Lahore's unwavering dedication to nurturing talent, fostering a culture of academic brilliance, and inspiring future generations. The #MinhajUniversityConvocation2023 resonated with pride, celebration, and a promising future for all participants.

Protest

KARACHI: Supporters of the Palestine Foundation demonstration against the Israeli airstrikes on Gaza to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

CEO CBD Punjab's surprise visit propels CBD Punjab Projects toward timely completion

Bureau Report

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

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, demonstrated his commitment to the timely completion of projects by



inspecting various key sites. The surprise visit covered the Ghora Chowk Flyover, Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, CBD Punjab Phase 2 and 3, as well as the Walton Road upgradation.

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab Riaz Hussain,

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

While expressing his views

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin said "Our dynamic approach ensures the timely completion of every project under CBD Punjab. We are committed to the development and progress of the region."

Executive Director Tech-

nical CBD Punjab Riaz Hussain provided a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing projects. Highlights of the progress include the completion of shuttering for the Ghora Chowk Flyover, the concrete completion of the bottom slab of the flyover, and the ongoing installation of geo grid for the MSE wall. Additionally, the sub-base for slip roads has been completed, and these roads are expected to be operational in the coming days.

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

Chakwal seminary horror

'Abusers used to write initials on victims' hands'

Correspondent

CHAKWAL: The students of a local seminary in Chakwal district have revealed some gruesome details of being sexually assaulted and tortured by two teachers.

Talking to media exclusively, one of the victims alleged that the two teachers – identified as Zeeshan and Anis – sexually assaulted 13 students of the seminary.

The two teachers used to write initials of their name, "Z or A", on students' hands with knives to threaten them, the student claimed.

However, the student said, deputy in-charge Ziaul Haq expelled the two teachers in question.

It is pertinent to mention here that the FIR – registered on the complaint

of one of the victims' father – stated that the suspects used to threaten students and make marks on their bodies with knives.

The police arrested the two accused – Zeeshan and Anis – after the father and uncle of one of the victims approached District Police Officer (DPO) a day earlier.

The accused were apprehended in two separate raids conducted in Mianwali and Jatli. The police registered a case of "unnatural offences" against the accused teachers.

Meanwhile, doctors at the District Headquarters Hospital conducted examinations of the victims and revealed that at least eight students showed signs of assault.

After the incident came to light, Punjab caretaker Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi took notice and directed the police to submit a detailed report in this regard.

Suspects remanded to police custody

A Judicial Magistrate remanded two seminary teachers to police custody for four days.

The accused were produced before the court of the judicial magistrate at the Chakwal district courts today. After hearing the arguments, the magistrate approved four-day physical remands of the suspects.

On the other hand, the district police have detained principal and admin in-charge of the seminary following the allegations levelled by the students.

The detainees, Principal Akhter Jawed and admin in-charge Bilal,

were shifted to Saddar Police Station.

However, seminary's in-charge and its deputy – Naveed Haidari and Ziaul Haq – were nowhere to be found as the police visited the place for inspection.

In a statement, in-charge of the local seminary – Naveed Haidari – rejected the allegations levelled against the institution, saying that the safety of students and the trust of parents are their topmost priority.

The statement noted that they had summoned the students' parents after they received complaint of physical violence in classrooms.

"On November 11, we had expelled both the teachers in question in front of the students' parents," Naveed said, adding that the complaints of physical violence turned to be true after seeing the CCTV footages.

APBF asks govt to take serious measures, as rupee witness volatile trend

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has stressed the need for taking serious measures, as the rupee still continues to witness volatile trend in the process of trading against dollar and other major currencies, amidst the government securing the external financing requirements for the current fiscal year. Moreover, the sharp increase in the policy rate would result in curbing demand to lower the pressure of imports on the current account, so the weak rupee is a question mark in present circumstances.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood in a statement issued here, observed that besides increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market.

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



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 5:15 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:26 pm
Maghrib 5:03 pm
Isha 6:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

FCCI welcomes re-routing of Shalimar Train

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), has welcomed the re-routing of Shalimar Train currently operating between Lahore and Karachi to run via Faisalabad to Multan.

In a statement here on Saturday, he requested railways authorities to re-assess the viability of all routes of passenger and luggage trains.

He said that currently many trains were being operated on the personal whim of influential political personalities which are incurring heavy losses and thus become a burden on the exchequer.

He said that Faisalabad is one of the most profitable routes where sufficient passenger and luggage load was available. Hence, the PR should start more trains from Faisalabad by abandoning all loss-making train operations, he added.

Challenges of climate change

Center for Public-Cultural Diplomacy holds 'Arts, Crafts & Techno Exposition' at PNCA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Center for Public-Cultural Diplomacy (CPCD) Islamabad successfully organized the "Arts, Crafts & Techno Exposition" at PNCA in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. The Inauguration Ceremony took place on Thursday, 16th November, 2023, with distinguished guests including Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Movlammov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, accompanied by Frederico Silva, Ambassador of Portugal, and Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam.

The event commenced with a Tree-Plantation ceremony at the lush green lawn of PNCA premises, where Ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Portugal, and Vietnam, along with DG PNCA, Chairman CPCD, and well-known veteran Artist Hajera Mansoor w/o famous Painter Mansoor Rahi, and Rasheed Butt Caligrapher planted saplings to contribute to

a greener environment.

In his opening speech, the founding Chairman of CPCD welcomed the esteemed guests, elucidating the organization's manifesto and mission, emphasizing the critical issues & challenges of climate change that need to be mitigated through innovative solutions and practical implementation. To further highlight environmental concerns, students from Grammar School Rawalpindi presented a compelling "Save Water" tableau performance plus environment animations by reputed Nigar Gogi & Stuff Solutions. Another special attraction of the Expo is its Techno segment of child & young students from different institutions including the IIUI, Air Varsity, Saaf Mohalla, etc.

The Exposition featured a captivating artworks & crafts exhibition as well as Techno demos & creative workshop by young talents. Ambassador Frederico Silva inaugurated the Exposition, showcasing

artists' poignant expressions on climate preservation, nature conservation, and the reduction of plastic usage. Renowned calligrapher Abdur Rasheed Butt and Mansoor Rahi & Hajra also took part in the Expo with their extra-ordinary art-pieces. Of significance were the Surah-al-Rahman & Muhammad (PBH) There were many art enthusiasts from the twin cities along with families & friends.

The CPCD's "Art, Crafts & Techno Exposition" not only celebrates art and culture but it also serves as a platform to the budding artists and to raise awareness about pressing global climate issues and win support on disaster relief efforts. One special element by CPCD is the establishment of an Endowment Fund for the disadvantaged artists shortly. For both, CPCD urges particularly the Corporate Sector and Philanthropists to come up with generous support and involvement in climate-change solution-development projects.



The Climate Exposition will be open to the public until 25th

November, from 10 am to 4 pm daily, at Grand Hall, Gallery No. 2&3 in PNCA Islamabad. The

Expo will be rounded off with Special Prize/Certificate Presentation Ceremony & Music Concert.

Greetings on Appointment

ISLAMABAD: Advocate Muhammad Abdul Rafah presenting a follower bouquet to Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, on his appointment as Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. Peer Syed Aamir Gillani and Amjad Mehmood are also seen in the picture.



Photo: Spokesman

SAPM Reiterates Commitment on Improving Overseas Employment System

News Desk



JEDDAH: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik held a detail exchange of views with Saudi employers and Human resource management executives in Jeddah.

During the meeting SAPM highlighted the importance of human resource development as per requirements of Saudi market and economy. He emphasized the close coordination and robust exchange of ideas among stake holders of overseas employment is of critical value to ensure capitalization of the opportunities for Pakistani manpower in the market of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SAPM also held an interaction with the Pakistani community at the Consulate General of Pakistan Jeddah. Community notables and businessmen interacted with SAPM on wide range of issues including issues faced by expatriates. SAPM assured the community that the government of Pakistan is fully committed to support Pakistani community in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Mr. Malik shared the ongoing efforts being made by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis to look after the interests of overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in the kingdom, and ensure their welfare.

The event was attended by a cross-section of the Pakistani diaspora in Jeddah, including businessmen, professionals, and entrepreneurs. The SAPM's visit to KSA is part of an effort to further strengthen manpower employment cooperation between the two countries.

Warning issued against batch of widely-consumed syrup

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has warned citizens against using a batch of this syrup.

As per details, DRAP has recalled batch L-083 of Weena Syrup, produced by Ms Swat Pharmaceuticals, located in Saidu Sharif Swat. The syrup is commonly employed in the treatment and prevention of iron deficiency anemia, as well as in prophylaxis for iron deficiency.

The DRAP recall alert stated that the incorrect usage of the product can lead to common side effects, including various types of gastrointestinal distress such as nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, constipation, and dark or discolored stool.

The manufacturer has also been directed to immediately recall the defective batch of Weena Syrup from the market and all pharmacies should immediately stop supplying this batch of product.

Whereas, the remaining stock should be quarantined and returned to the supplier/company. However, the regulatory field force of DRAP and Provincial Health Departments will increase surveillance in the market to ensure the effective recall of defective products.

Yesterday, in response to a World Health Organization (WHO) alert the Punjab government imposed a ban on five cough syrups, containing "excessive amount of alcohol".

The ban was imposed after the World Health Organization (WHO) investigated a complaint from the Maldives and confirmed the presence of "high alcohol content" in the cough syrups.

In a statement, Punjab's Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that the crackdown would extend to all medical stores in the province, ensuring that the cough syrups are removed from circulation.

The minister claimed that these companies were not only distributing their products within the country but also exporting them abroad. He pointed out that strict actions would be taken against those responsible for tarnishing the country's reputation.

Pakistan's first 'Industrial Policy' in the offing

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government has constituted an Industry Advisory Council (IAC) to formulate Pakistan's first-ever 'robust industrial policy', Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz announced on Saturday.

The Industries and Production Division has issued a notification in this regard, stating that the Industry Advisory Council (IAC), comprising 13 top industrial group in Pakistan, will be headed by Minister Gohar Ejaz.

The council consists of top industrialists including Fawad Anwer Mukhtar, Muhammad Ali Tabba, Waqar Ahmed Malik, Abdus Samad Dawood, Raza Mansha, Shahzad Asghar Ali, Samir Chinoy, Amir Fayyaz Sheikh, and Shahbaz Yasin Malik, Ahsan Bashir, Syed Haider Ali, and Farooq Naseem from the private sector.

Members representing the public sector include Additional Secretary



(In-charge), I&P Division; Secretary, Finance Division; Secretary, Commerce Division; Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue; and All Chief Secretaries of the provincial governments (including GB & AJK).
Meanwhile, Joint Secretary (IF), I&P Division will be Secretary Committee.
"Excited to announce the forma-

tion of the Industry Advisory Council, comprising 13 top groups in Pakistan," Dr Gohar Ejaz, announced in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"Together, we will be formulating a robust industrial policy that will drive economic growth and development," said the minister.

Gohar Ejaz said that he is thrilled to lead this initiative as the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry. "Let's chart a path towards a prosperous future," he added.

The notification, issued by Industries and Production Division, stated that it shall provide secretariat support to the council. The council will hold a weekly meeting and submit its final report within ten weeks, it added.

The notification added that the Minister for Commerce and Industries will serve as IAC's convener and chairman, who may co-opt any other person from the public/private sector, if deemed necessary.

13th Pakistan Mountain Festival from Dec 2

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All set to kick off a 10-day long 13th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival to mark the International Mountain Day with the Margalla Hills Trail-3 hiking, cleanup, and mountain biodiversity talk on December 2. It would be followed by a live painting competition on the theme "Mountain Ecosystem" at the Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) Rawalpindi on December 4. Other events will include exhibition of paintings, Pakistan Mountain Youth Forum, screening of documentaries, and mountain products and cultural showcasing.

Devcop-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed who is the founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival too, briefing about the series of events said: The festival will conclude with a grand combo of events including a conference on mountain conservation, sustainable tourism and cultural Heritage in the Changing Climate. Other



attractions of the grand event will be mountain food stalls, handicrafts, folklore, cultural and musical performances by the troupes from Gilgit, Baltistan, Hunza, Chitral, and Swat.

Munir Ahmed said as many as twenty best professionals will be given away 4th Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAMPA) while some will receive Friends of Mountains Awards (FOMA). National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) have consented to support the grand ceremony of awards. The Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAMPA) are dedicated to the

including the Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan Odyssey Award for the artist that has been passionately painting mountains over the years, Munir Ahmed said.

Speaking about the objectives of the Pakistan Mountain Festival (PMF) and Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAMPA) Munir Ahmed said: Usually, we don't see the gradual impact of climate change on life, livelihood and as a stress on the ecosystems and natural resources until any big disaster happens. Only then, mountains and its people get due attention.

We are living in the era of climate change, evidently supported by science. Even those nations and sectors of industry who were in the state of denial have now accepted that climate change is happening very fast. Pakistan is one of the most climate vulnerable countries, and in Pakistan, mountains and its women are the most neglected and vulnerable, he concluded.

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Does Pakistan exist on this planet?-I

Aitzaz Ehsan, an esteemed parliamentarian and lawyer, offered a thought-provoking perspective when he remarked that "Pakistan lives on another planet." His statement resonates with a sentiment suggesting that in Pakistan, constitutional adherence and the rule of law often take a back seat, with brute power seemingly overtaking these principles. While some may contest this broad assertion, there's an undeniable perception that corruption is not merely a problem but a normalized aspect of the system. Elections, to some extent, seem more of a ratification rather than a choice by the people, where the upcoming government appears pre-selected. The parliament often functions as a formality in passing laws, frequently overridden without repercussions. Significant decisions are made and executed without involving the civilian government, raising concerns about transparency and accountability. Moreover, the value of competency and merit appears diminished, and the nation's priorities seem disconnected from global standards and critical issues.

While Pakistan grapples with its ongoing challenges and existential issues, the global landscape is sprinting ahead in a fervent pursuit of cutting-edge technologies. Countries worldwide are actively engaged in the creation, management, and utilization of vast troves of big data. They're leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to revolutionize automation and predictive analytics, while pushing the boundaries of quantum computing to solve previously insurmountable problems. Meanwhile, on the frontier of

scientific innovation, high-precision biotechnology and genetic engineering are making significant strides, propelling breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and other critical sectors, including pioneering gene editing techniques to combat genetic diseases.

While Pakistan's research institutions grapple with financial constraints and face challenges even to disburse salaries to their employees, the global research and development community is forging ahead, engineering crops resilient against pests and diseases, thereby bolstering food production in developing nations. Moreover, the relentless pursuit of renewable energy sources and cutting-edge energy storage solutions is steering sustainability efforts, complemented by materials science innovations crafting sturdier and lighter materials. The Internet of Things (IoT) is ushering in smarter cities and industries, while space technologies carve paths into new frontiers of resource exploration. Concurrently, biomedical innovations are refining personalized medicine, while domains like cybersecurity, privacy technologies, advanced manufacturing, and space exploration herald a future replete with transformative possibilities poised to reshape industries, economies, and societies.

In Pakistan, our state institutions and intelligentsia appear engrossed in a counterproductive trajectory. Rather than advancing the nation's interests, they seem fixated on pre-election manipula-

tion and the relentless pursuit of political vendettas. Their efforts are dedicated not to progress but to fabricating evidence, orchestrating arrests, and subjecting perceived political threats to humiliation and torture. Concurrently, our media channels relentlessly bombard audiences, both domestic and international, with a narrative that paints our leaders, state apparatus, and citizens as inherently corrupt. They portray our business community, industrialists, traders, and even the general populace as complicit in plundering national resources, transferring wealth abroad, and perpetuating poverty at home.

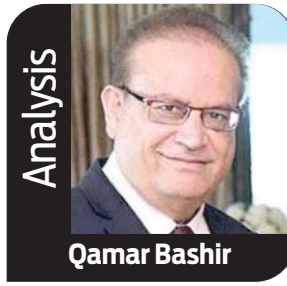
This self-perpetuating cycle has led Pakistan to concerning global rankings: 169th out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perceptions Index, 105th out of 139 countries on the Rule of Law Index, and 5th out of 163 countries on the Global Terrorism Index. On indices of global peace, human development, quality of life, democracy, and press freedom, Pakistan's rankings are equally disheartening. In education, Pakistan stands at 62nd out of 115 countries on the Education Index. The Pakistani passport, positioned at 109th on the Guide Passport Index, stands as the 4th lowest-ranking passport globally. These indices collectively reflect the pressing need for transformative change in Pakistan's socio-political landscape.

Our media appears dedicated to amplifying narratives that undermine our global standing by highlighting a plethora of negative aspects. News cover-

age often centers on violence, terrorism, high-profile cases like the Faizabad Dharna case, instances of citizens disappearing, cybercrimes, pre-election rigging, allegations of horse trading, controversies like the Toshakhana case, and a myriad of social issues. The focus extends to electricity and gas theft, hoarding, smuggling, traffic law violations, illegal financial activities like hawala and hundi, and the presence of illegal aliens. This relentless focus on negative incidents paints a picture where our country seems immersed in a culture of illegality and instability, potentially impacting our reputation on the global stage.

The world's media was buzzing with two major events in November 2023: the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel, and the highly anticipated meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in San Francisco. The Joe-Xi meeting yielded significant outcomes on several pressing global issues, including climate change, nuclear security, and trade. Both leaders pledged to maintain open dialogue, acknowledging shared global challenges and emphasizing peaceful competition. They signaled a desire to manage their rivalry responsibly and promote a rules-based order. A key decision was the restoration of military communication channels between the US and China, which had been severed following US Senator Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August 2022. This move aimed to reduce the risk of conflict and promote stability in the region.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Boost to people-to-people ties

The recent visit to Pakistan of New York State Assembly's Deputy Speaker, Phil Ramos, has paved the way for establishing sister-state relationships between New York State and the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan was told Friday. In a Zoom link meeting with members of the American-Pakistan Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) delegation, which accompanied speaker Ramos, the ambassador welcomed the visit's outcome, which would facilitate the Pakistani business community in organizing tradeshows and holding exhibitions in New York and other U. S. cities to showcase Pakistani products.

Practical steps would be taken to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the healthcare sector, leading to greater opportunities for paramedical staff from Pakistan to serve in the United States, said a press release from the Pakistani embassy issued here. Ambassador Masood Khan was also apprised that three committees, comprising representatives of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, APPAC, and Deputy Speaker's Office, have been constituted to prepare a roadmap for the implementation of the decisions.

In his remarks, the ambassador commended APPAC's role in strengthening trade and investment ties and promoting people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and the United States. Appreciating the move to establish a sister-state relationship, Masood Khan said that the arrangement would help forge multifaceted long-term ties in diverse areas. Sister-state agreements between California and Punjab, as well as Sindh and Georgia, provide a blueprint for New York's partnership with Punjab and Sindh.

The Ambassador assured all possible support from Pakistani trade officers in working out a concrete set of actions with timelines. He also highlighted huge trade and investment opportunities that awaited US investments, especially in IT, renewable energy, agriculture, and extractive industries. Pointing out the exponential growth of tech startups in the country and the significant investment from Silicon Valley's Venture Capital (VC) firms, the Ambassador said that the digitalization of the economy and efforts to introduce IT-based solutions for service delivery have created huge opportunities for profitable investments. "Contribute towards making Pakistan economically strong by scaling up your investments in the country," the ambassador said.

APPAC members thanked Ambassador Masood Khan for his continued support in fulfilling its mission of serving the two countries and their peoples. Separately, the Ambassador also had a virtual meeting with the representatives of Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization (PICO) Arizona, Pakistan Society of North Texas (PSNT), and the Pakistani American Association in Tampa Bay, Florida. Consul General Los Angeles Asim Ali Khan and CG Houston Aftab Ahmed Chaudhry were also present in the meeting. The representatives of various diaspora bodies briefed the Ambassador about the social and philanthropic activities of the Pakistani community in their respective areas. They also highlighted the role being played by community members at the county, district, and state levels.



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

One more promise given to Kashmiris at the United Nations

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

The United Nations Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) during its 55th meeting on November 17, 2023, approved a draft resolution on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. By the text, the Assembly would call on those States responsible to cease military interventions in and occupation of foreign countries and territories, as well as the brutal methods employed against the populations. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reaffirm the universal realization of the rights of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, 'World Forum for Peace and Justice' said that "This is one more promise given to the people of occupied lands, including Kashmir that cannot be kept. If promises are made to be broken, then Kashmir will be summoned to prove the treacherous proposition. Broken promises haunt Kashmir's history and explain its tragedy.

And, if we were to judge the United Nations based upon its history of involvement in efforts to resolve international conflicts, Dr. Fai added, the simplest answer is that it has been an enormous failure. Counted among the greatest failures of the UN are dozens, in particular, Srebrenica, a town in eastern Bosnia; Rwanda; Palestine and Kashmir. In context, Kashmir cannot be ignored, perhaps for no other reason than the conflict there has gone on for 76 years and seems destined to continue as long as the 900,000 Indian military and paramilitary forces continue to occupy the region. The potential for geno-

cide remains a very real threat as warned by Dr. Gregory Stanton, Chairman, Genocide Watch.

"With the lapse of British paramountcy on Aug. 15, 1947, broken promises over Kashmir came not like single spies but in battalions, to borrow from Hamlet. Princely states enjoyed three options: accession to India, accession to Pakistan or independence. But the choice, according to Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and tacitly endorsed by the Mountbatten British Viceroy was to be made by popular referendum in cases where the creed of the ruler varied from the religion of the majority. That promise was never kept," Fai explained.

India then raced to the United Nations Security Council on Jan.1, 1948, and championed a pair of resolutions on Aug. 13, 1948, and Jan. 5, 1949, that prescribed a self-determination vote for Kashmiris on the heels of U. N. supervised demilitarization. That promise was also broken.

Promises were made by India in 1966, (Tashkent Declaration), 1972, (Shimla Agreement) to negotiate seriously over Kashmir's sovereignty. But nothing was done. One more broken promise can be laid at the feet of the UN Security Council which has never exerted any moral or other clout to even nudge India toward compliance with its resolutions.

The train of broken promises over Kashmir might be forgiven if the consequences were innocuous or inconsequential. But I submit the opposite is the case. India exerts an iron-fisted rule over Kashmir that would stir the heart of Genghis Khan.

Fai expressed frustration at the lack of initiative at the United Nations. It seems that the UN Security Council has honored India's indefensible defense of its Kashmir broken promises because of its muscular military, nuclear and economic profile and hegemony in South Asia.

Now, listen to Ambassador A. Gopinathan, Deputy Permanent Representative of India

to the United Nations who said at the Third Committee that, "India is fully committed to the universal realisation of the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the international Covenants on human rights, as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 of 14 December 1960.

All was going well so far. Then suddenly, Ambassador Gopinathan realizes that he cannot win the hearts and minds of the people of Kashmir if they were given the right to self-determination. Recognizing that the people of Kashmir would never freely vote accession to India, he contrived excuse, and said, "In today's world self-determination implies the right of participation in freely-held elections by all sections of society."

Finally, Dr. Fai suggested that it is high time that the United Nations try to make a constructive departure. The best point for doing so is to restore the focus where it originally belonged and where it still rests logically viz: the rights and interests of the people of all zones of the State of Jammu & Kashmir itself. No sleight of hand is required, no subtle concepts are to be deployed, and no ingenious deal needs to be struck between India and Pakistan. What is needed is going back — yes, going back — to the point of agreement which historically existed beyond doubt between India and Pakistan and jointly resolving to retrieve it with such modifications as proposed by the Kashmir leadership — the tripartite negotiations between India, Pakistan and the genuine leadership of the people of the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai is the Chairman, Washington-based "World Forum for Peace & Justice." He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. gfnai2003@yahoo.com

Russia's Growing Influence in Africa, the Wagner Group's Deployment to Mali - I

Maria Waris

The Wagner group is a private military company which was founded in 2014 and played its role in high profile conflicts including Syrian Civil War, Libyan Civil War and Ukraine war. Russia has hired Wagner group forces to fight alongside its own military forces. In this way, it avoids committing its troops openly so it doesn't get confronted by NATO. As reported by New York Times Wagner Group has been deployed in Mali. This raises concerns that Wagner Group deployment could lead to escalation of conflict and exacerbate Human Rights abuses in the region. The Article published by New York Times signifies the negative role of Wagner group. It has expanded beyond Middle East and Ukraine now and is known to be their first deployment in Africa. The group is basically hired by Malian Government which pays it \$10 million per month for fighting off Islamic insurgents. Wagner group however has accusations of brutal human right abuses, lack of transparency and accountability. USA and France have shown concerns. The Wagner Group's deployment to Mali is a dangerous sign of Russia's growing influence in Africa, and it is important for the international community to take action to prevent Russia from further destabilizing the region. It is also believed that Wagner Group has potential to destabilize the region and create safe haven for terrorist groups. Russia's Wagner Group in Africa: Influence, commercial concessions, rights violations, and counter-insurgency failure | Brookings. (2022, March 9). Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/russias-wagner-group-in-africa-in->

fluence-commercial-concessions

Private military Companies are basically commercial entities which provide military aid to government, International Organizations and Non state actors. Private military company services include Armed security, combat support, training, logistics, risk assessment, intelligence gathering and information warfare. Private military companies are seen to be rising in recent decade and in the post cold war era as the states own military expenditure have reduced. PMC have outsourced the traditional state military as they are cheaper, skilled and help states covertly carry out military functions and in keeping politics away from conflicts. These companies play an important role in the Global security, conflicts, operations, peacekeeping and insurgency as well as aiding in fillings gaps in military capabilities. There are also a number of other factors which make them an appealing option like flexibility, speed of deployment, cost friendliness and lesser risk for hiring state. The positive nature of private military companies is evident from their aid in providing food, transportation and supplies to US troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Providing training to local Afghan forces and help in capacity building measures against counter insurgency. Helping USA Govt in gathering information about terrorist groups in Middle East. Logistic support to UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

However, there are immense consequences linked with the utilization of private military companies. PMCs can reduce accountability, erode state sovereignty, give rise to conflicts, commit human rights abuses, and create a shadow army.

To be continued

UAE to transport 1,000 Gazan cancer patients to Emirati hospitals

News Desk

DUBAI: The UAE will treat 1,000 Palestinian cancer patients in its hospitals after Gaza's health system collapsed due to Israel's war in the enclave.

The decision by President Sheikh

Mohamed on Saturday will include treatment for patients of all ages, state news agency Wam said.

The move came just hours after the first of 1,000 injured children arrived in Abu Dhabi on a medical flight. Many require complex treatment for lost limbs and burns.

The 2,000 patients will be accompanied by family or guardians.

The first arrivals on Saturday, comprising about 15 children and their families, were transported to the UAE's Burjeel Hospital, NMC Royal Hospital and Sheikh Khalifa Medical City where more than 20 doctors, nurses

and emergency medical technicians awaited them.

President Sheikh Mohamed on November 5 announced a humanitarian operation to support Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Under Gallant Knight 3, the Ministry of Defence's Joint Operations



Command is co-ordinating with the Emirates Red Crescent, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and

Zayed bin Sultan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation to provide support in Gaza.

Bilateral ties

Indonesia embassy holds annual 'Family Gala' to celebrate bonding with Pakistani friends

Tooba Khan

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad for second year in a row organised a cheerful event titled "Family Gala: Fun Games and Sports" to celebrate strong bonding between Indonesian Embassy and Pakistani friends from different walks of lives. Participating friends of Indonesia spent a lively and cheerful weekend full of fun and activities at the Embassy of Indonesia. The day turned into a memorable one as Ambassador, H. E. Adam Tugio and his team made arrangements to give a home-like feeling to the guests. There was food, music, sporting activity and endless hours of leisure and gossip to amaze all age groups according to their tastes. The family gathering took place on the backyard of the Embassy premises and witnessed the participation of diplomatic corps, government officials and media professionals along with their families.

The outgoing Indonesian Ambassador is having farewell parties from Pakistani friends nowadays which show his strong relationship and popularity in Pakistan.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mr. Adam Tugio expressed his gratitude for friends of Indonesia from diplomatic community and Pakistan for their support and good cooperation which



helped the Embassy in strengthening bilateral ties and people to people connection of the two countries. He thanked media professionals of Pakistan for their continued support to the Embassy's works in promoting economic and socio development in Indonesia to the wider audience in Pakistan. The envoy further added that cultural activities play important role in building bridges of understanding and friendship, and the Embassy looks forward to hosting more such celebrations in

the future.

Chairperson of Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Riffat Shaheen presented the replica hand sculpted gift of world's largest flower model, "Titan Arum" to the Embassy. This awe-inspiring creation was unveiled by the Ambassador of Indonesia with his spouse and Ms. Riffat Shaheen, symbolizing the flourishing friendship between the two brotherly nations. "Titan Arum is a symbol of long life, beauty, resilience and cultural



richness, this flower is a token of love for the Indonesian people", mentioned Ms Riffat Shaheen, who also a renowned Fine Artist, sculptor and painter.

The event showcased musical perfor-

mance by a Pakistani band and cultural dance performance by the Indonesian ladies, delighting all attendees. The cultural interchange sought to cultivate a more profound comprehension and

admiration for the diverse traditions that Indonesia and Pakistan mutually cherish.

The culinary aspect of the event showcased the best of Indonesian cuisine, with guests savoring renowned delicacies such as Bakso (beef balls soup), Sate Ayam or Indonesian chicken tikka, and Nasi Goreng (fried rice), creating an unforgettable experience of Indonesian culinary diversity.

Entrepreneurs from Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry set up stalls of beautiful handmade jewelry and fashionable Pakistani traditional clothes which attracted the audience. A dedicated corner for face painting also brought out the creativity in children, turning their faces into colorful canvases filled with smiles and laughter. Meanwhile, traditional Indonesian games added an extra layer of excitement among the children.

Ambassador Kazhar Farhadov of Azerbaijan, High Commissioner Pengiran Kamal Bashah Achmad of Brunei Darussalam and Director General, Mr. Asif Iqbal Khan of National Library of Pakistan were among the guest that participated in the family gathering.

The participants recognized and appreciated to Ambassador of Indonesia for his extraordinary services to strengthen the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Indonesia in economic, trade, education, political, diplomatic and other fields of mutual interests.

Breast Cancer Awareness

First Lady stresses importance of breast cancer screening to aid in early detection of cancer

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Mrs. Samina Alvi lauded Maroof Int'l Hospital for offering screening facilities of discounted mammograms and ultrasounds from 1st October till December 31 every year, for early detection of breast cancer and called upon other hospitals to follow the same.

Speaking on the occasion, the honorable First Lady; Mrs. Samina Arif Alvi who was the chief guest of Breast Cancer Awareness Program organized by Maroof Int'l Hospital in collaboration with the National Press Club at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, urged women to regularly conduct self-examination and self-diagnosis for five minutes every month for the early detection of breast cancer. She added that a number of breast cancer cases at the early stages have almost



doubled in different hospitals of the country due to awareness and an increase in reporting. Health of women is essential to achieve the dream of a healthy Pakistan, healthy and active women

can play their role in the socio-economic development of the country.

The event saw senior representation of heads foreign missions, WHO, WFP, UNHCR, HUM TV, PTV, PIMS, PM

Medical Staff, PIA, CAA, PPIB, PEMRA, AGICO, State Life, NTC, FG College, Health Aid Nursing College, CAA, PIA, IESCO, NPC, Diplomatic Insight, One Health & WAPDA Hospital among



many others.

Mr. Haroon Naseer the CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital, in his closing remarks appreciated the efforts and interest of the First Lady, who is leading the breast cancer awareness campaign in the country. He also vowed her resolve to continue organizing such awareness activities for breast cancer awareness for the masses. He added that the aware-

ness campaigns have contributed to an increase in reported cases of breast cancer patients and decreased death ratio. He expressed satisfaction on continued support of the breast cancer awareness program through screening facilities at Maroof Int'l hospital.

Addressing the seminar Dr. Mir Waheed, Medical Director MIH said that worldwide, female breast cancer has surpassed lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer. An estimated 2,261,419 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in women across the world in 2020. The prevalence of breast cancer is the highest in Asian countries like India and Pakistan. He went on saying that it had been reported that approximately 178,388 new breast cancer cases were registered in Pakistan in 2020.

UK National Day Climate Themed Celebrations Conclude in Lahore and Karachi



Spokesman Report

LAHORE/ KARACHI: On Friday the UK concluded its celebrations marking his Majesty King Charles III's 75th Birthday, with a final event in Karachi, following those in Lahore on Thursday and Islamabad on Tuesday. The King's Birthday Party events, which double as a National Day for the UK, had an

environment and climate theme, to reflect both the King's interest in this area and the high priority given to this work by the UK.

Hosted in the garden of 'Acton House' at the Deputy High Commission Karachi, Friday's 'village' styled event was attended by British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott OBE CMG, and the visiting British Army's Chief of



the General Staff, General Patrick Sanders KCB, CBE, DSO, ADC Gen. In attendance as Chief Guest was the Caretaker Minister for Law, Religious Affairs and Human Rights, Omer Soomro. Also present were representatives from the Karachi Relief Trust with whom the Deputy British High Commission Karachi collaborate to support the rehabilitation of flood-affected communities in

Sindh.

With COP28 set to take place on the 30th November in the UAE, these national celebrations were used to open environment and climate related conversations ranging from how to build on Pakistan's negotiating success on a Loss and Damage Fund at COP27. To how Pakistan can safeguard its marine economy via the Commonwealth's Blue Charter.

President inspects the improvement and preparation for winter in mahallas

News Desk

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited "Khabib Abdullayev" mahalla of Mirzo Ulugbek district in Tashkent.

Over 4.4 thousand people live in the mahalla. There are about 50 trade and service points and educational organizations here. 38 apartment buildings and 4 social facilities are serviced by the management service company "Madaniyatli Hudud".

All conditions have been created for the complete leisure of residents. This year, a tea house, an amphitheater, and a Wi-Fi zone were built, internal roads and playgrounds were repaired.

Thanks to the attention and unity of the residents, the mahalla acquired a completely new look. In the fall, more than 2 thousand seedlings of ornamental and fruit trees were planted as part of the "Yashil Makon" (Green Space) project. Two artesian wells were dug, and an irrigation system for green spaces was created.

Here, the Head of state spoke with activists of the district and represent-



atives of the older generation. They talked about the work in their mahallas on landscaping, repairing electrical networks, and thoroughly preparing for winter.

The President noted the need for saving energy, preserving heat in homes, and creating in everyone a sense of belonging to the culture of energy saving.

"We can't say that climate change is happening somewhere far from us. Last year's frosts showed this. We now need to change our worldview considering the climate change. If every citizen

treats this as caring for his home, mahalla, district, and native country, then the result will be as we expect", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

Ten transformers were repaired before winter, and the electrical networks were replaced in this mahalla. The entrance areas of multi-storey buildings were overhauled, and new doors were installed. The heating pipes in the basements have been replaced.

The Head of state was reported on preparations for winter in accordance with the instructions given during his visit to Chilanzar district in Tashkent.

Pharmaceutical Industry plans to enhance export by \$1 billion in FY24: DRAP CEO



Commerce Report

KARACHI: The government, along with all stakeholders of the sector, has set a target to enhance pharmaceutical exports to \$1 billion in the current financial year from \$713 million in exports in the last financial year.

This was stated by Asim Rauf, CEO Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), in a press briefing held on the concluding day of 20th PharmaAsia.

The government is working proactively in collaboration with all stakeholders of the pharmaceutical sector, including pharmaceutical companies, raw material producers, and universities, to increase the footprint of this sector in different countries.

We held a high-level meeting on the sideline of this conference to set up a plan to achieve the target of \$1 billion in exports in the current financial year, he added.

Pharma Asia, the leading pharmaceutical event in the region, culminated its annual conference and exhibition with an illustrious closing ceremony graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Asim Rauf, CEO of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). The three-day event brought together pioneers, experts, and stakeholders from the pharmaceutical industry, showcasing cutting-edge innovations, fostering collaborations, and driving impactful discussions to advance healthcare solutions across Asia.

The closing ceremony marked the successful conclusion of Pharma Asia 2023, acknowledging the collective efforts of the pharmaceutical community in fostering growth, innovation, and sustainability within the industry.

Speakers at various seminars highlighted the pivotal role of regulatory bodies, industry players, and stakeholders in shaping the future landscape of healthcare in the region.

"We are immensely honored to have had CEO DRAP grace Pharma Asia's closing ceremony. His insightful address and invaluable presence underscore the collaborative spirit and commitment of stakeholders to drive innovation and excellence in the pharmaceutical sector," said Mr. Farhan Anis, Vice President of Pharma Asia Exhibition.

Pharma Asia extends its gratitude to all sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, delegates, and participants whose unwavering support and participation contributed to the resounding success of this event. With 650 stalls, the exhibition promises an extensive showcase of cutting-edge products, services, and innovations. This year's event boasts participation from more than 160 international representatives from China, Turkey, Vietnam, the UK, Germany, and Malaysia.

Cotton ginning reaches 7.3 million bales across Pakistan till Nov 15

MULTAN, NOV 18 (APP): Over 7.3 million bales of seed cotton have reached ginning factories across Pakistan as of November 15, 2023, according to a fortnightly report from the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) released on Saturday.

Of the total cotton arrivals, over 7.0 million bales have undergone the ginning process, converting them into marketable cotton bales. Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded at over 3.4 million bales, or 34,28,915 bales, while Sindh generated over 3.9 million bales, or 39,41,709 bales.

The textile sector purchased 63,22,047 bales, exporters acquired 2,79,826 bales, and the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) did not make any purchases during the cotton season 2023-24.

MOFA to cooperate with private sector in exploring new export markets

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President met with Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and exchanged with him the ideas for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports by focusing on trade diplomacy.

Addressing the delegation, Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific), Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that ASEAN, Central Asia and Africa are huge markets for Pakistan, but still remain untapped and stressed that the business community should focus on these markets to improve Pakistan's trade and exports. He said that Pakistan is producing quality pharmaceuticals and many other products, which can gain good market share in these promising regions.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of



Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan needs to focus on trade diplomacy to boost prosperity and economic growth. He said that the role of Pakistani diplomats in foreign countries is very important in identifying new avenues for promoting Pakistani exports. He said that by

utilizing trade diplomacy, Pakistan can attract more foreign investment and secure advantageous trade agreements with foreign countries to promote economic growth and lessen the dependence on foreign loans. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President

ICCI said that the close cooperation of Pakistani diplomats in foreign countries with the chambers of commerce is very important to promote business and economic interests of Pakistan in the international market and stressed that the diplomats should provide full support to Pakistani business delegations during their visit to foreign countries.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that countries are not shifting their focus from geopolitics to geoeconomics to boost business and investment and stressed that the Pakistani foreign diplomats should join hands with the private sector of Pakistan to bring a revolution in exports promotion and bring economic prosperity to the country. He stressed for direct flights and FTAs with ASEAN countries to improve Pakistan's trade and exports.

Maqsood Tabish, Rizwan Cheena and others members of ICCI delegation also shared useful ideas to promote Pakistan's trade diplomacy in cooperation with the ministry of foreign affairs.

Gift of winter

KARACHI: Vendors are selling traditional winters dish "GAJRELA", at Federal B area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Businessmen Panel faces deep rift; BMP progressive enters in FPCCI elections

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The ruling Businessmen's panel in the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is experiencing a significant internal divide even before the elections. The split into two factions has dealt a major blow to the BMP (Businessmen Panel).

In recent months, the Businessmen Panel has witnessed significant internal discord, particularly among Sindh leaders. A faction within the panel is actively seeking to remove BMP Chairman Anjum Nisar from his position. Exploiting Anjum Nisar's personal engagements, this group has made arbitrary decisions without Core Committee approval, bypassing the established process.

Efforts by BMP Secretary General Haji Ghulam Ali to reconcile the differences within the group have proven unsuccessful. The factionalism within BMP has raised deep concerns among Anjum Nisar's



supporters, fearing adverse effects on business due to the internal conflicts.

"The leading members of BMP have announced the formation of a new group, the 'Businessmen Progressive Panel,' demonstrating their commitment to actively participate in the FPCCI elections, setting aside internal differences. The majority of members are reported to share like-minded views. Notable BMP leaders involved in organizing the group include Khurram Ejaz, Shabbir Mansha Churra, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Adeel Siddiqui, and Haji Yasir."

The Businessmen Progressive Panel

was officially announced during the last members' meeting. Members unanimously agreed to entrust leadership to the youth, emphasizing the need for young leadership instead of retirees within the panel.

The meeting was attended by 36 voters for the upcoming FPCCI elections, along with a significant number of supporters. They vowed that under no circumstances would they allow Tariq Saeed's panel to be hijacked. They expressed their commitment to liberating BMP from individuals with capitalist and dictatorial mindsets, even if it requires their utmost efforts.

The meeting unanimously appointed former FPCCI Vice President Khurram Ejaz and Adeel Siddiqui as coordinators, empowering them to nominate additional candidates for FPCCI elections after consulting with other group members. They are authorized to announce the names and make comprehensive preparations for active participation in the FPCCI election.

LCCI welcomes NEPRA decision on net metering

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Saturday welcomed the decision of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) to ease the process of net metering in larger interest of the stakeholders.

It is to mention that LCCI President Kashif Anwar had taken up the matter and conveyed concerns to authorities that the applications for net metering are not being processed.

Further, NEPRA has also directed that to ensure the processing of the applications do not cause any extra financial burden to the consumer other than permissible fee.

Kashif Anwar said that the prompt response of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is commendable and it would not only give a much-needed relief to the consumers of alternative energy but is also a national service.



"We are thankful to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority for taking a prompt action on demand of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and directed all the concerned officers that all the net metering applications of eligible consumers should be processed on priority basis without any discrimination," he said.

The LCCI president said that they desperately needed some good alternatives and viable solutions for rising energy demands and high costs of thermal resources. He further mentioned that a wide range of biomass resources, particularly woody biomass and organic waste is available in Pakistan in abundance, so some serious efforts are required to be made to establish necessary modalities to commercialize it at a large scale.

BoK clarifying facts on the MD's Intent to Resign

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Bank of Khyber (BoK) wishes to address inaccuracies in a recent article by Aziz Buner published in Profit magazine. The MD has expressed his intention to resign. Contrary to the claims made in the article, the decision of the Managing Director (MD) of BoK to resign was entirely his own initiative. The Board of Directors at the Bank of Khyber wants to emphasize that the MD's resignation is a personal decision and not the result of any form of dismissal or forced removal. This clarification is issued to maintain transparency and correct any misconceptions that may have arisen from the article's statements.

LESCO detects 27,404 power pilferers in 71 days anti-theft campaign

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 27,404 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts- Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara- during 71 days of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Saturday that the company has so far submitted FIR applications against 27,113 electricity thieves, out of which 26,082 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 12,779 accused have been arrested.

Pakistani-American is creating investment avenues in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: WOW Resorts, founded by a famous Pakistani-American businessman, Anwar Ali Aman from Chitral, is known for its commitment to exquisite living and top-notch hospitality. They have recently entered a prestigious agreement with the esteemed JW Marriott. Together, they proudly announced the grand reveal of a 5-star hotel construction in Chitral, and upcoming projects in Phander, Gilgit, Skardu and Islamabad. This not only enhances the hospitality sector but also opens up investment opportunities, promoting tourism development in the country.

This extraordinary development in the UAE, anticipated to reach a value of USD 1.3 billion upon completion, will serve as a beacon in Marriott International's prestigious portfolio, showcasing its iconic presence on Al Marjan Island, a cherished destination for tourists and investors alike.

The sustainable growth in Ras Al Khaimah's real estate market and the appeal of waterfront living experiences continue to draw global investors, establishing Al Marjan Island as a premier destination for substantial returns on investment.

In a grand ceremony in the UAE, the CEO & Founder of WOW Resorts, Anwar Ali Aman, joined hands with representatives of Marriott International and the respected Arch. Abdulla Al Abdouli, Chief Executive Officer, Marjan. Envisioned as an architectural masterpiece, this project is designed by celebrity architects and design houses hailing from Los Angeles and Dubai.

Scheduled to welcome guests by late 2026, the JW Marriott Al Marjan Island Resort & JW Marriott Residences Al Marjan Island marks WOW Resorts' debut in the UAE, with additional ventures slated for other Asian markets. This extraordinary property will cater to aspiring homeowners, the discerning globetrotter of tomorrow, nature enthusiasts, and aquatic sports aficionados from the subcontinent and beyond, defining a new era in hospitality.

Anwar Ali Aman expressed his gratitude for the prestigious partnership and said: "It is a privilege to work with the prestigious Marriott International and Al Marjan Island to unveil our flagship project in one of UAE's most eagerly anticipated developments. We are excited to continue to expand our luxury hospitality portfolio across the globe. We will also soon complete the construction for Bejaan Hotels-our exquisite five-star resorts offering in Chitral, Pakistan, our hometown."



All Pakistan Inter-University Women Squash begins in colourful opening ceremony

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: All Pakistan Inter-University Women Squash Championship under the aegis of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar got under way here at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex on Saturday.

Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Professor Dr. Safia Ahmad, legendary Qamar Zaman formally inaugurated. Deputy Director Sports and Organizing Secretary of the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) Mariyyah Samin Jan, squash coaches Tahir Iqbal, Chief Referee Munawar Zaman, Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Syed Jaffar Shah and representatives of the Higher Education Commission were also present.

Welcoming the guests, Mariyyah Samin, a former national athlete, thanked In-charge Pakistan Sports Board Coaching Center Peshawar Accountant Muhammad Usman and Superintendent

Suleman Khan for extending all cooperation by providing accommodation to all the 15 participating teams wherein more than 110 women players part of the Championship.

Mariyyah Samin Jan said SBBWU is an active Unit of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and before that the Directorate Sports of the University organized All Pakistan Inter-University Volleyball, Football, Wushu, and Badminton Championships. It would be the third consecutive time that the University is holding All-Pakistan Women Squash Championship here in Peshawar wherein more than 110 players are participating.

The Championship, she said, would continue till November 20. Mariyyah Samin said that the All-Pakistan Men Athletic Championship and Women Squash Championship are actually part of the Mini-Sports Gala awarded to both University of Peshawar and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University on



the same dates.

"We are very thankful to the Chairman HEC and Director General Sports HEC for reposing confidence in our University for hosting the prestigious Championships for women and men athletes," Mariyyah Samin said. She said head coach Salma Faiz is looking after all teams as far as accommodations and other facilities are concerned.

She said the teams including PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Punjab University, Lahore College for Women University Lahore, Bahaudin Zakariya University, Multan, Islamia

University Bahawalpur, LUMS Lahore, Iqra University Peshawar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, GCU Lahore, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore (UVAS), University of Lahore and SBBWU are taking part.

In the opening matches BZU beat the University of Management Science and Technology, Aried beat UVAS by 2-0, Lahore College for Women University beat ARIED by 2-0, Iqra University beat Govt College University Lahore, Iqra University beat University of Central Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad beat Punjab University by 2-0.

Speaking on this occasion, Qamar Zaman appreciated SBBWU for holding such a big event in which a total of 15 University teams taking part. He said now women are gaining roots and women of Pakistan are good at national and international level. He said schools, colleges, and Universities are the better sources of talent hunts.

Mohammad Yousuf appointed Pakistan U19 Head Coach: PCB

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board today confirmed the appointment of former Test captain Mohammad Yousuf as head coach of Pakistan U19. Yousuf's first assignments in the role include the 2023 ACC U19 Asia Cup in the UAE from 8 to 17 December and the 2024 ICC U19 World Cup in Sri Lanka from 13 January to 4 February.

Yousuf, who has previously served as batting coach of the Pakistan Men's Team and at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, is one of Pakistan's most distinguished batters. He scored 7,530 Test and 9,720 ODI runs in a career spanning from 1998 to 2010 and holds the record for the most Test



runs in a calendar year when he amassed 1788 runs in the format in 2006.

Mohammad Yousuf: "I am pleased to join as Paki-

stan U19 head coach and feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to contribute to Pakistan cricket by Chairman PCB Management

Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf.

I am eagerly looking forward to the upcoming U19 Asia Cup and ICC U19 World Cup tournaments, which are crucial to the players' growth and we will be aiming to do our best in these events.

Having had the privilege of working with the senior men's side, I will bring my coaching experience to the U19 set-up, providing a nurturing environment for the young talents to thrive and make a mark on the international level.

Harnessing the skills of young players is crucial for Pakistan cricket and I am dedicated to fulfilling my responsibility in helping identify, improve and nurture future stars.

Sohail Tanvir to lead junior selection committee



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Member of the 2009 T20 World Cup winning squad and former Pakistan cricketer Sohail Tanvir has been appointed as head of the junior selection committee.

Sohail made his international debut in 2007 and made two Test, 62 ODI and 57 T20I appearances for Pakistan. He picked up 130 wickets and scored 612 runs across the three formats.

Sohail Tanvir's first assignment as chairperson of the junior selection committee will be the selection of the Pakistan U19 squad for the 2023 ACC U19 Asia Cup scheduled to be held between 8 and 17 December in UAE.

Pakistan U19 will later take part in the ICC U19 World Cup from 13 January to 4 February in Sri Lanka.

Commenting on his appointment, Sohail Tanvir thanked the PCB Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf providing him with the opportunity.

"I am truly honoured and grateful for the opportunity provided by Chairman PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf to serve as head of the junior selection committee.

"Being appointed chairman of this committee is a huge responsibility and I am looking forward to this exciting challenge. "I believe in the potential of our young talent and we collaboratively aim to build a pathway for success from the grassroots to the international level.

"Our first task will be the selection of the U19 squad for upcoming ACC U19 Asia Cup, as we prepare to build a strong team to compete in the ICC U19 World Cup later next year."

Besides him, legendary batter Mohammad Yousuf was named the head coach of the Pakistan Men's U19 team.

Yousuf, who has previously served as batting coach of the Pakistan Men's Team and at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, is one of Pakistan's most distinguished batters.

He scored 7,530 Test and 9,720 ODI runs in a career spanning from 1998 to 2010 and holds the record for the most Test runs in a calendar year when he amassed 1788 runs in the format in 2006.

Government Degree Girls College Alnoor holds a workshop on traditional KHO KHO game

Sports Desk

KARACHI: A workshop on traditional 'Kho Kho game' was held by the Government Girls Degree College F. B area Al Noor. The workshop was attended by four colleges including Apwa Government Girls Degree College, H. I Osmania Government Girls College, Government Girls College Block K and the host College Government Girls Degree College Alnoor.

Principal Dr Rizwana Siddiqui, Welcomed and Thanks to the officials of KHO KHO federation and the participating college teams In her address to the audience she appreciated the efforts of DPE Ms Batool kazim and entire college sports committee.



President Sindh Kho Kho Association Dr M Arif Hafeez has announced a tournament for the promotion of KHO KHO game,

He also said it is a very famous game and played internationally.

Moreover in the upcoming Sindh games this best player will be selected through this tournament to participate.

International player and secretary of Karachi Kho Kho Association Shahroz Alvi

informed the participants about the game of Kho Kho about the technique, its rules and innovations.

Addressing the workshop, Director Physical Education Government Degree Girls' College Alnoor, Batool Kazim said that I sincerely thank each and every one of you for making the Kho Kho workshop a wonderful success in our college premises.

I am truly overwhelmed by the efforts put in by our

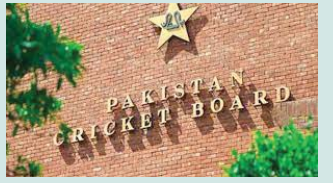
Principal Prof. Dr. Rizwana Siddiqui, eminent teachers, enthusiastic students and media representatives Faheem and Farhan

pecial thanks to Prof. Shazia Khanum and to the sports committee members, Ms Zobia Basit, Ms Azhar Kanwal, Ms Sheeba Rizvi, Ms Saadia Kazmi, Ms Sana Nasir, and Sir Syed Aneeq Sultan Arif for their active participation in sports all the time.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also promotes cricket in Faisalabad: Vohra

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Hospitals will be deserted if the sports grounds are occupied, this was said by Chief Guest Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf

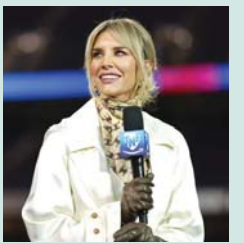


Vohra while talking to the media on the occasion of the final of the Taya Nazir Memorial Triangular T20 Cricket Tournament. This final was played between Combined Cricket Club vs Akhtar Memorial Cricket Club. On the arrival of the special guest, drum beats, flower leaves, flower bouquets and garlands were presented by Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, CTO Maqsood Ahmad Lone, Saad Naseer Vohra, prominent business leader Quetta Saeed Ahmed, DSO Tariq Nazir, Caretaker Qaraqbal Stadium Naveed Nazir, Asim Khan, Rana Abed, Mian Manwar Fayyaz Sunny, Muhammad Abdullah, Faisal Bhatti, Muhammad Asad, Hisham Ali Butt PRO to CTO, and others. On this occasion, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra and Chief Traffic Officer Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmad Lone were introduced with both teams and group photos were taken. The guests watched the final match. Al-Hajj Nasir Yousuf Vohra has said that the businessmen of Faisalabad have always actively participated in the cash prizes and arrangements for the players in the sports fields, due to which Faisal Games continue day and night in the sports fields in Abad. The government and PCB should also promote sports in Faisalabad. Addressing the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad, he said They should also restore sports activities so that the young generation does not suffer from addiction and the youth are healthy. has been and will continue to do. Muhammad Abdullah President CC 124 PMLN gave 5 thousand rupees for hitting a six and 2 thousand rupees for getting out to encourage the players. While the winning team represented by Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra received trophies. And cash prizes were given and watches were given to the man of the match. While Asif Islam was given a Honda motorcycle as a prize for organizing this tournament. In the end, prayers were also offered for the country of Pakistan, the Pakistan Army and the people of Pakistan. Pakistan Army Zindabad Pakistan Paindabad

Charissa Thompson, NFL broadcaster who faked sideline reports, says 'I never lied'

Charissa Thompson, an NFL broadcaster issued an apology after acknowledging that she had made up stories while she was a sideline reporter in her early career.

"I haven't been fired for saying it... I would make up the report sometimes," Charissa Thompson said on a podcast released earlier this week, reported BBC.



Her remarks provoked a furious response from sports media professionals as well as some fans.

The anchor said on Friday that she had "never lied" and had used "the wrong words".

"I understand how important words are and I chose the wrong words to describe the situation," she wrote in a statement posted to Instagram. "I'm sorry. I have never lied about anything or been unethical during my time as a sports broadcaster."

"In the absence of a coach providing any information that could further my report I would use information that I learned and saw during the first half," she said.

In American football broadcasts, sideline reporters are essential because they provide real-time information from the field or nearby. They frequently divulge information that coaches provide them with during a game.

These days, Thompson, 41, mostly works as a host for Amazon and Fox Sports.

Thompson stated on Tuesday in an interview with Barstool Sports' Pardon My Take podcast that occasionally "the coach wouldn't come out at halftime, or it was too late and I didn't want to screw up the report." I decided to make this up, so to speak.

She said that in certain situations, she would frequently fall back on clichés.

"No coach is going to get mad if I say, 'Hey, we need to stop hurting ourselves... and do a better job of getting off the field,'" she said. "They're not going to correct me on that."

In a post on X, previously Twitter, Laura Okmin, a coworker at Fox Sports and the third-longest-tenured sideline reporter in league history, attacked Thompson.

"The privilege of a sideline role is being the one person in the entire world who has the opportunity to ask coaches what's happening in that moment," she wrote.

"I can't express the amount of time it takes to build that trust," she added.

ESPN college football reporter Molly McGrath, who is nominated for a Sports Emmy, cautioned young journalists that this kind of activity was "not normal or ethical".

"Coaches and players trust us with sensitive information, and if they know that you're dishonest and don't take your role seriously, you've lost all trust and credibility," she said.

Thompson's remarks, according to ESPN's Morgan Uber, denigrate other women "in a profession that is already stereotyped as just being eye candy."

"Good sideline reporters do their homework, talk to players and coaches throughout the week and on game day and most definitely don't make up reports," she stated.

The BBC reached out to Fox Sports and Amazon Prime, but neither company provided a response.

Australia 'ready for anything India throw at us' in final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Australia are adamant they will be "ready for anything" India throw at them in the ICC World Cup 2023 final after controversy hit the tournament in a 'pitch switch' row.

India have been the form team of the World Cup, winning all 10 games on their way to Sunday's showpiece match in Ahmedabad. But there was controversy in the lead-up to their 70-run semi-final win over New Zealand in Mumbai after it emerged the game was being played on a Wankhede Stadium pitch already used twice before during the tournament rather than a freshly-prepared surface.

"No doubt playing on your own wicket in your own country has some advantages," Australia

captain Pat Cummins told a pre-match press conference on Saturday. "But we've played a lot of cricket over here."

"We'll be ready in terms of anything they'll throw at us...we'll make sure we have some plans."

The pitch will be the same surface as the one on which India cruised to a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in the ICC World Cup 2023 group fixture, when they dismissed their arch-rivals for just 191 after winning the toss.

"My understanding is it's going to be on the slower side," said India captain Rohit Sharma later Saturday.

"But we have to assess what it is like tomorrow," he added, pointing out that while there had been dew on the ground ahead of the Pakistan game, none appeared during the match itself.

"That's why I keep saying the toss is not going to be a factor, you've got to play well to win the game regardless of how well you know the conditions."

A used pitch had no major bearing on the Mumbai semi-final, with more than 700 runs scored in the game.

Pat Cummins, asked if he had already seen the pitch for the final, replied: "Yeah, just had a look. It looked pretty firm...I think Pakistan played someone there!"

Used pitches generally favour spinners, with slow bowling a key component of a five-man India attack where Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja are expected to bowl 20 of their 50 overs on Sunday.

Australia have already won the World Cup a record five times and 30-year-old fast bowler

Cummins, a member of the victorious 2015 side, was excited by having the opportunity to emulate the likes of Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting by leading the team to another triumph.

"It would be huge," he said. "We were all kids not too long ago, watching some of those great teams win the 1999, 2003, 2007 World Cups."

He added: "To be captain would be an absolute privilege... it'd be awesome."

"It (the World Cup) has got the longest history of a world event where all the teams compete.

"You only get a shot at it every four years. So even if you have a long career, you might only play in two of these events. 2015 is still a career highlight for me, but I think tomorrow, if we win, might pip it."



Workers convention

PESHAWAR: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to workers convention.



Photo: APP

President prods students to grasp opportunities flowing out from modern knowledge tools

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday said that doors of the modern knowledge were kept ajar with vast opportunities peeping out, giving ample encouragement for the knowhow experts to embark upon new journey of progress and prosperity. Addressing the 18th Convocation of Riphah International University here at Jinnah Convention Center, the president urged the students to utilize all the modern resources to seek knowledge and serve the country.

The president underscored the significance of research in various fields of life and cited the achievements of smaller countries like Estonia and Netherlands in agriculture. "Netherlands is 19



percent smaller than Pakistan in size but it is the second largest exporter of food in the world owing to development in agri-sector," he added. President prods students to grasp opportunities flowing out from modern knowledge

tools "These smaller countries have bigger footprints in the world," he said, adding that research and better decision making were critical for attainment of progress.

President prods students to grasp opportunities flow-

ing out from modern knowledge tools The president also appreciated the functioning of the university and its contribution in the field of modern education. In his welcome remarks, Vice Chancellor Dr Anis Ahmed

said that one of the student of the university Dr Namra Khan was given an award the by Howard University, US in field of research on cancer, besides, its nine scientists were among the top others included in the global list. He said that Riphah was ranked at 196 by the a recent Asia universities ranking, adding, the Quality Enhancement Cell of the University got the first position in the private sector "W" Category Universities of the Country according to the scorecard formulated by the HEC. The vice chancellor said Riphah was the first university of the country that had been certified under standards and announced by the UK based Lloyd's Register. On the occasion, the president also gave away degrees to PhD students.

Food, water supplies running perilously low in besieged Gaza, UN warns

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Fierce Israeli attacks continue raining death and destruction across Gaza from the air, sea, and on the ground, the UN's top humanitarian official told Member States on Friday, reporting that 41,000 houses have now been destroyed or severely damaged. More than 1.5 million Gazans are displaced, 18 hospitals have shut down, and hundreds of thousands are living in fear and under continuing Israeli bombardment, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Humanitarian Affairs chief, Martin Griffiths, told an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly on the situation in



ravaged Gaza.

"Casualties continue to mount, with the dead reportedly exceeding 11,000 people – the majority of them children and women," he said. "The actual total, however, is likely much higher as figures have not been updated for five days due to a collapse of

communication networks in Gaza," Griffiths added. He further stated that across Gaza, but particularly in the north, food and water supplies are running perilously low, and the lack of fuel means communications and essential services like water desalination are progressively fail-

ing. In this regard, Griffiths reiterated the UN's 10-point plan setting out the necessary requirements for an effective humanitarian response. He called on UN Member States to help achieve these objectives. "We are not asking for the moon. We are asking for the basic measures required to meet the essential needs of the civilian population and stem the course of this crisis," he stressed. In conclusion, Mr. Griffiths warned that for as dire as the situation is in Gaza, "it could get far worse." "If we do not take action now, this is a conflict that could spread its tendrils further into other parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and beyond, and drag the

region into a conflagration with even more catastrophic consequences," he said. Natalie Boucly, Acting Deputy Commissioner-General for the UN agency assisting Palestine refugees, UNRWA, said that no part of the Gaza Strip has been spared from the bombardment. "Hospitals, mosques, churches, bakeries, and over 60 UNRWA buildings and schools have been hit across Gaza," she said. Most of the agency's impacted facilities were in the middle areas and in the south, Ms. Boucly added, noting that this was where people were told to go for safety. "They came to UNRWA buildings to be protected by the UN flag," she said.

Bilawal Bhutto says ready to contest polls on his performance as FM

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Amid rising tensions between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said he was ready to contest upcoming general elections on his performance as foreign minister in previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government.

Addressing a workers' convention in Peshawar, the PPP chairman said that his party had won elections many times despite all the conspiracies it had faced.

Bilawal Bhutto backed his performance as foreign minister of Pakistan in the 16-month government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and said he was ready to contest upcoming general elections on his performance.

Calling out his rival PML-N, whom he referred to as 'Mehngai League', Bilawal asked are those politicians – who were part of PDM cabinet – ready to contest elections on their 16-month performance.

He also castigated the Nawaz Sharif-led party for compromising 'vote ko izzat do' narrative, saying that their real faces have been exposed in front of the

masses.

The PPP leader again stressed the need to embark on "new politics", saying that his party wanted to end the politics of hatred and division. "It wishes to establish new traditions that allow the country to progress and prosper," he added.

Apparently referring to Nawaz Sharif and PTI chairman Imran Khan, Bilawal asked why make someone the prime minister for the fourth or second time when one can be picked from the youth.

"Our fight is not with any other political party, but poverty, price hikes and unemployment," the PPP chairman reiterated, adding that he would work for the betterment of the people and Pakistan's modernisation to transform it into a powerful country if he comes to power.

Stressing that 70 percent of the country's population comprised youngsters below the age of 30, he asked 70-year-old politicians to "sit home and pave way for youngsters".

He also requested the people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to not fight among themselves. "If you forget these differences, no one can defeat you," the PPP chief said.

So-called big political parties have established dynastic monarchies in the country: Sirajul Haq



Asim Tanveer

LAYYAH: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq has said that the so-called big political parties have established dynastic monarchies in the country, whose politics are devoid of morals and character and revolve around the standards of wealth and power. Only a few people in the society consider themselves honorable and think that power is the inheritance of their children after them. In the next election, the pride of political brahmins, princes and princesses will be crushed. The people's vote is like a stone of the Ababils, which will end the corrupt and outdated system. He expressed these views while addressing the Women Workers Convention in Layyah. The Amir Jamaat said that

since the independence of the country till now, southern Punjab has been dominated by feudal lords and Waderas.

Who challenged the corrupt mafia. A grand gathering of women in the city heralds a new dawn. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab South Rao Zafar, District Amir Mubasher Naeem Chaudhary, District Nazim Zaratashiya, Candidate Provincial Assembly Constituency 282 Layyah Ghazala Yasmin and others were also present on this occasion.

Amir Jamaat said that if Jamaat-e-Islami gets the government, we will build separate universities for women, there will be a better and separate transport system for them, we will give interest-free loans to women from banks so that they can equip their children with fine education.

At UN, Pakistan calls for a 'mechanism' to protect Palestinians enduring deadly Israeli attacks

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan, on behalf of a group of 17 countries, called on the United Nations to "urgently" establish a mechanism to ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians being subjected to relentless bombardment in Gaza by the Israeli military and to intensify efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. "The people of Gaza are desperately looking up to the UN to save them from further death and destruction that is being wreaked upon them with impunity," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly at an informal

meeting held to discuss the dire situation in the besieged enclave.

The Pakistani envoy did not specify the form of the proposed mechanism, which, he said, "shall be set up in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions." "The obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly in regard to the protection of civilians and civilian objects, as well as the protection of humanitarian personnel, must be fully adhered to," Ambassador Akram added.

Kazakhstan seeks \$150 billion in foreign investment by 2029: PM

Spokesman Report

ASTANA: Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov, leaders of top international companies, and experts reviewed Kazakhstan's emerging opportunities and challenges in building investment infrastructure for long-term sustainable growth as part of the Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable (KGIIR) on Nov. 17 in Astana.

In his welcoming speech, Smailov said that "despite the current global challenges, Kazakhstan's economy is showing steady growth."

"Last year, the total volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 18% and reached \$28 billion. In the past six months of this year, approximately \$14 billion more have been attracted to the national economy," he said.

Smailov added that the stability of the country's sovereign credit rating is regularly confirmed by international

rating agencies, such as Fitch, S&P Global, and Moody's.

Investments, he emphasized, are "the main factor of Kazakhstan's economic growth." The country continues to create favorable conditions for investors, particularly by improving investment support tools.

"Kazakhstan is interested in attracting at least \$150 billion of foreign investment by 2029," said Smailov.

Smailov paid attention to the importance of an effective regulatory environment for entrepreneurship.

This year, according to him, more than 9,000 business requirements have been excluded from Kazakhstan's legislation. It is planned to exclude another 1,000 by the end of 2023.

Kazakhstan is developing a national plan to provide projects with high-quality infrastructure by 2029 and is introducing new financial incentive mechanisms to facilitate investment flows into complex oil and gas projects.



"For investment projects in priority sectors worth over \$50 million, there is a possibility of concluding an investment agreement that guarantees the stability of Kazakhstan's legislation for 25 years. To date, we signed six agreements of this type totaling \$1.5 billion," he said.

More than 20 major projects aimed at replacing exports and imports are

now in the process of implementation. "Kazakhstan has also formed a nationwide pool to monitor and control the implementation of investment projects. It encompasses nearly 1,000 projects worth more than \$69 billion," said Smailov.

Kazakhstan's commitment to economic modernization, digital transformation, and sustainable development aligns with investment priorities of top international companies.

Ahmed Bin Ali Al Dakheel, CEO of the Al Rajhi International for Investment company, said that Kazakhstan with its vast resources, strategic location, and ambitious development plans, "holds massive potential for investors." "I am particularly impressed by Kazakhstan's focus on strategic development of its economy," he added.

The establishment of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), in his opinion, is also a proof of the country's potential to become a

regional hub for financial services and global investment.

When it comes to renewable energy, a growing number of major international players are coming to pursue sizable wind, solar and hydro projects. French Total Energies' \$1.3 billion investment for the development of a one-gigawatt wind farm is one of them. "As mentioned by Kazakhstan's President Tokayev and France's President Macron on Nov. 1, this project will be a flagship in Central Asia. Such solutions can only be developed based on a trustful and constructive dialogue," said its CEO Thomas Maurice.

Zsuzsanna Hargitai, the managing director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) shared thoughts on improving sustainable infrastructure development in Kazakhstan.

She suggested the creation of additional jobs, the localization of production of key equipment, and an idea to

"turn Kazakh cities into green cities applying digital city management for urban planning."

Hargitai also added that Kazakhstan remains a key strategic partner for the European Union (EU) and has great potential to develop cooperation in critical mineral development.

"Kazakhstan has not only been blessed with natural resources, but with a geographical position, right at the center of the three most important economic blocks of the next decades," said CEO of ACWA Power Marco Arcelli.

Speaking about their companies' investment activities with Kazakh partners, CEO of Global DTC Yeong Wee Tan and CEO of Condor Energies Don Streu highlighted a raft of emerging opportunities in Kazakhstan and noted the relevance of the country's progress in digitalization and strategic partnership with businesses based on friendship and trust.