



President for constructive role to improve children lives in Pakistan

President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called upon the relevant Government organizations, civil society, human rights groups, media, UN agencies, community, parents, teachers, Ulema and children themselves to come together and play their constructive role... (Details on Page 8)



Bilawal advocates free and fair election as panacea for Pakistan's woes

In a passionate address at the workers' convention in Nowshera, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari emphasised the pivotal role of free and fair election in addressing the myriad challenges facing Pakistan. He asserted the elections devoid of transparency hold no value, stating, "if the result is to be determined before the election, then there is no use of such an election..." (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zarra Alert App

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a ceremony organised with regards to the Universal Children's Day on Monday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan reiterates support for diplomatic efforts to end violence in Gaza



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong support to diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the violence in Gaza and stopping the brutality unleashed by Israel on innocent Palestinians.

The prime minister made these remarks during his meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki, who called on him at the Prime Minister's House, PM Office Media Wing said.

PM Kakar conveyed his deep appreciation for the Saudi leadership for hosting the OIC Extraordinary Summit earlier this month to discuss the situation in Gaza.

He lauded the role of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman in building historic consensus among the Arab and Islamic countries. On October 7, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel from Gaza, which killed 1,200 Israelis, according to officials.

Israel blockaded the strip and launched a brutal assault, which has since killed more than 12,000 Palestinians, including 5,000 children. While the death toll mounts and thousands of other civilians remain at risk in Gaza, Israel has repeatedly refused calls for a ceasefire.

India has condemned Hamas and airlifted aid to Egypt for Palestinian civilians from the besieged Gaza Strip.

Govt committed to ensure children's inclusive development, safety, education & health: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the government was determined to ensure inclusive development, education, healthcare, participation, dignity and security for "all our children, as envisaged in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child". He said the children were the most precious asset of any nation and the sole guarantee for its future prosperity.

Addressing an event in connection with the Universal Children Day, the prime minister said the government was fully devoted to the well-being and safety of the children. The government and non-government organizations and the society as a whole should contribute towards the noble cause of safeguarding the children rights and to make their future safe and prosperous, he added.

The Universal Children's Day is being celebrated under the theme "For every child, every right" to reaffirm the commitment to safeguard the rights and well-being of children.

The prime minister on the occasion launched the ZARRA

Alert App – a mobile application that can be used to report missing and abducted children. Appreciating the endeavours of National Commission on the Rights for Children (NCRC) and the Ministry of Human Rights for launching the ZARRA Alert App, he highlighted it was the collective effort of all stakeholders involved. The prime minister said children were the most precious asset of any nation and the sole guarantee for its future prosperity.

"On International Children's Day, we are determined to ensure inclusive development, education, healthcare,

participation, dignity and security for all our children, as envisaged in the "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child". The prime minister also mentioned the Israel's oppression on the innocent people, especially the children, in Gaza and called upon the world powers to help end their brutal killing.

"We are witnessing the children holocaust in Gaza that must have to be stopped immediately," he added.

"Their spirit for proving their talents against all odds is simply impressive." Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil

George, on the occasion, said it was the state's responsibility to protect the children's rights and help them become respectable citizens in future who would play a vital role in the development and prosperity of the country. He said the ZARA App was connected with all the police stations and would be helpful in recovering the missing and abducted children. National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq said the government was making every effort to protect the rights of every child in the country.

Ambassador of UAE calls on Prime Minister



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of U. A. E. to Pakistan, H. E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabir called on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today.

The Emirati Ambassador presented a formal invitation to the Prime Minister for attending the forthcoming COP-28 meeting in Abu Dhabi. He said that Pakistan was one of the leading countries in climate change negotiations and the U. A. E. was hopeful that Pakistan would play its part in ensuring the success of COP-28.

The Prime Minister congratulated the U. A. E. for hosting this important global climate change conference and assured of Pakistan's active participation in the event. Progress on bilateral cooperation was also discussed. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the robust and wide-ranging engagement between the two countries and stressed the need to focus on strengthening cooperation in energy, trade and investment.

During discussion on the situation in Gaza, the Prime Minister urged Muslim countries to speak with a united voice to urge the international community to end the violence and brutal murder of innocent civilians in Gaza at the hands of Israeli Occupation forces.

Palestinian Red Crescent, UN agencies evacuate Al Shifa premature babies



Reuters

GAZA: Ambulance crews of the Palestinian Red Crescent evacuated 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital on Sunday in coordination with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the group said in a post on its Facebook page.

The babies were transferred to the south of Gaza "in preparation for their transfer to the Emirates Hospital in Rafah" the group added.

Later in the day Ashraf Al-Qidra, spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, told a news conference that the babies had been moved to Tal Alsultan Hospital in Rafah and will be sent to Egyptian hospitals with their families tomorrow.

China supports diplomatic efforts by Arab, Islamic nations over Gaza: Wang Yi

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China supports the diplomatic efforts by Arab and Islamic countries to de-escalate the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during talks with a delegation consisting of Arab and Islamic foreign ministers in Beijing, CGTN reported.

The delegation, including the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Indonesia and Palestine, and the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, are on a two-day visit to China. Reportedly set to meet officials representing each of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the delegation has



chosen China as the first leg of a tour to push for an end to hostilities between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Wang said that shows a high degree of trust in China and the fine tradition of mutual understanding and support between the two sides. "China is a good friend and good brother of Arab and Islamic countries," he said. Noting that Monday marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Palestine, Wang said China stands for fairness and justice in the conflict, and has been working for de-escalations, protection of civilians, humanitarian relief efforts, the return to

a two-state solution and an early resolution of the Palestinian issue. The top priority is to fully implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and secure an immediate ceasefire, he said. International law, especially international humanitarian law, must be abided by, added Wang.

As the rotating chair of the UN Security Council, China will continue to strengthen coordination with Arab and Islamic countries to build consensus and promote the Security Council to take further meaningful actions on the situation in Gaza, he said. The delegation urged the international community to take responsible actions and promote an immediate ceasefire, secure a full delivery of humanitarian aid materials to Gaza, protect Palestine's civilians, and prevent the forced relocation of Gaza residents.

Cipher case: IHC extends stay against jail trial of PTI chief

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday extended for a day (November 21) the stay against the jail trial of the former prime minister in the cipher case.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. A two-member Justice Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat bench heard arguments. During today's hearing, the court approved an extension in the stay order on the request of Imran Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja until Tuesday, November 21.

Justice Aurangzeb asked why the special court judge had written a letter asking for the trial to be held in jail and what security concerns he was aware of.

The IHC judge remarked that the notifications issued by the federal government for the jail trial seemed to be prima facie against high court rules.

At least 24 killed in Israeli strike on UN-run school

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: A strike this weekend on a school run by the United Nations that was being used for shelter by thousands of displaced people in northern Gaza killed at least 24 people, a UN official said Sunday, as the Israeli campaign against the Palestinians continues unabated. Palestinian officials had said on Saturday that many people were killed and injured in the Israeli attack on the Al-Fakhura school, which was being used as a shelter by adults and children, in the Jabaliya area of northern Gaza.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, UN agency that aids Palestinian refugees, gave a death toll on Sunday and said that there were nearly 7,000

displaced people sheltering in the school when the strike hit. He did not give a number for the wounded. Meanwhile, Israel issued a new warning to residents of Gaza's largest refugee camp Jabalia and a nearby coastal camp to evacuate, as the military said Sunday it was "expanding its operational activities in additional neighborhoods... of the Gaza Strip." The "large number of UNRWA facilities hit and the number of civilians killed cannot just be 'collateral damage'," Lazzarini said in the statement. The agency's facilities were clearly marked as UN buildings and their coordinates were regularly shared with both sides of the conflict, he said, adding that "This is yet another proof that no one, and nowhere is safe in Gaza."

Inland Revenue meeting held in Islamabad; PM orders urgent steps for boosting tax base

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the Inland Revenue Department Azad Kashmir was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair. During the meeting, the commissioners of the Inland Revenue Department gave a detailed briefing to the PM regarding tax collection, achievement of targets and other related matters. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq directed the relevant authorities to intensify their efforts to achieve the tax collection targets. He stressed on the need for initiating a comprehensive reform process at departmental level to improve the performance of officers and staff. The



Prime Minister said that revenue collected from tourism, hydel power and state owned enterprises would be spent to improve health, education and road infrastructure across the state. Regarding the broadening of tax base, the Prime Minister

directed the Inland Revenue officers to take all possible steps to increase and add more taxpayers in the tax net. He said that the department should take all possible steps to increase its efficiency and meet the tax targets. Earlier, the

Inland Revenue Secretary told the PM that during the current fiscal year taxes worth 2 billion 36 crores were collected from the North Zone, whereas 17 billion 18 crore rupees have been collected in the South zone. He said that the total tax target of

19 billion 54 crores has been achieved during the first quarter. The meeting was attended by Government Ministers Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim Khan, Inland Revenue Secretary Sardar Zafar Khan, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and others.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq hosted a dinner in honor of the Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in Kotli. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to serve the people of Azad Kashmir. He said that education, health and development of road infrastructure in the region were his top priorities. The PM said that he would soon pay a detailed visit to Kotli to meet people and redress their grievances.

Seven terrorists from Militant Organizations arrested: CTD Spokesman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 7 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 248 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 248 suspected persons were interrogated and 7 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

The arrested terrorists include Khalid, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Salman, Nadeem, Akmal, Muhammad Yasir Yasin and Musa Khan, who belongs to banned organizations Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

He said that the arrest of these terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Pakpattan, Rawalpindi and Sargodha.

He said that the 955 grams of explosives, 2 hand grenades, 2 ISD bombs, 9 detonators, 41 feet of safety fuse wire, 3.5 feet of prima card, 23 pamphlets of banned organizations, 36 stickers and 8850 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered 7 cases against the terrorists and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

India making Kashmiri youth drug addicts: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir



RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, ex-Premier of AJK, has condemned Indian plot of making Kashmiri youth drug addicts as part of occupation forces ugly plan to physically disable the younger generation in the Valley. It is outright condemnable anti-human scheming to render a population disabled, he said in his World Children's Day today being observed in Jammu and Kashmir state.

"I once again urge the civilized world, the human rights organizations to help foil Kashmiri youth drug addiction conspiracy in India-held parts of J&K state. Kashmiris reject presence of Indian occupation machinery as forcible aliens. Because of this open rejection India has given the control of Held Kashmir to over one million armed forces. India is distorting the cultural identity of the Kashmiris as part of her demographic change move. I urge the human rights organizations to visit Held Kashmir and help foil Indian conspiracy of Kashmiri cultural decimation", he appealed.

He also appealed to the UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres to take urgent notice of this ugly Indian scheming as Kashmir, being international dispute, is part of UN's global responsibility. It is height of arrogance that the 1948 Kashmir resolutions of the UNSC could not be materialized because of Indian obduracy, Sardar Attique Khan President Muslim Conference stressed in his media statement.

CBD Punjab unveils Grand Souq Lahore to Revolutionize Local Business Landscape

City Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced the launch of Grand Souq Lahore (GSL), a pioneering initiative aimed at fostering local business growth.

GSL will be constructed at an expansive 68 kanal area at the Rescue 1122 Academy on LOS, Ferozepur Road, Lahore. The project aims to facilitate and empower the local business community. Drawing inspiration from international architectural marvels in Dubai and Turkey, GSL will be meticulously crafted to meet global standards.

To further ease business operations, CBD Punjab has introduced an accessible installment plan for interested stakeholders. GSL will boast a sophisticated infrastructure, including three floors with versatile retail spaces ranging from 350 sqft to 550 sqft and an underground parking.

While expressing his views about the project CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, said, "The local business community and investors serve as the backbone of our economy. Grand Souq Lahore marks a significant milestone in empowering these entities and fostering economic growth."

Chief Secretary Punjab inaugurates E-Procurement System

City Desk

LAHORE: e-Procurement System, developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Boards, has been inaugurated by the Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman in a ceremony held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP). The e-Procurement System has been introduced by the Government of Punjab across all provincial departments to streamline the public procurement process. The initiative reflects the vision and relentless efforts of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman. The ceremony, presided over by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, was attended by key officials and stakeholders including SMBR Nabeel Javaid, Additional Chief Secretary Ahmed Raza Sarwar, Planning & Development Secretary Mazhar Sial, PPRA Punjab MD Waqar Azim, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf and DG e-Governance Sajid Latif.

Press Conference

LAHORE: Chairman of Masiha Millat Party Aslam Pervaiz Sahotra addressing press conference along with others at press club, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Country Cannot Afford Elections at this Time: Naheed Khan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party Workers Ms. Naheed Khan and Secretary General of Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Dr. Safdar Abbasi while addressing a crowded press conference at Multan Press Club said that the country cannot afford elections at this time. Elections may therefore be postponed until the economic and political situation of Pakistan improves. It is very important to strengthen the economic and political stability in the country before the elections. If this is not done, then after 2 years people will again come out on the streets against the new



government. Mrs. Naheed Khan and Senator Dr. Safdar Abbasi further said that general amnesty should be announced for the arrested

women and men of Tehreek-e-Insaaf. And like other political parties, Imran Khan should also be allowed to contest the

election.

When you want, call someone 10 percent, call someone a thief. Remove them whenever you want on corruption charges and then bring them back again by making them good.

Naheed Khan and Senator Dr. Safdar Abbasi said that no Pakistani is supporting what happened on May 9, and we also condemned all these incidents but The workers who vandalized were not under the control of the leader, nor had such workers been under the control of any leader in the past.

What the activists did does not mean that they should be taken to the gallows, because the judges are asking for

forgiveness even today after Bhutto's execution.

It also needs to be seen whether all of them were PTI workers on May 9 or were hijacked.

We have not learned from the execution of Bhutto.

The workers who have been arrested should be pardoned and their trial should be conducted in regular courts, he said, Pakistan People's Party Workers is a part of the Grand Democratic Alliance in Sindh and we will announce our next action plan very soon, he said. Incidents of terrorism are happening not only in Punjab, but also in other provinces. In these situations, national consensus is necessary.

710th annual three-day Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam started

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The 710th annual three-day Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam started in Multan. Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, son of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and former member of National Assembly Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi and former member of Punjab Assembly Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi bathed the court and started the Urs ceremonies by covering the shrine with a chador. Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, Khawaja Ghulam Qutbuddin Faridi and other scholars and elders addressed the Urs ceremony from the seat. At this point Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, the son of Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the spiritual leader of the Pakistanis and Hindu subcontinent, Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam and Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria Multani, has said that the teachings

of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam are for the service of mankind, welfare of humanity. And Ishq is written by the Prophet.

He spent his whole life in the message of unity of Ummah. The teachings of the Saints are the guiding light. The trends of sectarianism and extremism are eliminated from the society by following the teachings of the saints. He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of the National Shah Ruknuddin Alam Conference on the first day of the 710th annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam.

Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat Provincial Nazim Allama Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi, Divisional Ameer Allama Ramzan Shah Faizi, Sahibzada Aziz Rasool Siddiqui and Mufti Muhammad Kashif Saeedi said in their address that Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam in the subcontinent along with religious sciences and other sciences. Raised the



arts. And played an important role in the propagation of religion, publication of Islam and promotion of knowledge through the teaching of his ancestor Hazrat Ghos Bahauddin Zakaria Multani. Secretary General of Pakistan Zakaria Academy Professor Dr. Siddiq Khan Qadri said in his speech that to eliminate terrorism, sectarianism and extremism in the society, the teachings of the saints must be followed. Khalifa Amanullah Suhrawardy addressed the conference.

Qari Mohammad Saeedi Naqshbandi, Hamid Nawaz Asim, Waheed Nawaz Asimi, Hamid Nawaz Asimi, Mohammad Noman Bakhtiar and Waheed Alamani paid tribute. Former provincial minister Moin Riaz Qureshi, former member of the National Assembly Pir Zahoor Hussain Qureshi, Ali Raza Qureshi, Mohammad Raza Qureshi, Nasir Raza Qureshi, Hasan Qureshi, Dr. Asif Qureshi, Sardar Ghulam Abbas Chachadar, Malik Zahoor Mahe, Syed Ali Akbar Shah, Pir Abid Hussain

Qureshi, Sheikh Shahid Muzaffar, Akmal Vance and other personalities attended the ceremony. were participants. Earlier, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, Makhdoom Murid Hussain Qureshi, Makhdoomzada Sajjad Hussain Qureshi and other family members started the 710th three-day annual Urs Mubarak celebrations of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam by bathing and covering the holy shrine. On this occasion, Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi also offered a

special prayer for the honorable release of his elder brother Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, apart from national integrity and stability, freedom of Palestine and Kashmir. On this occasion Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi said, After the death of his father, my brother has been participating in Urs celebrations for the past 24 years. I pray to Allah Almighty to grant him release as soon as possible and that he may once again become the splendor of Urs celebrations.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:17 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:25 pm
Maghrib 5:02 pm
Isha 6:29 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

Aga Khan University's Dr Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta and Dr Jai Das, named among the World's Top 0.1% Highly Cited Researchers in 2023

City Desk

KARACHI: Aga Khan University proudly celebrates the remarkable recognition of Dr Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Founding Director of Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), and Dr Jai K. Das, Assistant Director of IGHD and Assistant Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, in the prestigious Highly Cited Researchers 2023 list by Clarivate. Drs Zulfiqar A Bhutta and Jai Das were recognized in the fields of Clinical Medicine and Cross Field Scholarship respectively. This distinguished acknowledgment stands as a testament to their longstanding partnership, contributions and influence in the global scientific community.

The Highly Cited Researchers list, an annual tribute by Clarivate, highlights the extraordinary impact of trailblazing scientists globally. Among the 6,849 individuals honoured this year, Dr Zulfiqar A Bhutta and Dr Jai Das have secured their place in the top 0.1% of researchers worldwide. The selection process involved a meticulous evaluation of 188,500 Highly Cited Papers, published from 2012 to 2022 in esteemed journals indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index, ensuring recognition of the most influential and impactful researchers.

Dr Jai Das, with exceptional leadership and academic prowess, receives acknowledgment in the 'Cross-Field', signifying his multifaceted impact across various domains of research. His extensive involvement in diverse research domains, and spanning community trials, population-based surveys, qualitative and mixed-methods research, and evidence-based systematic reviews, has resulted in over 200 international peer-reviewed papers with an impressive H-Index of over 70.

Digital Matab

Hamdard inaugurated the first-of-its-kind 'Hamdard Regimental Therapy Centre and Matlab

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Pakistan has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind 'Hamdard Regimental Therapy Centre and Matlab', a digital clinic situated at the junction of Shahrah-e-Quadeen and Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi. This initiative aims to broaden the reach of Hamdard's medical facilities, offering cost-effective and proven treatments to a larger population. The inaugural ceremony took place yesterday, in which Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Pakistan, graced the inaugural event as the chief guest and officially inaugurated the centre by cutting the ribbon.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sadia Rashid highlighted the expanded scope of medical services of Hamdard Pakistan. "The addition of this modern digital Matlab, amidst the existing network of 35 Hamdard Matlabs across 31 cities, is deemed crucial given the rising health challenges in the nation coupled with

insufficient treatment facilities. The residents of Defense Clifton, PECHS, and Mehmoodabad had long expressed the need for a nearby Matab to address their medical concerns. Considering Shahrah-e-Faisal's central location in Karachi, this digital Matab located at this junction is expected to serve as a convenient healthcare facility for the local population," she said.

She added that the new Matab features a state-of-the-art computerized management system for storing patients' medical history, eliminating the need for them to visit to repurchase prescribed medicines. Patients can conveniently order their prescriptions from home. One more unique offering of the digital Matlab is cupping therapy, for which trained and experienced staff have been deployed.

As per the environment-friendly practices, Ms. Sadia Rashid, along with other honourable guests also planted plants outside the green belt.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed individuals, including Navaid-ul-Zafar, Senior Trustee of Hamdard Pakistan; Fatema Munir Ahmed, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer; Farrukh Imdad, Director General of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan; Professor Dr. Hakim Abdul-Hanan; Brig. (r) Dr. Riaz-ul-Haq, CEO of Taj Medical Hamdard University Hospital; Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hassan, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University; Prof. Dr. Ahsana Dar Farooq, Head of Faculty of Eastern Medicine; Syed Ali Bukhari, Deputy Director of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (Lahore), along with other directors and deputy directors. The event was also attended by a diverse audience representing various segments of society.

The 'Hamdard Regimental Therapy Centre and Matlab' is outfitted with contemporary amenities, featuring a team of skilled and seasoned Hakims and Tabibas available from 9 am to 8 pm.



Ms. Sadia Rashid, Chairperson of Hamdard Pakistan is opening a first-of-its-kind 'Hamdard Regimental Therapy Center and Matlab' and others. Cutting the ribbon.

Solidarity with Palestine

MUZAFFERABAD: Students are performing tableau during ceremony by Social Welfare Department at school, to express solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, in the Capital of AJK.



Photo: Online

Beaconhouse to Offer OxfordAQA Qualifications in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Beaconhouse, Pakistan's largest network of private schools with over 350,000 students, has signed an agreement with OxfordAQA, a collaboration between Oxford University Press and AQA, the UK's leading secondary school qualification provider.

Under the MoU, Beaconhouse will administer OxfordAQA examinations, facilitated by Oxford University Press Pakistan. The school will provide secure examination venues across Pakistan,



enabling Beaconhouse students nationwide to take these exams. Talking about the achievement, Managing Director of OxfordAQA, Andrew Coombe said, "Fair assessment in education can be life-changing, determining whether students receive grades that reflect their abilities."

CEO Beaconhouse, Kasim Kasuri, commented on the partnership saying, "Beaconhouse believes in empowering students by providing them with multiple pathways to success, and this collaboration is a significant step in that direction."

Managing Director Oxford University Press Pakistan, Arshad Saeed Husain, said, "This strategic partnership will enable us to provide high-quality, globally-recognised qualifications to students in Pakistan, as they prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century."

Book on calligraphy launched in AIOU

PNP

ISLAMABAD: A book on calligraphic artwork of Hafiz Muhammad Yusuf Al-Sadidi "Jamal e Yusuf Al-Sadidi" was launch at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over the ceremony while Dean, Faculty of Oriental Learning, Punjab University, Prof. Dr. Moeen Uddin Nizami was the chief guest. This book is being compiled by Khalid Javed Yousafi. VC AIOU, Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that there is no substitute of calligraphy. It is necessary to educate new generation about this art and universities need to focus on promoting arts. Dr. Nasir appreciated Khalid Javed and said that such an effort of a student for his teacher is commendable.

Dr. Moeen Nizami said that number of authors



wrote autobiography of Ghalib but the one written by Altaf Hussain Hali stood out among all, similarly Khalid Javed compiled the artwork of Hafiz Yusuf in a tremendous way and left a masterpiece for upcoming generations. He added that calligraphy is engineering, mastery

of all arts is necessary. In various Islamic states, calligraphy has official patronage, same is needed in Pakistan in field of arts to encourage youth. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir also applauded the services of Hafiz Yusuf Sadeedi.

Moreover, a seminar on "Sufi Music in South Asia"

was also organized by Department of History, AIOU. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir presided over the seminar while Dean, Faculty of Oriental Learning, Punjab University, Prof. Dr. Moeen Uddin Nizami was the chief guest.

Public Defence of Iqra University's Ph. D. Scholar

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Faculty of Business Administration, Iqra University's PhD Scholar Mr. Asghar Sohail's Public Defence will be held at ORIC on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 03:00 pm. Scholars, Faculty members and students of the same field will participate in it.

Mr. Asghar Sohail completed his PhD Dissertation under the supervision of Associate Prof. Dr. Mirza Amin Ul Haq. As per HEC requirements, his PhD Dissertation has already been approved by foreign evaluators.

Listeners on Spotify are celebrating this Shaadi Season with Wedding Hits

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In sync with the spirit of Pakistan's wedding season, Spotify is all set to turn up the volume and elevate the celebrations. Signaling the unofficial beginning of the joyful Shaadi season in the country, the "Shaadi Hits" playlist on Spotify has seen an incredible 207% surge in listenership since August.

With a "Shaadi" destination that showcases tracks fueling mehndi and dholki celebrations, rehearsals leading up to the wedding day and tracks for the entry of the bride and groom, Spotify is joining in with the festivities.

The "Shaadi Hits" playlist on Spotify has emerged as the go-to destination for wedding enthusiasts, with its top-streamed tracks featuring favorites such as "London Thumakda," "Laung Da Lashkara," and "Sadi Gali." Local tracks include "Nach Punjabian," "Chhalawa," and "Pasoori," all of which promise an unforgettable experience during the course of events included in every desi wedding. Other top wedding playlists include "Punjabi Wedding," "Mehndi Hits," and "Shaadi Bhangra."

Nina Rania organizes charity dinner in Manchester to help Gaza after Israeli war



City Desk

MANCHESTER: Nina Rania a Social Worker and Business Women organized a charity dinner at Manchester (UK) for the people who lost their lives in the war and participant community demand that Israel should stop the war and should not violence to the innocent people of Palestine (Gaza). On this occasion Social Worker and Business Women Nina Rania said that the aim to hold this charity dinner to help the innocent people of Gaza they are really facing difficulties of War and we are with them in this difficult situation and will continue to help Gaza people in this difficult time. On this occasion dua was offered for the Martyred of Gaza innocent childrens and other people who was martyred in Gaza. At the end Nina said that to organize this charity dinner i and my management team work hard day and night especially Ghazala Javed, Imam sb and our Volunteers played vital role to organize this charity dinner.

TPL Maps launches Reseller Program for Dynamic Collaboration

City Desk

KARACHI: TPL Maps, a prominent leader in mapping and location-based services, is excited to introduce its Reseller Program, a strategic initiative designed to create compelling business opportunities for partners seeking to resell TPL Maps' innovative mapping solutions. Renowned for delivering state-of-the-art geospatial products and services, TPL Maps believes that collaboration with resellers will not only expand its market reach but also foster mutual growth.

"TPL Maps is committed to delivering cutting-edge geospatial products and services, and the Reseller Program is a strategic initiative to collaborate with partners, expanding our reach and driving mutual growth. Together, let's map success and navigate new opportunities," commented Sarwar Khan, CEO-TPL Maps.

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Decline of the BJP and Opposition to India's Policies - II

Communal tensions within India's diverse religious landscape have led to human rights violations, including incidents of religious discrimination, hate crimes, and attacks on religious minorities. Gender-based violence remains a pressing issue, with incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, and harassment persisting. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach, including legal reforms, law enforcement sensitivity training, and initiatives to challenge entrenched gender norms. However, India has fallen short in addressing these issues.

Concerns have been raised about threats to freedom of expression, with journalists, activists, and dissenting voices facing intimidation, harassment, and legal action. Protecting press freedom is crucial for upholding human rights and maintaining a healthy democracy, but the Modi-led government has failed to ensure freedom of expression. Reports of arbitrary detentions, excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies, and encounters that raise questions about due process have further fueled concerns. The situation in Manipur serves as an example of human rights violations against minorities in India. The region is facing persistent human rights challenges due to armed conflicts involving insurgent groups, state forces, and paramilitary organizations. Numerous cases of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and allegations of torture have

raised concerns about accountability and transparency. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been a contentious issue, granting broad powers to security forces and facing criticism for potential human rights abuses. The prolonged conflict in Manipur disproportionately affects women, who often find themselves vulnerable to violence and abuse. Journalists and activists in Manipur also face challenges in exercising their freedom of expression, with instances of harassment, intimidation, and attacks limiting their ability to report on human rights abuses and other public concerns. A free and vibrant media is crucial for fostering transparency and accountability in any society, but India has failed to ensure it in this context.

The region of Jammu and Kashmir has long been a source of geopolitical tension and conflict between India and Pakistan. In the context of Indian-administered Kashmir, human rights violations have garnered international concern. Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed intermittent civilian casualties by Indian army. The substantial presence of the Indian Army has been linked to reports of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and allegations of torture. The impact of armed conflict on the civilian population has been a central concern for international observ-

ers. The Indian government's implementation of communication blackouts and internet restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir has faced criticism for impeding information flow, limiting freedom of expression, and hindering access to essential services. The use of pellet guns by security forces has been a contentious issue, resulting in severe injuries, including blindness. This has raised questions about the proportionality of force used in managing protests and civil unrest. Reports of arbitrary detentions and restrictions on individual liberties have sparked concerns about civil liberties. Preventive detention laws have been criticized for enabling authorities to detain individuals without formal charges, sometimes for extended periods. Minority communities, such as Kashmiri Pandits and indigenous groups, have encountered challenges due to the conflict, including the forced displacement of Kashmiri Pandits in the early 1990s.

The complex and multi-faceted nature of human rights challenges in the India has brought the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to international attention. Various countries and human rights organizations have called for a peaceful resolution and expressed concerns over reported human rights violations. Diplomatic efforts to facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan are deemed essential

for long-term stability and human rights protection in the region, although India has shown reluctance to address human rights concerns in Occupied Kashmir and has not granted the right of self-determination to Kashmiris, as outlined in UN regulations.

The Indian populace is increasingly aware of Prime Minister Modi's intentions to transform India from a secular state into a Hindu-centric nation. Frustration with the policies of the Modi government and its human rights violations against minorities has grown, leading to a decline in support for the BJP-led government. Calls for independence from India have been heard in Ladakh/Kargil and other parts of the country. Recently, Kashmiris in the Indian-administered territory showed defiance and mistrust toward the Modi regime. In a recent election in Ladakh, out of 26 seats, the BJP only secured 2, signaling a shift in public sentiment.

Earlier this year, India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced a significant setback as voters in Karnataka state rejected the Hindu-nationalist policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party in crucial local elections, marking the loss of its only stronghold in the country's south. Karnataka had served as a testing ground, or "laboratory," for the BJP's right-wing Hindu-nationalist ideology, known as Hindutva. Some analysts view this defeat as a potential sign of challenges for Modi as he seeks to secure a momentous second decade in power.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Killings of civilians in Gaza

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday decried events in bombed-out Gaza since Oct. 7, calling them a "killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented" since he took office. "What is clear is that we have had in a few weeks thousands of children killed, so this is what matters," the UN chief said in New York while presenting a new UN environmental report.

"We are witnessing a killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since I am secretary general." It is important to be able to transform the tragedy into an opportunity, Guterres said, adding: "It is essential that after the war we move in a determined, and the reversible way to a two-state solution." In reply to a question, the secretary-general said that in all the reports issued during his tenure, on children in conflict, it was clear that the current war in Gaza has seen thousands of child deaths – compared with hundreds, in conflicts in Yemen and Syria. Without entering into discussing the accuracy of the figures released by the Palestinian health ministry in Gaza, which are regarded by UN agencies as reliable, he said that "what is clear is that we have had in a few weeks thousands of children killed." Latest reports from health authorities indicate that more than 13,000 civilians in total have died in the enclave since the 7 October attacks by Hamas, and subsequent Israeli offensive. "This is what matters. We are witnessing a killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since I have been Secretary-General." Also addressing how the region can move forward once the fighting stops, the UN chief said that it was "important to be able to transform this tragedy into an opportunity." "For that to be possible, it is essential that after the war we move in a determined, irreversible way to a two-state solution", he told correspondents. "It means also that after the war – and this is my opinion – I believe it to be important after the war to have a strengthened Palestinian authority to assume responsibilities in Gaza." He said a humanitarian ceasefire was a crucial first step, along with unrestricted access to humanitarian aid, "the liberation of hostages" and an end to violations of international humanitarian law and protection of civilians. He said the Palestinian Authority which administers the West Bank, and which was forced out of Gaza in 2006 by Hamas, could clearly not assume control while Israeli tanks remain, meaning there must be a "transition period". "I do not think that a UN protectorate in Gaza is a solution. I think we need a multi-stakeholder approach in which different countries, different entities, will cooperate. For Israel, of course, the US is the main guarantor of its security. For Palestinians, the neighbouring and Arab countries of the region are essential", Guterres said. "So everybody needs to come together to make the conditions for a transition, allowing for a strengthened Palestinian Authority, to assume responsibility in Gaza and then, based on that, to finally move...in a determined and irreversible way to a two-State solution based on the principles that have been largely established by the international community and which I have time and time again outlined."



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

What does President Xi think? - I

My finger, amidst the frantic scrolling on YouTube, paused on a video featuring President Xi Jinping addressing a welcome dinner held in his honor by Friendly Organizations in the United States on November 17, 2023. I opted to listen in, curious about the thoughts behind his calm and composed demeanor, even in the face of the colossal looming crisis on national, regional, and international scales. I've long wondered about the genesis of the One Belt and Road concept and the philosophical underpinnings guiding his approach toward the United States. How does he navigate China's role on the global stage? Are there expansionist designs at play behind China's extensive investments in roads, railways, ports, and renewable energy systems? Is he characterized by humility, aggression, a people-centric approach, or a more authoritarian stance?



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

their pursuit of modernization, neither he nor China would resort to historical patterns of war, colonization, exploitation, or coercion.

In a stark departure from the perceived arrogance and inflexibility of counterparts like Mr. Joe Biden of the USA, President Xi passionately affirmed that under his leadership, China is dedicated to, and will persist in, the pursuit of peaceful development, fostering mutually beneficial cooperation, and striving for common prosperity.

His impactful speech steered clear of the complex US-China relationship's thorns, opting not to highlight differences or conflicts. Instead, it anchored deeply in shared goals and prosperity, painting a picture of a win-win scenario where neither side emerges as a victor or loser. President Xi emphasized a collective pursuit of shared objectives and dreams, aiming to enhance the happiness and prosperity of both nations' populations.

To underscore the depth of connection, he highlighted the profound economic interdependence: the staggering USD 760 billion in annual bilateral trade and over USD 260 billion in two-way investments. Additionally, he mentioned the extensive network of 284 pairs of sister provinces/states and sister cities, along with the remarkable statistics of over 300 scheduled flights per week and more than five million travelers yearly during peak times. These extraordinary achievements, President Xi emphasized, were a collaborative effort between both nations, representing nearly a quarter of the global population.

During his deep reflection on the

history of Sino-US relations, President Xi Jinping highlighted the foundational role played by the people of both nations. He recounted a pivotal moment during World War II when both countries stood shoulder to shoulder for peace and justice. The US Flying Tigers, led by General Claire Lee Chennault, fought alongside their Chinese counterparts against Japanese aggressors. Their joint efforts included the establishment of "The Hump" airlift, a critical supply route to China, where more than 1,000 Chinese and American airmen lost their lives.

In a stark departure from the usual rhetoric, President Xi Jinping humbly refrained from positioning China on equal footing with the USA during his speech. Instead, he modestly referred to China as a developing country while acknowledging the USA as the largest developed nation. He expressed hope that amidst a world of constant change and turmoil, both nations would navigate their relationship adeptly. President Xi emphasized the importance of their roles in fostering connections, enhancing people-to-people interactions, dismantling barriers, and fostering trade and commerce to ensure mutual prosperity for the citizens of both great nations.

With enthusiasm, he announced collaborative measures agreed upon with his US counterpart to facilitate travel and promote people-to-people exchanges. These measures included plans to increase direct passenger flights, conduct high-level dialogues on tourism, and streamline visa application procedures. This commitment aimed to strengthen the bond between the two countries, fostering greater understanding and collaboration for the benefit of both populations.

To be Continued

Future of the nation's children should not be ruined

In the province of Punjab, a ban has been imposed on children under eighteen from riding motorcycles and driving cars for the last week. This restriction was imposed after a boy named Ifnan in Lahore caused a fatal accident, resulting in the death of six people with his car. Now, in every city of Punjab, the police are arresting students and ordinary children, initiating cases against them. This action is destroying the future of these children, staining their characters. Although traffic laws for motor vehicles existed, enforcement was lacking. After the car incident, the police have begun ruining the future of these children. Why are the public representatives silent on this serious issue? Just yesterday, Justice Ali Zia Bajwa made a significant decision, ordering the arrest of those driving cars and motorcycles without a license. He emphasized that no one should drive a vehicle without a license, and police presence should be ensured at every intersection and signal.

Despite having ordinances that could benefit the public in Punjab, like the Vagrancy Ordinance of 1958, the government and police fail to implement it. Similarly, the Press and Publication Ordinance of 2002 to control unregistered printing presses and fake newspapers exists, but the local administration struggles to enforce it.

For years, there have been instances where drivers of public transport vehicles in Punjab, particularly rickshaw drivers, don't possess a valid LTV licenses. If we categorize this mode of transport as a motorcycle, the Motor Vehicles Ordinance of 1969 allows only two passengers for a rickshaw. These rickshaw driv-

ers openly violate the law in front of the police and traffic officers, yet no legal action is taken against them. While there are traffic laws in Pakistan, including the National Vehicle Ordinance 2000, Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965, and Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1969, most of these laws are not effectively enforced, remaining limited in their application.

Everyone knows that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the police filed cases against children sitting in shops, questioning why the shops were open. Most of these children were students who were there to earn a living due to the closure of schools and colleges. The police labeled them as criminals, and these children are still suffering the consequences. Such younger's Police character certificates are stopped or print out with label. The police and the government have tarnished the character of these young individuals.

The recent crackdown on underage drivers and the registration of cases are dangerous and conspiratorial actions. Imposing the punishment for Ifnan's mistake on all children is not justice. The laws regarding penalties and restrictions on driving have been in place for years but did not implemented. It is essential to enforce these regulations. Although our governments, police, and authorities have never taken note of the traffic laws for children driving motorcycles or cars, a recent incident involving an underage driver in Lahore's Defence area resulted in the death of six people. The

punishment for this crime is now being applied to all children and such people those have not driving license in the province. There is a question such children, who are not driving to crush urban dwellers or pedestrians, are being labeled as criminals. Why is there punishment without the law?

We have read in books that laws are made for the well-being of humanity, but in our country, laws are used to oppress ordinary citizens. Students and common citizen undergo without a driving license should not be punished because there is no law for such drivers. Section 279 of the Pakistan Penal Code is present, but initiating FIRs under this section before the crime occurs is not a legal practice. In Pakistan, there is a lack of laws regarding children driving cars and motorcycles, and traffic accidents reveal the weakness of lawmaking institutions.

There is an urgent need for amendments and new policies in traffic laws. After formulating policies, strict implementation is crucial. Many traffic policies remain shelved for extended periods after approval. The demand from the society is, "If there is no law against underage driving, then what law justifies punishment?" Here is a suitable recommendation exists in favor of underage drivers, such as issuing a junior National Identification Card for rarely mature individuals, just as a law should be enacted allowing minors to obtain a driving license according to its specified regulations for their convenience.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Launched

UK climate study will accelerate green finance in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE launched a landmark study to identify and prioritise critical initiatives to mobilise private sector climate financing in Pakistan. The study's climate finance analysis includes several 'roadmaps to action' to support the Government of Pakistan's ambitions for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. The study will help to inform the next generation of UK support to deliver the country's climate investment ambition.

The event was held on Monday on 'Accelerating Green and Climate Resilient Financing in Pakistan', was co-chaired with Federal Minister for Climate Change Ahmed Irfan Aslam. The study, implemented through the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), is part of the UK Government's 'Centres of Expertise' initiative by the Growth Gateway Programme, said a news

release. The High Commissioner announced three new UK-supported initiatives, a new partnership with Government of Pakistan to quantify the cost of inaction under the Growth Gateway programme—an important step for Pakistan to develop a robust adaptation and resilience financing strategy. FCDO's REMIT programme will support the Government of Pakistan with streamlining institutional governance for climate finance. REMIT will also support the development of a national green taxonomy to classify climate investments, through a partnership between the World Bank Group and the State Bank of Pakistan. Jane Marriott said, "There is no bigger global challenge than tackling climate change, which Pakistan is suffering the impacts of more than most countries. This new UK-supported analysis is part of our wider climate finance and governance support in Pakistan. By identifying and prioritising the most critical



climate finance initiatives, we are laying the foundations for climate finance mobilisation at scale into some of the most important low-carbon and adaptation projects in Pakistan." "Today's discussion amongst government, private sector and development finance leaders is an important step for harnessing the potential of the private sector to help Pakistan mitigate, and respond to future climate shocks." Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ahmad Irfan Aslam said, "The UK government study which has been launched today fills a critical

knowledge gap. It identifies which initiatives are required for Pakistan to mobilise more and better climate finance, especially by the private sector. The Government of Pakistan looks forward to collaborating on new areas of support announced by the UK today to take forward several of the key initiatives identified – putting this report into immediate action." Charmian Caines, Senior Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said, "We at the Growth Gateway Programme have been delighted to support UK and Pakistan in their partnership to bridge Pakistan's climate financing gaps as it addresses its pressing vulnerability to extreme climate shocks. Our collaboration has identified key enablers to unlock bankable opportunities, priority adaptation and resilience (A&R) projects as well as initiatives to share the pressure of disaster risk financing on government budgets with the private sector." CEO of Adam Smith Interna-

tional (ASI) Jalpa Patel said, "Climate finance and green investments are critical for Pakistan's future. Adam Smith International is excited to help deliver on the UK's climate commitments by providing vital technical support on climate financing to the Government of Pakistan through the FCDO-funded REMIT programme to help the government design policy, regulation, and financial instruments for capital markets to catalyse international climate finance." In attendance was the Finance Minister, Dr Shamsad Akhtar, Senator Sherry Rehman, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Government Effectiveness / Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, and other leading climate finance experts. A recent study by the World Bank assessed it will take \$348 billion to adapt to climate challenges, and transition to a low carbon economy. Current financing in Pakistan is insufficient with limited private sector participation

and the allocation of funds disproportionately towards mitigation rather than adaptation and resilience. The report highlighted that an important and necessary step is to calculate the 'cost of inaction' on Adaptation and Resilience (A&R) Priorities and the impact that this would have on the lives of ordinary Pakistanis, the natural environment and the economy. A&R projects are often seen as 'unbankable', and so it is important to consider the return on investment differently. Once that 'cost of inaction' gap becomes clear, the return on financing A&R projects becomes visible. The UK plans to support the study's roadmap to quantify the 'cost of inaction' through the Growth Gateway programme, alongside providing wider support to climate governance and mobilisation through our UK toolkit – including to develop a green taxonomy through the UK's REMIT programme (Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade Programme).

ISSI Launches Dr. Ishrat Husain's Book, 'Development Pathways: India - Pakistan - Bangladesh (1947-2022)'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives and India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an event to launch a Book, titled "Development Pathways: India-Pakistan-Bangladesh (1947-2022)" authored by Dr. Ishrat Husain. The event was attended by eminent members of foreign and civil services, academia, civil society, media, and the diplomatic corps in Islamabad. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, was chief guest on the occasion.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, introduced both the author and the Book. He highlighted Dr. Ishrat's six decades of distinguished public service and contributions for economic and institutional reforms—including a consistent emphasis on political stability and policy continuity for sustainable long-term development. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also lauded the author's direct and accessible writing style, making complex economic issues and policy debates more under-

standable to readers across a broad spectrum. He noted that given the rich data sets of the three countries were contained in the Book, it could serve as a solid foundation for further studies on the economic trajectories of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The most valuable aspect of the Book, according to him, was the chapter dealing with risk factors and "pain points" for the future. He also pointed out that the Book made it clear that sound economic management alone did not produce the desired effect and that investing in social and human development was an imperative, which would also enhance the dividends manifold. In conclusion, he described the Book as a valuable contribution to the existing literature and a source of thought-provoking ideas on a range of subjects.

Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), shared his thoughts on Dr. Ishrat Husain's Book. He praised the author for his sound academic work and gave a detailed account of the major subjects covered in the Book. These included macroeconomics, balance of payments,

remittances, human development, social protection, service deliveries, poverty reduction, digitalisation, labour market, and applications of emerging technologies. Ambassador Riyaz particularly focused on the Book's extensive conclusions. He recommended that Pakistan should concentrate on addressing the instability and unpredictability in the economic realm. He highlighted that all three countries had heavy regulations and administrations, problems with start-ups, and issues of taxation that continue to restrict small and medium enterprises. Lastly, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz commended the author for the valuable effort to sum up the long period of 75 years.

Dr. Idrees Khawaja appreciated the author's efforts in writing this timely Book. Dr. Khawaja also praised the author for including young co-authors. He gave a summary of the Book, explaining that it compared the economic performances of three countries with similar histories and backgrounds. He lauded the author for analyzing the factors behind the divergent economic growth trajectories of these countries.

Dr. Ishrat Husain shared how

the Book evolved, as the subject was considered essential for understanding the present and projecting the future. The Book talked about the changing times for Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. He noted that Pakistan was once considered a role model for developing countries, while Bangladesh was referred to as a 'basket case' and India was struggling with poverty, illiteracy, and other social issues. However, the situation had now significantly changed and India and Bangladesh fared relatively better, while Pakistan was facing challenges. Dr. Ishrat also dilated on the challenges he faced in finding comparable data from all three countries spanning from 1947 to 2022. He highlighted the "five shocks" that affected Pakistan's economy — from refugee influx in 1947 to war in Afghanistan; and identified "8 critical success factors", including the forms of government, the role of women, and urbanization, among others. He also discussed the "Risks and Pain Points" for the next 25 years for the three countries – including addressing climate change; enhancing intra-regional trade;



ensuring inclusive growth and reducing inequality; managing urbanization; and tackling institutional decline. Dr. Ishrat concluded by emphasizing the need for improving governance structures to ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth and development.

Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, Adviser to PM on Finance, lauded the author and co-authors for their contribution to addressing the knowledge gap in this field. In particular, he applauded Dr. Ishrat's devotion and motivation for the subject. The Book's choice of subjects and focus was also

underscored by Dr. Khan, who believed that it would substantially assist experts and practitioners. Dr. Waqar Masood added that the Book rightly addressed the convergences and divergences between the three economies, as he termed the 1990s as the turning point for the three economies.

Arab-Islamic Summit ministerial Committee discusses Palestinian state at Beijing

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministerial Committee in charge of the Extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit, headed by His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met today with His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, at the Guest Palace in the capital, Beijing.

The members of the Ministerial Committee participated in the meeting, namely His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ayman Al-Safadi, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sameh Shukri, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs

and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki, and His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, His Excellency the Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Hussein Ibrahim Taha.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chinese Foreign Minister delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee, stressing Beijing's support for the call issued by the Riyadh Summit for a two-state solution in accordance with the relevant international resolutions. He also called on the international community to take action to end the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.

After that, His Highness the Saudi Foreign Minister delivered a speech in which he stressed the necessity of stopping the war in Gaza, an immediate ceasefire, and the importance of the immediate



entry of relief personnel.

His Highness pointed out the importance of avoiding further killing of civilians, expressing his pain at the continued loss of huge numbers of civilians and the continuation of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis. His Highness called for effective international action to deal with the crisis

and address all the ongoing violations of the Israeli occupation forces and their repeated violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

His Highness expressed the Arab Islamic Committee's appreciation for the Security Council resolution issued during the Chinese presidency regarding the

crisis in Gaza, saying, "Despite that, we are still waiting for more efforts and more cooperation, and we aspire to cooperate with our friends in China and all countries that are responsible and appreciative." The seriousness of the situation and work to end the crisis in Gaza as quickly as possible.

For his part, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki, said that the Ministerial Committee is speaking today with China and all countries about the terrible crime committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation, referring to the crimes of genocide committed by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

His Excellency said that Israel is leading a war against the concept of the two-state solution, and is leading a war against

self-determination, against freedom and independence, and against the Palestinian presence on the land of the State of Palestine, adding that the Israeli occupation is committing all forms and types of crimes against the Palestinian people, the latest of which is cutting off water and electricity and preventing freedom of movement, movement and living. The generous and killing of everything that moves in the Gaza Strip, as well as the crimes committed against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The Ministerial Committee meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister also discussed the importance of the ceasefire and targeting unarmed civilians, and the violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against innocent people and vital installations, including places of worship, hospitals, and relief and

shelter centres.

The members of the Ministerial Committee stressed the importance of immediately stopping the military escalation and the forced displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, and quickly introducing the necessary humanitarian aid, to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.

The members of the Ministerial Committee stressed the importance of the international community fulfilling its responsibility, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, to move towards stopping the blatant violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities, and stopping the violations of all international laws and norms and international humanitarian law, and their provocative practices that would obstruct the path of peace and threaten international peace and security.

Chairman JKSM Highlights Plight of Kashmiri Children on World Children's Day

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In observance of World Children's Day, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement Altaf Ahmed Bhat brings attention to the distressing conditions faced by Kashmiri children as a consequence of the Indian occupation in the region.

Chairman Bhat underscores the urgent need for the international community to recognize and address the profound challenges endured by the youngest residents of Indian illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Alarming statistics reveal the toll on Kashmiri children, with over 900 children among the 96,263 people martyred during the last 34 years in IIOJK. Shockingly, more than 1,07,924 children have been orphaned by Indian troops since 1989. Additionally, hundreds of Kashmiri children have lost their eyesight due to the firing of pellets by Indian troops, amplifying the humanitarian crisis in the region.

Chairman Bhat condemns the

practice of Indian troops arresting and torturing children during so-called Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), emphasizing that such actions constitute a gross violation of human rights. He points out that children in IIOJK are enduring lasting trauma from witnessing the killing of their loved ones in front of their eyes, a devastating consequence of the Indian military occupation.

The prolonged military presence has also significantly impacted the physical and psychological health of Kashmiri

children, casting a dark shadow over their formative years. Chairman Altaf Ahmed Bhat urges the global community to remember the plight of IIOJK children on World Children's Day and stresses the importance of holding India accountable for its non-compliance with international conventions on children's rights in the region.

In a call to action, Chairman Bhat urges the Modi regime to uphold international obligations for the promotion and protection of the rights of children in



IIOJK. He implores the international community to exert pressure on India to address the

grave concerns surrounding the well-being of Kashmiri children.

Chairman Bhat further said that, Israel's actions continue to raise serious concerns, as it appears to engage in egregious crimes against humanity without facing consequences. The stark evidence of these transgressions is evident in the deliberate killing of over 5000 Palestinian children, marking a disturbing record in comparison to recent conflicts. On this World Children's Day, it prompts reflection within the international community. The

sorrowful silence surrounding Israel's claimed "right to self-defense" juxtaposed with the ongoing daily massacres of innocent Palestinian children is both troubling and heart-wrenching.

On this World Children's Day, Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat calls on the world, UN, P5 and EU to stand in solidarity with the innocent lives affected in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, emphasizing the imperative of securing a better and safer future for children all around the world.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
57,077.96	57,063.15	
Day's High	Day's Low	
57,309.26	56,738.39	
Index Value	Change	
10,253,060,415	+14.81	
Percentage	Time	
+0.03%	20 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,496.36	-7.89	
Percentage	Time	
-0.11%	20 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
35,071.78	+124.50	
Percentage	Time	
+0.36%	20 Nov, 12:17 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,388.03	-197.17	
Percentage	Time	
-0.59%	20 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	186.8
Bahrain Dinar	763.37	771.37
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.82	40.22
Danish Krone	42.01	42.41
Euro	312	315
Hong Kong Dollar	36.82	37.17
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.68
Kuwaiti Dinar	930.96	939.96
Malaysian Ringgit	61.34	61.94
New Zealand \$	171.93	173.93
Norwegians Krone	26.59	26.89
Omani Riyal	745.47	753.47
Qatari Riyal	78.85	79.55
Saudi Riyal	75.9	76.65
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.25	27.55
Swiss Franc	324.03	326.53
Thai Bhat	8.16	8.31
U.A.E Dirham	78.25	79
UK Pound Sterling	358	362
US Dollar	286.2	289

Economy is the main target of terrorists

Stricter security measures required for foreign investment: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the economy is the main target of the terrorists because enemies don't want Pakistan to come out of problems.

Whenever economic conditions in the country start to improve and the environment is favourable for investment, terrorism starts which wastes all the efforts to revive the economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that almost all countries, foreign institutions and investors make decisions about investing in any country in the light of IMF opinion and economic rating. When the IMF's opinion about Paki-

stan and the rating of international organizations start to improve, terrorism starts to stop investment, which is worth considering.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government, army, most of the political parties and other institutions are on the same page about the economy, which is having a better effect on the overall situation.

However, he said, at such a time, terrorism has started which is disturbing and condemnable and against the interests of Pakistan.

The business leader further said that due to the efforts of the caretaker government and the army, there has been a reduction in smuggling, hoarding, dollar mafia and illegal immigrants, reducing the burden on the economy.

Because of SIFC, the investment environment was improving, and foreign invest-



tors were getting serious about investing in Pakistan. Still, on such occasions, enemies once again started terrorist activities to scare away investors, he said, adding that the main

target of these terrorists seems to be Pakistan's image and SIFC.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that friendly countries have promised huge investments in Pakistan, but such incidents may weaken their intentions.

Chinese interests have been repeatedly targeted before, which is unfortunate. To solve these problems, the security system will have to be improved so the country can be brought out of economic problems.

He said that it is expected that SIFC will attract foreign investors, conduct road shows, and one-window operations and quick decisions will prove to be game changers. The enemies of Pakistan want to change the direction of the capital coming to Pakistan; in this regard, they use all kinds of tactics, including terrorism and political chaos in Pakistan, which need to be eradicated.

Exhibition

LAHORE: Students are visiting the different stalls during exhibition of "Scientific Inventions" by Punjab University at Expo Center, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PPL-operated joint venture discovers gas & condensate in Sindh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited, operator of Shah Bandar Block (2467-16) (63 percent working interest (WI)) along with joint venture partners Mari Petroleum Company Limited (32 percent WI), Sindh Energy Holding Company Limited and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (2.5 percent WI each) has made a gas and condensate discovery at exploration well Jhim East X-1 in District Sujawal, Sindh. This is the second discovery in Shah Bandar Block.

Jhim East X-1 was spud on October 8, 2023 and drilled to a depth of 2,545m to test the hydrocarbon potential of upper sands of Lower Goru formation. Based on the drilling results



and wireline logs, potential hydrocarbon bearing zones were identified. During testing of Lower Goru upper sand (A sand), the well flowed 13.69 MMscfd gas and 236 barrels/day condensate at wellhead flowing pressure of 2,668 psig at 32/64" choke. The well is being further evaluated to obtain necessary information about its performance.

The well was drilled and tested by utilizing indigenous expertise. This discovery will add hydrocarbon reserves to reduce the gap between energy supply and demand.

Zindagi Trust and Meta join hand with PTA, FIA and NCRC

PNP

ISLAMABAD: With more young people coming online every day across Pakistan, empowering them to navigate the digital world safely is not just a choice. It is a collective responsibility. To mark the National Children's Day in Pakistan today, Zindagi Trust and Meta announced their collaboration with Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), FIA, and the NCRC to launch a digital campaign promoting youth safety in digital spaces. "Cultivating Digital Competence of Youth and Parents".

It can feel overwhelming trying to navigate the ever-changing world of online safety with young people. But the most important thing is to start a dialogue, and keep open channels of communication. The founder of Zindagi Trust, Shehzad Roy shared that the main goal of this campaign is to start the dialogue and educate young people and their parents

about online safety and the different ways they can report negative content such as online bullying, false information, hate speech, and spam.

It is imperative to make online safety conversations part of everyday life—just like conversations about 'stranger danger' or crossing the road, and this should start early. Young people are often exposed to devices from birth—even just observing their parents, so it's never too soon to talk about online safety. Imran Haider, Incharge, Unit To Counter Online Child Abuse, Cybercrime Wing of FIA explained that in today's digital age, children are surrounded with wide array of electronic gadgets, therefore, education and awareness play a crucial role in child protection by empowering children and families to identify and prevent child abuse. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson of NCRC shared the same message and expressed her hope that through this campaign, young people in Pakistan will

be equipped with the tools and knowledge to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

The launch of the campaign was marked by a Roundtable Discussion, which discussed the importance of protecting young people in the digital age and curating informed individuals on cybercrime. Meta's Director of Public Policy for South and Central Asia, Sarim Aziz, who attended the discussion, was excited about the campaign and stated that the company is committed to doing their part to protect young people on and off their apps and will continue to collaborate with our various stakeholders, industry safety partners, and law enforcement to keep young people safe online.

This collaborative digital campaign will also include video messages from students who talk about the safety tools like Privacy Check Up, Locked Profile, Hidden Words, Supervision Tools and managing false information.

Systems Limited's Banking-Tech Subsidiary Wins the Asian Technology Excellence Award

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: NdcTech, a subsidiary of Systems Limited has recently won the banking tech award for "Best Digital-IT Services" at Asian Technology Excellence Awards 2023.

With its 3rd edition this year, the Asian Technology Excellence Awards hosted by Asian Business Review recognized exceptional projects and innovations, from technology companies that pioneered ground-breaking IT products and solutions to innovative technology initiatives that made an impact on businesses. NdcTech was one of the prestigious organizations to win the award in the category for "Technology Excellence for Digital-IT Services", owing to its successful transformation of the digital loan origination experience.

Business opportunities

ICCI delegation leaves for Thailand to explore business opportunities



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President has left for Thailand to explore the business opportunities in the Thai market. The delegation is representing various sectors including pharmaceuticals, textiles, construction, edible oil, marble, light engineering, hospitality, retail sector, importers and exporters.

In his statement before departure, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Thailand have great potential to enhance business relations and the purpose of

the visit of ICCI delegation to Thailand is to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries. He said that Thailand's annual exports in 2022 were over US\$ 285 billion and imports were around US\$300 billion, but its bilateral trade with Pakistan in 2022-23 was less than US\$ 1 billion. He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items and there is a need to explore new areas for trade promotion between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can export many other products to Thailand including value-added textiles, leather goods, sports items, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments and food products.

Businessmen Panel

Progressive panel enters FPCCI elections



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The ruling Businessmen 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 factions has dealt a major blow to the BMP.

"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 make comprehensive preparations for active participation in the upcoming FPCCI election.

7th Pakistan Industrial Expo 2023

A Gateway to Global Collaboration and Economic Advancement

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: 7th Pakistan Industrial Expo, an annual feature arranged by the Everest International Expo Pvt. Ltd., is going to be held from November 25 to November 27, 2023 at the Lahore Expo Centre.

Around 250 Pakistani and Chinese companies will be showcasing their products and services at this event this year.

The event promises to be a landmark occasion, fostering global partnerships, driving economic growth, and showcasing the vast potential within Pakistan's industrial landscape.

Disclosing the event details at a press conference at the Lahore Press Club (LPC) here on Monday, Mr. Steve Zhou, Project Head of Everest International Expo said that the 7th Pakistan Industrial Expo will surpass its predecessor in scale. This year, the Expo will occupy double the space, with Hall #2 exclusively featuring Chinese industrial enterprises while Pakistani companies will spotlight locally manufactured products at Hall 2. This strategic arrangement aims to enhance mutual trade and business communication between Pakistan and China.

Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha, took the podium to emphasize the enduring collaboration with a Chinese exhibition company, now entering its sixth year. Through the Pakistan Industrial Expo platform, this partnership has facilitated numerous international collaborations, attracting investments and introducing advanced technologies to Pakistan.

Zishan Hashmi, Deputy General Manager of Everest International Expo, shared exciting details about the diverse industrial sectors to be showcased at the Expo. From CNC

machines to industrial equipment, hardware, building materials, agricultural machines, engineering machines, chemicals, and solar systems, the Expo promises a comprehensive display of cutting-edge technologies and products. Entrepreneurs and businessmen are encouraged to explore these sectors and establish new business links, contributing to the economic growth of the region.

Everest International Expo Pvt. Ltd. extends gratitude to all partners, sponsors, and participants for their support and anticipates a groundbreaking 7th Pakistan Industrial Expo.

International Trade Data

FPCCI supports transparency, security & monitoring

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that it is very important to establish transparency, security and monitoring mechanisms in the global trade. It creates confidence among trading nations; and, ultimately enhances bilateral, regional and multilateral trade. He was addressing the high-profile session of the International Centre for

Trade Transparency & Monitoring (ICTTM) as a key speaker.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh pointed out that Pakistan needs to adopt Advanced Data Analytics & Modeling for Foreign Trade Data (ADAMfTD) - which is an ICTTM initiative - in particular these have the scope to revolutionize and influence both historical & real-time trade data to decode worldwide trading patterns.

Wahab Riaz clarifies the reason for Haris Rauf's absence from Test squad

A Sports

LAHORE: Wahab Riaz, the head of the national men's selection committee, said that fast bowler Haris Rauf pulled out of the Australian tour at the last minute resulting in his absence from the Pakistan squad.

Wahab Riaz told during the press conference that Haris Rauf was in the plans for the Test series against Australia, however, he changed his mind at the last minute.

"We spoke to Haris Rauf about this tour, and he gave his consent to participate in the Test series. However, he changed his mind later and opted to back out of the series," Wahab Riaz said.

Wahab Riaz further explained the reason for Haris Rauf opting to stay out and his fitness condition.

"He was worried about fitness issues and workload, although we gave him assurances that we would facilitate him and accept any potential failures," said



Riaz. "Our physio said he has no injury concerns. He is only fatigued, but we could have managed him well. However, he pulled out and is unavailable for this tour."

He also shed light on how the team management had planned to utilise him. "We had planned to utilise Haris Rauf as an impact bowler in our Test plans, after discussions with the captain and

team director. We needed him to bowl 10-15 overs, which he has bowled in ODIs too."

Haris Rauf represented Pakistan in a single test against England in the home Test series last year, where he picked only one wicket.

Pakistan's squad will partake in a training camp from 23 to 28 November at Pindi Cricket Stadium before departing from Lahore on 30 November.

Pakistan will kick off the Test series with the first Test in Perth from 14-18 December 2023.

Pakistan squad for the tour of Australia

Shan Masood (c), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi

Match practice

ISLAMABAD: Tajikistan football team players are attending practice session at Jinnah Stadium in Federal Capital as Pakistan will face Tajikistan FIFA world cup 2026 Qualifier round match on 21 November at Jinnah Stadium.



Photo: Online

1726 sports clubs registered across the province: DG Sports Punjab

Sports Desk

LAHORE: DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on Monday said that as many as 1726 sports clubs have so far been registered across the province in the club registration campaign.

Dr Asif Tufail informed that the process of club registration is underway in all the tehsils of the province under the banner of Sports Board Punjab and this historic campaign will continue till 25th of this month. "Definitely it is a major step in the right direction".

"Among the leading ten tehsils of the province, Samundri tehsil is placed on top of the list with the registration of 78 sports clubs followed by Sargodha 77 sports clubs, Sialkot 58, Rahimyar Khan 52, Nankana 46, Rawalpindi 45, Mandi Bahauddin 44, Arifwala 44, Jhang 43 and Gujrat tehsil 43 sports clubs," he informed.

Dr Asif Tufail further said that certainly there will be a real change in the sports fortunes of Punjab province once the club registration campaign is completed.

Lahore Qalandars, Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center signed MOU

Sports Desk

Lahore Qalandars and the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center solidified their collaboration today by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Lahore Qalandars, the reigning champions in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), extend their influence beyond the cricket pitch with a strategic partnership with the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI & RC). This collaboration, fueled by their recent back-to-back PSL titles, emphasizes Lahore Qalandars' commitment to being a symbol of hope, resilience, and unity, not only in cricket but also in championing health causes.

This partnership represents a significant step towards jointly promoting awareness about diseases. Recognized for their commitment beyond the sporting arena, Lahore Qalandars will leverage their platform to amplify PKLI & RC's Awareness Campaigns.



In alignment with their shared commitment to community well-being, Lahore Qalandars will actively support and participate in initiatives aimed at educating the public about the prevention and treatment of kidney and liver diseases. Through this partnership, both

organizations aim to make a substantial impact on public health by fostering a culture of awareness and proactive healthcare.

Owner and CEO of Lahore Qalandars, Atif Rana, expressed enthusiasm, stating, "We are honored to stand along-

side PKLI & RC in this vital cause. Our shared goal is to empower communities with knowledge and resources to combat these diseases. Together, we believe we can make a difference. As part of this alliance, Lahore Qalandars will support PKLI, using its influence to reach a wider audience and drive home the importance of early detection and prevention."

While talking to the media Prof Saeed Akhtar Chairman BoG, PKLI emphasized the significance of having Lahore Qalandars as brand ambassadors to support PKLI in reducing the disease burden of kidney & liver diseases in Pakistan through joint activities, awareness campaigns, and fund-raising events.

Prof Faisal Dar Dean, PKLI thanked Lahore Qalandars for their active contribution to society and underscored the importance of such partnerships to create awareness on the prevention and treatment of such deadly diseases and to raise much-needed funds to save precious lives.

Gilchrist heaps praise on Australia team for winning record sixth World Cup

Sports Desk

Former Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist led the plaudits on Monday as Australia celebrated "a miracle" in winning the World Cup for a sixth time to reign over ODI cricket once again.

Pat Cummins' men

stunned the nearly 100,000 crowd in Ahmedabad on Sunday for a six-wicket victory over previously unbeaten India during the ICC World Cup 2023 final, breaking home hearts.

Opener Travis Head played a starring role in the ICC World Cup 2023 final with a sparkling 137 off 120 deliveries and he also took a stunning catch to cut short skipper Rohit Sharma's innings just short of a half-century.

Head joined Ricky Ponting and Gilchrist as the third Australian to score a century in a men's World Cup final.

"I don't know what I can't believe more," Head told reporters in Ahmedabad.

"What happened with the hundred and winning a World Cup, or taking that catch?" Former skipper Gilchrist said the victory was among the greatest ever by an Australian sports side.

"So proud of this Australian team and crew," Gilchrist wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

"To win another World Cup in the manner and circumstance they have is one of the finest victories in our sporting history I reckon.

"Time to celebrate," added Gilchrist, who scored 149 not out in the 2007 World Cup final win over Sri Lanka in Barbados.

Australia have won the World Cup six times, more than any other team, adding the 2023 crown to triumphs in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015.

Their feat was all the more impressive this time because it came against an India team who had, until now, looked imperious and had a passionate home crowd roaring them on.

Under the captaincy of Cummins, Australia added the 50-over crown to the World Test Championship title they won last June after beating India in the final in London.

India searches for answers after another ICC event final defeat

Sports Desk

India were left grappling for answers after the team's devastating defeat to Australia in the final of the ICC World Cup 2023 at home extending their drought in global tournaments.

A much-fancied India team led by skipper Rohit Sharma went into Sunday's final in front of nearly 100,000 fans in Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad undefeated and favourites to capture the ODI crown.

But they were outplayed by Pat Cummins' Australia, going down to a six-wicket defeat and leaving players, fans and pundits with a familiar feeling of disappointment.

"You can't deny the fact that it's been more than 10 years since they won a global title," Indian sports journalist R. Kaushik told AFP on Monday.

"If you look at the semi-final losses then there is a pattern, maybe there is something wrong in the planning," he added.

"You can interpret that as, 'Yes, they freeze on the big stage', or you can say that, 'On that day they were not good enough'. But it's hard to say they freeze mentally."

India's record makes for painful reading for its hundreds of millions of fanatical supporters.

Their last global title came a decade ago with the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Sunday was also India's second loss to the Australians in a final in five months after they went down in the World Test Championship decider in June.

India won the ODI World Cup in 1983 and 2011 at home but then faltered at the semi-final stage in 2015 and 2019.

"India are the real chokers, they are the new chokers," fan Abir Saini, wearing a Virat Kohli Indian jersey, fumed as he trudged away from the world's biggest cricket stadium.

"They play well but fall at the final hurdle."

Fans had turned anticipating an Indian victory after the hosts stormed into the final with 10 straight victories in the lead-up matches.

But it was Australia who triumphed to win a record-extending sixth World Cup crown, with Travis Head hitting a sparkling 137.

India coach Rahul Dravid appeared as baffled as anyone at his team's inability to get over the line.

"I mean, I guess if I knew the answer, I would say that," Dravid, who was appointed coach in 2021 until this year's World Cup, told reporters.

"I just think we haven't played really well on the day," he said of India's succession of near-misses.

The former captain said that "there's not one particular reason you can pin it down to", adding that on Sunday "we didn't bat well enough".

India's dire record when it really counts is in stark contrast to Australia's, who have won six of the eight ODI World Cup finals they have contested.

18-member Test Squad Announced For Australia Tour: PCB

Saim Ayub and Khurram Shahzad Named in National Test Squad For the First Time: Wahab Riaz

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Chief selector Wahab Riaz has announced an 18-member Pakistan Test squad for the tour to Australia comprising three matches scheduled from 14 December 2023 to 7 January 2024. This will be Wahab's first assignment since he took charge of the national men's selection committee last week. Faheem Ashraf, Mir Hamza and Mohammad Wasim Jnr make returns to the Test side. Shan Masood will be leading the side in his first assignment as Test captain. He was named Pakistan's captain for the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle after taking over the reins from Babar Azam last week.

Left-handed opening batter

Saim Ayub has earned his maiden call-up to the Test team after an impressive run in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24. The 22-year-old scored 553 runs in four matches for Karachi Whites and had three centuries to his name, including a match-winning double century against Faisalabad in the final of the tournament. He continued his form in the Pakistan Cup (one-day tournament), where he was named the best batter of the tournament, ending as the competition's highest run-getter.

Right-arm fast bowler Khurram Shahzad has also been awarded his maiden Test call-up, on the back of a successful domestic season thus far. The 23-year-old was the highest wicket-taker of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24 with 36 wickets

in eight matches at an average of 20.31 and picked up 13 wickets at 16.62 in the recently concluded Pakistan Cup.

Pace bowling all-rounder Faheem Ashraf, who last appeared in Tests for Pakistan during England's tour of Pakistan in late 2022 has returned to the squad.

Left-arm pacer Mir Hamza, who registered 32 wickets at 20.88 in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24, and right-arm pacer Mohammad Wasim Jnr are making a return to the squad as well. The two fast bowlers were part of Pakistan's squad during New Zealand's tour of Pakistan that took place from December 2022 to January 2023.

Pakistan squad for Australia Tests: Shan Masood (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah

Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi

Chief selector Wahab Riaz, reflecting on the squad selected for the Australia tour, said: "The squad has been assembled keeping in mind the challenging Australian conditions. We have kept the pitches in mind and added more pace bowling resources to the team to ensure that the management can be flexible with the team combinations in all three Test matches.

Saim Ayub has been added to the squad after the extraordinary domestic season he has



had this year. He has impressed with the bat during the Quaid-e-Azam trophy and Pakistan Cup, pushing the case for his selection. His inclusion will strengthen our solid batting line-up.

Pakistan has started off the

ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 really well, after their success in Sri Lanka earlier this year. We hope that the team can carry this momentum ahead in Australia as well. We have tried to ensure that the team has all

relevant resources to find success in Australia."

The squad will assemble in Rawalpindi on 22 November for a training camp ahead of the tour. The camp is scheduled to run from 23 to 28 November at Pindi Cricket Stadium. The team will fly out on 30 November from Lahore. Some additional players have also been invited to feature in the training camp. The players called for the camp are Arshad Iqbal, Kashif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Shahab Khan, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Usama Mir and Usman Qadir.

Full schedule:

1st Test - Perth, 14-18 December 2023

2nd Test - Melbourne, 26-30 December 2023

3rd Test - Sydney, 3-7 January 2024

Sustainable Development Conference

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of Sustainable Development Policy Institute's 26th Sustainable Development Conference, in Islamabad on November 20, 2023.



Photo: PID

President for constructive role to improve children lives in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called upon the relevant Government organizations, civil society, human rights groups, media, UN agencies, community, parents, teachers, Ulama and children themselves to come together and play their constructive role in the national effort to improve the lives of children in Pakistan. "Children in Pakistan are vulnerable to several challenges like stunt-

ing, malnutrition and lack of access to quality education and health facilities," the president said in a message on the occasion of Universal Children's Day.

President Alvi said children were the most precious resource of any nation and the sole guarantee for its future. Pakistan is fully alive to its responsibilities towards its children and is making all efforts to ensure children's inclusive development, birth registration, education, health

care, participation, dignity and security as envisaged in our Constitution and UNCRC. He said Pakistan had promulgated a number of legislations including the ICT Child Protection Act, 2018, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act, 2020 and the insertion of "Child Domestic Labour" in the list of occupations in the Employment of Children's Act, 1991. Similarly, the National Commission on the Rights of Child, ICT Child

Protection Institute, Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) and ICT Child Protection Advisory Board have also been established to protect children's rights and create an enabling environment for them. The president said in accordance with national and international obligations, Pakistan has a clear vision of investing in children. "We believe that social justice and equality are the cornerstones on which the structure of a healthy society

is built." He said this needed a committed societal response, and the communities and families need to play their role in this noble cause, particularly for the future of our nation. "Our religion, Islam, enjoins parental responsibility for the well-being of children and for building their character by providing them with better education and training. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) loved children and was their most affectionate caretaker," he added.

Gaza, IIOJK becoming graveyards for children: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment has made it clear that enough is enough, the world need to take a firm and united stand to safeguard and protect the children, as Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) are becoming graveyards for children, who have been the worst victims of the two unsettled land disputes pending for the last over seven-decades.

Mushaal, who is also wife of



an incarcerated senior Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, in a video message on the International Day of Children on Monday,

said: "Let's make a pledge not to forget the oppressed children of Gaza and IIOJK and protect them from massacring at the hands of their brutal and

inhuman aggressors Israeli and Indian forces."

She contended that Israeli forces and Indian forces were killing children in Gaza and IIOJK at an unfathomable rate, adding that over the past 40 days, Israeli forces have murdered more than 5,000 children in Gaza, besides 1,800 children are missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

Mushaal expressed great shock over the shameful violation of child rights and war crimes being committed against Palestinian and Kashmiri children, adding that iron-

ically, instead of launching collective and universal initiatives for the welfare and betterment of children, the world was still silently witnessing heinous and gruesome acts of barbarity and violence against children in Gaza and IIOJK.

She appealed to the world powers, international community and human rights organizations to realize the pain and sufferings of the Palestinian and Kashmiri children and take steps on war-footing basis to ensure the protection of the rights and life of Palestinian and Kashmiri children.

Govt determined to provide best facilities to Hajj pilgrims: Aneeq Ahmed

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, Monday said that government was determined to provide the best facilities to Hajj pilgrims as facilitating citizens in performing religious rituals and worship was among the responsibilities of the state.

He was addressing to inaugural ceremony of Bankers Training regarding Hajj portal for Hajj 2024 here, said that for the first time in the country not only a significant decrease had been witnessed in Hajj expenses but the ministry was striving to ensure maximum facilities to pilgrims throughout their entire pilgrimage.

He said that Hajj expenses had declined to Rs10,75,000 this year

from Rs 11,75,000 of the previous year while negotiations were underway with airlines for reduction in airfare. In case of cut down in air ticket the corresponding amount would be transferred into accounts of Hujaj-e-Karam, he added. Another innovative facilities being introduced this year was launch of an App for Hujaj that would provide updates to pilgrims from filing of the Hajj application to their return

from the Hijaz-e-Muqadas, the minister informed. The 'Road to Makkah' program, a facility being offered by Saudi government to Hujaj, was earlier limited to Islamabad only but this year it will be extended to Karachi airport as well, Aneeq Ahmed said adding that MORA was striving to expand the facility to other major airports of the country for better facilitation of pilgrims.

PIA privatisation: PPP decides to give govt tough time

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has thrown its weight behind the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) employees protesting against proposed privatisation of the airline.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto met a delegation of PIA employees - led by President People's Unity CBA Hidayatullah Khan.

During the meeting, a strategy was also finalised as to how to foil the privatisation of the national flag carrier.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilawal said that what he had discussed with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was not the PIA privatisation, but it's restructuring.

"Just like the PML-N lies to the nation in political matters, it is not stating the facts about the discussions we had on the subject," he said, vowing that they will not allow a single worker

of the airline to get unemployed.

It is pertinent to mention here that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar had already directed authorities concerned to expedite the privatisation process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

Meanwhile, the Privatisation Commission had also approved the appointment of British multinational Ernst & Young as the financial advisor for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), with the aim of preparing the loss-making entity for sale.

However, it approved the appointment of British multinational Ernst & Young as the financial advisor to prepare plans for privatisation of the national flag carrier.

The adviser would lead a consortium to manage the planned stake sale of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), sources added.

ECP 'finalises' code of conduct for general elections 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalised the Code of Conduct for political parties for the general elections 2024.

According to sources, the Election Commission of Pakistan has drafted a code of conduct in consultation with political parties in connection with the general election.

The suggestions of the political parties have also been included in the Code of Conduct draft. According to sources, political parties will not speak out against the sovereignty of Pakistan during the election campaign. The political parties will also avoid ridiculing the ECP during their election campaign.

Political parties and candidates will avoid gifts, greed, or bribery to other candidates to withdraw in their favor and will ensure the protection of the

election staff and polling agents.

According to the draft, political parties will also ensure the implementation of 5% of women's quota in the general elections 2024.

Political parties and candidates will strongly refrain from encouraging violence on polling day, and showing weapons during the election campaign will be completely banned.

Aerial shootings and firecrackers will also be banned in the public gatherings.

According to the Code of Conduct, the election agent must be a voter of the relevant constituency, and the National Assembly candidates will be able to spend up to Rs10 million in the election campaign while Provincial Assembly candidates will not be able to spend more than 4 million rupees during their election campaign.

Furthermore, the successful candidates will submit details of election expenses to Returning Officers.

Bilawal advocates free and fair election as panacea for Pakistan's woes



News Desk

NOWSHERA: In a passionate address at the workers' convention in Nowshera, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari emphasised the pivotal role of free and fair election in addressing the myriad challenges facing Pakistan.

He asserted the elections devoid of transparency hold no value, stating, "if the result is to be determined before the election, then there is no use of such an election. The only way out of all the problems is a free and fair election."

Highlighting the significance of the PPP's resilience, he commended the die-hard supporters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their unwavering commitment to democracy.

He stressed despite the current economic turmoil, rising terrorism, and social division, the PPP remains committed to serving the nation.

He expressed concern over the

rising poverty, unemployment, and inflation, attributing these issues to a lack of transparent governance.

He urged the chief election commission and the chief justice to ensure transparency in the upcoming elections, emphasising that a clean and transparent election is crucial for the wellbeing of the people.

In a critical stance against other political parties, especially targeting PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, he asserted that the PPP represented the interests of the common people and vowed to prioritise the welfare of the poor over affluent elites.

Concluding his address, Bhutto outlined his vision for the governance under "Bhuttoism", promising to uplift the poor and ensure equitable development.

He urged the senior politicians to contest elections based on their manifestos rather than relying on administration, emphasising the trust the PPP places in the people's judgement.

Shehzad Roy to present proposal for special elective courses for Sindh school children in 2023



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Shehzad Roy, a renowned singer and the founder and President of the Zindagi Trust along with Mariam Chughtai the Director of National Curriculum Council (NCC) called on the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindh today on 20th November, 2023.

Federal Minister welcomed Shehzad Roy and appreciated his contribution towards education reform in Pakistan, especially for his work on the integration of Child Protection into the provincial curriculum of Sindh. Madad said that his contribution in the field of education is highly commendable. Madad said that due to Shehzad Roy's efforts the Sindh Government approved a new

Teachers "Teacher Performance Evaluation" format developed by Zindagi Trust for Government Teachers across the province but also the National Assembly recognized his efforts and passed a law criminalizing corporal punishment.

Madad said that this is a praise worthy initiative and that he will officially launch this in the month of December. He said that NCC should develop and present this elective course to him on urgent basis so that it can be implemented by FDE in this year.

Madad reiterated his commitment to reforming the public education sector. He said that it is his vision to lay the groundwork in such a manner that the future political governments can build a better Pakistan for the future generations.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan Discuss Trade Expansion



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Commerce Minister of Pakistan, met with H. E. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov of Azerbaijan today to explore ways to further trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The two ministers discussed a range of issues, including potential preferential trade arrangements, investment opportunities, and joint ventures. They also agreed to

work together to promote regional trade and connectivity.

"We shared views on economic prosperity and regional cooperation," said Dr. Ejaz. "Our meeting today was a positive step forward in our efforts to strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan."

"Pakistan is committed to expanding its trade ties with Azerbaijan," he said. "We are confident that our cooperation will lead to mutual benefits for both countries."