



PML-N pitches Shehbaz Sharif as Punjab's chief minister

With elections closing in, a top Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader has said that his party's candidate for Punjab's chief ministership would be the younger Sharif — Shehbaz. Shehbaz has served as Pakistan's most populous province's chief minister for a record three times — 1997-99, 2008-13 and 2013-18 — and was also the prime minister for around 16 months.



Pakistan, Oman enjoy strong ties on 53rd National Day: Jamal Shah

The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan H. E Fahad Sulaiman Khalf Alkharusi hosted a lavish reception to celebrate the 53rd National Day at Serena Hotel Islamabad. A number of diplomats, dignitaries, government officials and others graced the occasion. The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman and the core team of the embassy welcomed the guests. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Graduation Ceremony

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force with the graduating officers at the Graduation Ceremony held at PAF Academy, Asghar Khan on Tuesday.



Chief of Army Staff addresses Corps Level Collective Training exercise at Mango Corps



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Corps Level Collective Training exercise of Strike Corps.

The exercise is aimed at validating offensive operational concepts. He witnessed an impressive display of complex manoeuvres undertaken, led by Armoured formation equipped with state of the art VT-4 tanks.

COAS met the troops participating in the exercise and commended their verve, operational efficiency and professionalism.

Army Chief highlighted the importance of combat readiness and mental agility to respond to multi-spectral threat paradigm. He dilated upon the significance of achieving synergy among various arms in view of rapidly changing threat environment. He also appreciated the proficiency gained in night operations.

COAS reiterated that only realistic, mission-oriented training in peacetime can guarantee excellence on the battlefield should the need arise.

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Mangla Corps.

No peace without settlement of Jammu & Kashmir issue: PM

Spokesman Report

RISALPUR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said peace in the region could not be guaranteed till the resolution of the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir between Pakistan and India. "Let me make it clear that there can be no peace without the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue," he said in his address at the graduation ceremony of the officers here at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan.

PM Kakar said Pakistan was a

peace-loving nation and wished to maintain friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbours. He, however, categorically stated that the country's desire for peace "must not be understood as weakness". No peace without settlement of Jammu & Kashmir issue.

PM The prime minister congratulated the cadets graduated from the colleges of flying training and aeronautical engineering and expressed confidence that they would give their best professional performance with commitment and diligence.

"Being the custodians of the PAF, you carry the hopes of this nation and must work hard to keep abreast with modern technology and trends related to modern warfare," he told the graduates. A total of 131 Aviation Cadets, 08 Gentleman Cadets and 03 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony. The prime minister awarded Branch insignias and trophies to the distinction holders. Earlier, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu received the prime minister on the venue. Bugles were blown when PM Kakar

as chief guest of the ceremony entered the arena. The prime minister onboard a PAF jeep inspected the formation of the smartly turned out contingents of the PAF falcons. The prime minister awarded the prestigious Quaid-e-Azam Banner to the Champions No. 3 Squadron on its consistently best performance in all semesters. He also pinned badges on the professionally distinguished graduating cadets. The Chief of the Air Staff trophies for best performance were given to Muhammad Moosa Jawad (best pilot), Muhammad Ali

Gohar (general aviation), Sajid Sikandar Abbas (air defence), Syed Saad Ali (combat support) and Sohaib Saeed (aeronautical engineering). The Swords of Honour were awarded to Aviation Cadets Ahmed Malik (flying) and Sohaib Saeed (engineering). The prime minister witnessed the PAF Academy Aerobatics team "Bravehearts" presenting a spirit pass over the parade venue. Afterwards, a thrilling formation flying display by PAF Mirage, F-7PG, JF-17 and J-10C fighter jets captivated the spectators by showcasing PAF's professional prowess.

PTI chief's jail trial in cipher case declared 'null and void'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday declared the jail trial of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in cipher case 'null and void', nullifying the August 29 notification.

An IHC division bench, comprising Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, announced the reserved verdict on an intra-court appeal filed by PTI chief Imran Khan against a single-member bench's decision that had approved the ex-premier's jail trial in the cipher case.

Allowing Imran Khan's intra-court appeal, the bench declared the law ministry's

notification "to be without lawful authority and no legal effect".

In the three-page short order, the Islamabad High Court stated that the jail trial can be conducted in "exceptional circumstances".

"In exceptional circumstances and where it is conducive to justice, a trial can be conducted in jail in a manner that fulfills the requirements of an open trial or a trial in camera provided it is in accordance with the procedure provided by law."

The court also declared that the November 15 notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice after the caretaker cabinet's approval of the jail trial "cannot be given retrospective effect".

Arab-Islamic Summit

Russian foreign minister announces progress on Gaza Strip

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Today, Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 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, held an official meeting with His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergei Lavrov, at the Russian Guest Palace, 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 Palestin-



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

At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency the Russian Foreign Minister delivered a speech in which he praised the efforts made by the ministerial committee assigned by

the Arab-Islamic Summit towards a long-standing ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The Russian Foreign Minister indicated that his country stands with immediate ceasefire efforts, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, and in accordance with the decisions of the peace summit in Cairo and the extraordinary joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh.

No decision from PML-N over 18th Amendment, says Ishaq Dar

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister and PML-N leader Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that his party didn't take any decision about the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

Leader of the House in Senate Ishaq Dar denied reports about the 18th Constitutional Amendment and said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz didn't take any decision with regard to the 18th Amendment and the

party's manifesto committee was not given any specific instruction in this respect.

Irfan Siddiqui is leading the manifesto committee of the party. "He and Marriyum Aurangzeb have issued statements in this regard," Dar said.

Speaking at floor of the Senate Ishaq Dar said that amending the constitution is not an extraordinary matter, we used to introduce amendments in the constitution. "Me, Raza Rabbani and others

played an active role in 18th amendment as PML-N and the People's Party had sign over the 'Charter of Democracy'. "Our objective was the civil-military relations and judicial reforms," Senator Ishaq Dar said.

"When the People's Party taken the charge in 2008, a bicameral committee was constituted," he said.

He said after signing the charter of democracy (CoD) we worked on many things; during

matter of constitutional reforms was also part of the CoD.

Senator Dar said that the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award should be revised after each five years as per the constitution. "The NFC was reviewed in year 2009, the federal government was used to get five percent collective charge, which was slashed to one percent in 2009," he said.

"I have participated in the 18th amendment as well as in

the NFC," he said. He highlighted the need of revisiting the earlier review of the NFC.

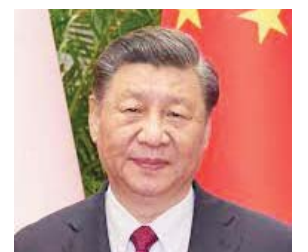
"Pakistan's real challenges are human resource development, health, education, skill development, water and population," Dar said.

"If provinces doing what they have been entrusted with, such as health sector. In Balochistan 3500 schools have been closed because teachers are not available," he said.

News Desk

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday made a three-point proposal on the Palestinian-Israeli issue, calling for a ceasefire to realize lasting peace and security. All parties in the conflicts should immediately cease fire and hostilities, stop all violence and attacks targeting civilians, and release civilian detainees to avoid more loss of lives and suffering. Xi said at the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

He said it is also imperative to ensure the safe and smooth passage of humanitarian relief, expand humanitarian aid to



people in Gaza, and stop the forced relocation and the cut-off of water, electricity and oil that targets people in Gaza as a collective punishment. Xi called on the international community to take concrete measures to prevent the escalation of the conflicts and the impact on the stability of the entire Middle East.

Major Milestone

Pakistan secures two-year extension in MMPA exemption period

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan attains a remarkable global milestone as the Department of Commerce and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) grant a prestigious two-year extension to the exemption period, distinguishing the nation among a select few out of 130 countries. This significant extension, as outlined in a Federal Register Notice, extends the deadline for comparability findings for commercial fishing operations exporting fish and fish products to the U. S. to December 31, 2025.

This extension represents a notable revision to the regulations implementing the import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), initially intro-



duced in 2016. The regulations initially granted foreign nations a five-year exemption period to develop regulatory programs addressing marine mammal bycatch comparable to U. S. standards. Originally set to conclude on December 31, 2023, this exemption period has now been extended.

NMFS, entrusted with evaluating each nation's regulatory programs, acknowledges the complexity of assessing the incidental and intentional mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in fisheries exporting to the U. S.

Former PM says to all workers: Make the establishment day in Quetta success

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the foundation day of People's Party is being celebrated in Quetta this time, for which we will play a full role to make it successful. Our first effort is that there should be a ceasefire here and the Palestine issue should be resolved according to the resolutions of the United Nations. The establishment of South Punjab province is included in the manifesto of all the political parties of Pakistan.

Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said in a media talk that the Foundation Day



is being celebrated in Quetta this time to make it successful.

Our first effort is that there should be a ceasefire here and the Palestine

issue should be resolved according to the UN resolutions.

The manifesto of all the political parties of Pakistan includes the establishment of South Punjab province: All party workers at the establishment day held in Quetta.

Participate fully: This is an appeal to all workers Make the establishment day held in Quetta a success: As the general election schedule comes, you have to enter the election with full preparation: If we had two-thirds majority during the government of the People's Party.

So we would have succeeded in making a province: Punjab is a big province, South Punjab province is necessary to improve governance

AJK Muslim Conference demands end of Israeli massacre in Gaza

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the massacre of innocent children and women in Gaza is a clear violation of human rights, this massacre in Gaza should stop. In this situation, the United Nations and the international community should play a responsible role.



Everyone including children, old people, women are being targeted. We should raise our voices and play our role so that this barbarity ends. These views were expressed by the President of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, the senior leader of the Muslim Conference in Mujahid Manzil, Syed Azhar Ali Shah and other party officials. Talking to Azhar Ali Shah and Syed Hasnain Ali Shah, He said that in the last 40 days, Israeli forces killed more than 5,000 Palestinian children, while the bodies of more than 1,800 Palestinian children are trapped in the rubble of destroyed buildings. More than 50% of the population in Gaza are children who are facing warlike conditions. He said that there are more than 50,000 Palestinian pregnant mothers and the lives of these children are also in danger.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan further said that overseas Kashmiris, especially Kashmiris living in America, have always played an important role in raising the issue of Kashmir at the international level and Kashmiris living in America are the oppressed Kashmiris. He has raised his voice in every forum of the world, especially in the United States, for the right of the people to self-determination and informed the world about India's evil intentions. He said that India is increasing cruelty and brutality in Occupied Kashmir day by day.

Apart from Occupied Kashmir, Muslims are not safe in India either. Former pro-India Chief Ministers of Occupied Kashmir who opposed Modi's agenda have also been imprisoned. They should tell their representatives how the oppressed Kashmiris are fighting Indian oppression and tyranny. He said that no option is acceptable to Kashmiris except freedom. They will continue to fight against the illegal occupation of India and we will continue to support our brothers.

HEC visited at Women University Multan



Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: The three-day visit of the Higher Education Commission to Women University Multan has been completed and the record check has been declared satisfactory. The purpose of this visit is to implement HEC's minimum standards for starting and continuing HEC's MS/MPhil and PhD programs while maintaining the quality of education. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Pracha said that the Women's University is continuing the MPhil and PhD programs following the principles laid down by the HEC.

The HEC team consisting of Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ishtiaq Ali, Dr. Obaidullah Anwar, Mr. Umar Khurshid Kayani provided the students with complete records, transcripts of previous classes, complete records of admission system, admission rules and academics. Reviewed the minutes of the council, data and complete personnel files of the faculty members and the maintenance of ongoing programs.

The team met with Registrar Dr. Maimunah Khan, Dr. Atiya Iqbal (Director), Dr. Maryam Zain (Director Academics), Dr. Raima Nazir, Dr. Malka Liaquat, Dr. Maryam Zain, Dr. Farah Diba and all the assistants and got the details. Atiya Iqbal (Director QEC) gave a brief presentation on the progress of the University, after which the team appreciated the efforts of the management of the Women University and described the performance as satisfactory and hoped that the Women University will maintain its standard. Due to research, it will soon be included in the best universities of the world.

KP 'moves to block' nearly 60,000 dubious CNICs amid expulsion of illegal aliens

PESHAWAR: Amid the ongoing crackdown against illegal immigrants, the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has decided to get more than 58,000 suspicious computerised national identity cards (CNICs) blocked by the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), well-placed sources revealed Tuesday.

The decision was made during the meeting of the provincial steering committee on repatriation of illegal foreigners held on November 17. "The status of complex cases like intra marriages [inter country marriages], PoR/ACC/Fake and block CNICs were discussed in detail," read the minutes of the meeting, available with Geo News.

It was decided in the huddle that all the deputy commissioners would convene meetings over the matter within five days. "Complex cases are not to be repatriated till the recommendation by the relevant DLC [district liaison committee]/DIC followed by Nadra implementation."

AKNS delegation meets PM AJK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq on Tuesday said that all issues including fair distribution of advertisements and payments to state newspapers will be resolved on a priority basis. He was talking to the delegation of All Kashmir Newspapers Society (AKNS) who met him here at Jammu and Kashmir House. The prime minister said, "I am a writer

myself. I respect writers. I believe in free press. Criticism must be done but based on facts with solid evidence, it leads to improvement. A disciplinary committee should be formed to categorize newspapers division-wise and district-wise, under which distribution and payment of advertisements to newspapers should be done and notice should be taken for reporting without facts. AJK Prime Minister that the problems of state newspapers will be solved on priority basis and distri-

bution of advertisements to newspapers will be ensured. "False propagandists should be discouraged from the level of AKNS," he said. The Prime Minister said that the advertisement of any newspaper will not be suspended. Distribution of advertisements will be ensured with distinction between dummy newspapers and good circulated newspapers. He said that under Right to Information, information can be obtained from any organization by putting a ticket with an application.

During the meeting AJK Minister for Finance Abdul Majid Khan was also present on this occasion. AKNS delegation was included Amjad Choudhry President AKNS, Zaheer Jagwal Secretary General, Sher Baz Munir Chaudhry, Shafiq Zia, Tanveer Tanuli, Sardar Hameed, Javed Iqbal Chaudhry, Syed Akram Shah, Nisar Kayani, Chaudhry Khalid Anjum, Mumtaz Khaksar, Abid Abbasi, Ijaz Khan, Mateen Khawaja and Mohiuddin Dar.

BMP Progressive Group announces to join UBG for FPCCI elections



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saqib Fayyaz Magoon of Businessman Panel Progressive Group has announced to join the United Business Group (UBG) with more than 25 Executive Committee and General Body members for the upcoming elections of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce. He made this announcement during a meeting with a delegation of UBG at his residence. UBG Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer, President Zubair Tufail, Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, UBG Sindh President

Khalid Tawab, UBG's Presidential Candidate for FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh, Punjab Leaders Aamir Atta Bawaja, Momin Ali Malik and others were included in the delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Saqib Fayyaz Magoon said that, he along with his colleagues, have decided to join the UBG it has a sincere leadership to serve the cause of the business community of the country and get Pakistan out of the current economic crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, SM Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief UBG said that after the decision of BMP Progress-

sive Group, inshallah UBG will win the next election of FPCCI with a landslide victory. He said that our aim is not only to win the elections but to promote the interests of the business community of the country through the platform of the FPCCI.

UBG President Zubair Tufail said that Saqib Fayyaz Magoon has taken the right decision at the right time and this decision will have a positive impact on the business community of the country in the coming days.

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari said that SM Tanveer is making great efforts for the betterment of

the business community and the decision of Saqib Fayyaz Magoon is a recognition of his efforts. He said that the COAS is working to get the country out of the current economic crisis and we are fully standing with them in this struggle.

UBG's presidential candidate for FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh reaffirmed that after winning the elections of FPCCI, he would make tireless efforts to serve the cause of the business community of the entire country. President UBG Sindh Khalid Tawab, Group Leader Sialkot Chamber of Commerce Riaz ud Din Sheikh and others also spoke on the occasion.

TPL Maps launches Reseller Program for Dynamic Collaboration

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: 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. "TPL Maps is committed to empowering resellers with marketing collateral, sales materials, and robust technical support to effectively promote and sell its products.

Asad Hayatuddin remarked that the Pakistani government continues to lack direction. Consequently, we turn to the donors to help set our development direction. Pakistan's strategy for long has been external resource mobilization for short-term gains. He said that India and Bangladesh have also turned to the IMF, but they stuck to the plan to reverse the crises.

Tobias Haque said that there are numerous examples where countries came to the donors with a homegrown development plan and sought technical assistance.

37th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE)

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The 37th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with Bahaduddin Zakariya University, Multan, began at the Jinnah Auditorium of the BZU.

In the inaugural session of the Conference, Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and President of the PSDE emphasized the significant contributions of Mahbul ul Haq to PIDE. He also highlighted PIDE & PSDE's role in asking pertinent questions and engaging in impactful research exploring the country's wide-ranging socio-economic issues. Dr. Nadeem stressed the need for

a paradigm shift in thinking and the importance of asking critical questions. He said that the economic system in Pakistan is on a "life support system." Dr. Nadeem said that there is an immediate to explore challenges such as exchange rates, unemployment, and the aid-debt trap. The PIDE Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for investment. He said that in Pakistan no one is concerned with investment, while everyone's primary concern is poverty. Thus, the focus should be shifted to investment and finding ways to increase it. Regarding the economic and development plans in Pakistan, he pointed out the irony of having too many plans yet too little development.

Dr Nadeem further pointed out that the solution to our economic quagmire is not getting more debt. He criticized

the overreliance on loans, particularly from institutions like the IMF, and likened going to the IMF repeatedly to going to the emergency ward.

In the secretary's report, Dr Ifthikhar Ahmad, Secretary of the PSDE, reiterated PIDE's desire to initiate and collaborate on further research with researchers in South Punjab. He said that in this year's conference, two panel discussions are focusing on South Punjab, featuring panellists from academia and regionality. He highlighted the need for inclusivity by bringing students from all around Punjab to the discussions, which PIDE has been doing for over 4 years now.

The first panel discussion of the Conference was on "Foreign Aid: Boon or Bane?" The discussion was moderated by Shahid Mahmood, Research

Fellow at PIDE, Asad Hayatuddin, Former Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, Tobias Haque, Lead Country Economist for Pakistan at the World Bank, and Naveed Aziz, Senior Governance Advisor to the FCDO.

Asad Hayatuddin remarked that the Pakistani government continues to lack direction. Consequently, we turn to the donors to help set our development direction. Pakistan's strategy for long has been external resource mobilization for short-term gains. He said that India and Bangladesh have also turned to the IMF, but they stuck to the plan to reverse the crises.

Tobias Haque said that there are numerous examples where countries came to the donors with a homegrown development plan and sought technical assistance.



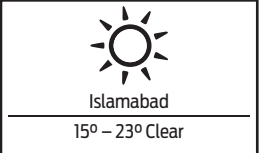
nical assistance. On the other hand, in Pakistan is that there exists no indigenous development plan. Thus, Pakistan needs to develop a crisp indigenous development plan and then seek donors' assistance.

Naveed Aziz said that aid utilization has not necessarily been entirely negative in Pakistan, and aid dependence in some areas has come down as well. For example, Pakistan was the largest recipient of Official Development Assistance, which has now come down from 15% to 1%. Currently, the major issue faced by Pakistan is that the government is not an efficient user of money.

All panellists agreed that Pakistan needs to develop a long-term devel-

opment plan with a clear indication of what support it requires from external sources and to what extent. Pakistan's debt utilization stands as a major issue that has to be immediately improved. Pakistan needs to realize that aid is not the solution to problems, instead, it is just a tool to facilitate the implementation of development plans and achieving the set goals.

The cohorts of PSDE's 37th Annual Conference, organized by PIDE, include the World Bank Group, UNICEF, RASTA, the Bank of Punjab, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Saudi Pak Agricultural and Industrial Investment Company, and BZU School of Economics.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:18 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:24 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 & 4451122
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 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

No country can move forward unless its people have a strong cultural identity: Jamal Shah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture on Tuesday said that no country can move forward unless its people have a strong cultural identity connecting an individual to the surrounding environment, identity, and homeland.

Addressing a cultural program titled "Globalization and Pakistani Cultures" organized by Alliance for Good Governance Foundation in collaboration with Information Service Academy (ISA), the minister underscored the importance of cultural diversity, asserting that it enlightened the youth about the beauty of unity in diversity.

Adviser National Heritage and Culture Muhammad Kashif Irshad, Ms. Zubaida Birwani, Panah Baloch, Dr. Hanif Khalil, Mazhar Arif, Dr. Humaira Ashfaq, Professor Saeed Ahmad, Aamir Haider, representatives of academia, civil society were also present on the occasion.

Highlighting his ministry's initiatives, Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said the culture ministry was about to launch a heritage channel, dedicated to showcasing folk heritage of the country.

He emphasised the pivotal role of folklore and national heritage in educating the younger generation and shaping societal values.

He revealed plans for the revival of cultural sites in Islamabad,

providing artistes with platforms to showcase their talents through performances and fostering cultural promotion.

Jamal Shah said that the people who knew their cultural roots would make strong decisions and make good relations with other nations.

Other speakers also spoke on the effects of globalization on Pakistani Culture.

It may be mentioned here that like many other developing countries, Pakistan is experiencing both positive and negative effects of the globalization.

The variety of Pakistani Music ranges from diverse provincial folk music and traditional styles such as Qawali and Ghazal Gayki to modern forms of traditional



and western music. This was said during an event "Globalization and Pakistani Culture" organized by an NGO "Alliance" in coordination with information services academy.

Pollution rises across the country: speakers

City Desk

LAHORE: Perspective engineers of University of Engineering and Technology (UET) were warned by Lahore's leading environmentalists that inability to change habits and unchecked urban sprawl will turn the city into an unliveable toxic landscape in the new future.

At the event, three masterclasses were delivered on principles underpinning sustainable engineering. These were presented by Imrana Tiwana, Convener of Lahore Bachao Tehreek and a Board Member of Lahore Conservation Society; Raza Ali Dada, Managing Partner of Nayyar Ali Dada & Associates; and Sana Ibrahim, trustee and Development Director at Bondh E Shams.

In her session, Imrana-Tiwana instructed students on the elements of sustainable urban development, discussed Lahore's Master Plan, and how the next generation of engineers can reverse existing city damage with greater impact.

Sana Ibrahim, who pioneered the innovative technology behind Bondh E Shams' solar-powered water boxes used to clean drinking water in remote locations, led the gathered students through the journey of designing, funding, and delivering self-contained solutions in the face of accelerating climate change.

Leading Architect Raza Ali Dada, shared the challenges that sustainable engineers face in taking their innovations beyond the conceptual stage, and how developing political will to tackle our shared predicament is equally important.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference hold placards and shouting slogans during protest in favour of their demands outside Foreign Office in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Quality Schools Foundation celebrates 20th anniversary at its main school

PNP

RAWALPINDI: Quality Schools Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary. The ceremony commenced with the heartfelt speeches, reminiscing about the school's humble beginning, acknowledging the unwavering dedication of founders and administrators who laid the foundation for a legacy of learning. Directors of the school, Mr Imtiaz Dossa and Mr Farid ud din, addressed the students, parents and staff through a video link.

Chairman Dr Muhammad Akram Sheikh appreciated the selfless and tireless efforts of Lt Gen Sabeeh Qamar uz Zaman, hardwork



and dedication of Principal Mrs Nadeema Tanveer and staff.

Lt Gen Sabeeh Qamar uz Zaman reviewed education system of Pakistan and compared it with the quality of education which is being imparted in Quality Schools and Colleges. Quality School, is a school for underprivileged

females but it rivals the most of the privileged schools of Pakistan.

Principal Mrs Nadeema Tanveer detailed the journey of 20 years towards success. She showed her immense pride in the brilliant academic performance of the students in the exam conducted by FBISE.

The ceremony ended with symbolic cake cutting, School administration joined by the representatives of alumni, stood together to cut the symbolic cake of school's illustrious journey. It was a symbolic gesture of unity, resilience and the enduring legacy that the school has built over two decades.

IIUI's Farid says school of higher education is world-class

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Nasir Farid has said that IIUI is an international seat of learning that has been serving the Muslim world for more than 4 decades in terms of promotion of Islamic values, Islamic character building in youth and dissemination of the Islam's message of peace.

The IIUI Spokesperson also mentioned of Dar-ul-Muneera Centre for Quran Memorization and its science of International Islamic University (which was endowed by a former member of the Board of Trustees) where Tajweed, Quran Memorization and training courses are dedicatedly being held for more than 15 thousand on campus female students.

He apprised that the university, in previous three years has also commenced celebration of a "Seerat-un-Nabvi (PBUH) week that includes Naat and Speech programs, Qirat and Quiz programs and Lectures on "Reflecting on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Life, Character and Message".

Talking about the international character of the University, he said it is very much intact with a thriving number of Alumni from over 50 different countries as well as over 1600 international students from more than 30 countries currently enrolled in various programs. He added that highly qualified sponsored faculty from universities and organizations from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt's Al-Azhar University, Kuwait and other Muslim Countries are greatly contributing to the cause of the University and reflecting a greater share of its internationalization. He maintained that the IIUI is a leading university in Pakistan that has the largest on campus presence of the female students who acquire quality higher education in the light of Islamic values.

Elevating Dreams, Defining Success Zindigi Prize National Finals 2023



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pak China Friendship Center recently witnessed the grand finale of the Zindigi Prize, Pakistan's premier entrepreneurship program. This initiative, brought to life by Zindigi and supported by JS Bank, concluded its latest edition with a spectacular ceremony. Kangaroo Care from NED University clinched the title of 2023 champion, with Ootien from Fatimah Jinnah University and MUSJ from the University of Engineering & Technology Peshawar securing the first and second runner-up positions, respectively.

The Zindigi Prize, encompassing over 130 universities and more than 4,000 startups, is dedicated to empowering the youth. It provides a platform for them to create innovative technological solutions that tackle societal challenges. A unique aspect of the program is its comprehensive 360-degree mentorship module, designed to refine and elevate all aspects of the participating teams' business ideas through specialized training and workshops.

JS Bank's President & CEO-Basir Shamsie, Chief Operating Officer-Imran Haleem Shaikh, Group Head Retail Banking-Atif Saleem Malik, Chief Officer Zindigi-Noman Azhar, and Zubina Asad - Head of HR were present at the ceremony and participated in various activities at Zindigi's unique experience center, creating an unparalleled experience.

Virtuzone pioneers the world's first business setup AI chatbot: ChatVZ

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Virtuzone, the UAE's first and leading company formation specialists and award-winning corporate services provider, has programmed ChatVZ to provide complete, detailed and up-to-date answers to any UAE business setup-related questions in just seconds.

Leveraging the ground-breaking capabilities of large language models (LLMs) and generative AI, ChatVZ is designed to make it easier, simpler and faster for people to access information about setting up a business in the mainland and in all of UAE's free zones. The AI-enabled platform uses OpenAI's recently released GPT-4 turbo developer update, significantly enhancing the speed and performance of the responses it generates.

ChatVZ is trained on 10 years' worth of information sourced from Virtuzone's database of more than 100,000 unique digital interactions, and thus adds over a million new words to GPT's current dataset. Equipped with a multi-layered security infrastructure, ChatVZ offers stringent data protection and safeguards users' personal information.

Emirates joins UAE based research consortium for renewable and advanced aviation fuels

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In the UAE Year of Sustainability, and at the 3rd ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) held in Dubai, eight founding entities announced the launch of the "Air-CRAFT" initiative—a UAE based research consortium focused on developing, producing, and scaling sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) technologies.

Air-CRAFT, or the UAE Centre for Renewable and Advanced Fuel Technologies for Aviation, is a first-of-its-kind initiative that will bring together entities across the value chain – industrial policy makers, aviation regulators, fuel producers, academia and researchers, aircraft and powerplant manufacturers, and airline operators. While based in the UAE, the consortium will also engage with, and welcome the participation of relevant international entities as it progresses. The new initiative was announced on the sidelines of CAAF/3 today and ahead of COP28.



Air-CRAFT is supported by the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure. "The aviation sector holds great importance as a key contributor to the GDP and as a target sector for our robust decarbonization drive," said His Excellency Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. "The UAE has committed to reaching net zero by 2050, and this goal can only be achieved by slashing the emissions

across the board. Air-CRAFT will go a long way in supporting the decarbonization of the aviation sector, helping to make it resilient and sustainable well into the future."

His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy of the UAE and Chairman of the GCAA said: "Introducing 'Air-CRAFT' at CAAF/3 in Dubai emphasizes the UAE's commitment to accelerate sustainable aviation

fuel (SAF) production, uniting government, private sector, and academia for a collective push toward sustainable aviation practice". Bin Touq adds, "Aligned with the net-zero emissions goal by 2050, this consortium, the largest and most unique in the SAF industry, represents a substantial stride towards greener aviation future, and we look forward to making a significant positive impact through it".

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What does President Xi think? - II

In a demonstration of empathy, he announced the establishment of a working group on counter-narcotics to further deepen cooperation, particularly in addressing drug abuse in the United States. Additionally, President Xi committed to hosting over 50,000 young Americans in exchange and study programs in China over the next five years, fostering greater cross-cultural understanding.

In a gesture of goodwill, he offered to repatriate two pandas which arrived in China after their mandatory stay in the USA, back to the USA, a move that resonated deeply with the people of San Francisco, showcasing the spirit of goodwill and diplomatic gestures between the two nations.

President Xi Jinping firmly rejected the idea of China posing a threat and advocated against a zero-sum mindset. He emphasized China's stance: not betting against any country, avoiding interference in internal affairs, and harboring no intentions to challenge or supplant the U. S. or any other country. Instead, Likewise, he urged the other countries to refrain from betting against China or meddling in its internal matters, fostering a welcoming environment for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous China

To my surprise, with remarkable humility, President Xi expressed that China doesn't possess, require, nor intend to create its own exclusive set of rules for international engagements. Instead, China remains steadfast in upholding the international system with the United Nations at its core, maintaining the international order rooted in international law, and adhering to the

fundamental norms governing international relations based on the principles outlined in the U. N. Charter.

President Xi Jinping's response during his speech addressed a crucial question: whether he's a dictator. He rooted his reply in history, emphasizing that China's path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is guided by the theory of scientific socialism and deeply entrenched in the 5,000-year-old tradition of Chinese civilization. He stressed that this path reflects the choices of the Chinese people, grounded in universal human values.

In alignment with this broad approach to global development, he emphasized the promotion of dialogue and cooperation across various sectors and expanding the scope of collaboration to encompass diplomacy, trade and economy, people-to-people exchanges, education, science and technology, agriculture, military, law enforcement, and artificial intelligence. President Xi emphasized the intention to broaden the cooperation spectrum and enlarge the opportunities for collaboration with all countries of the world.

President Xi Jinping firmly declared China's dedication to dialogue over confrontation and emphasized the building of partnerships rather than forming alliances. China will persist in its mutually beneficial approach to opening up and stressed that their pursuit of modernization isn't solely for their own benefit; it's a global endeavor. President Xi expressed China's readiness to collaborate with all nations to advance global moderniza-

tion efforts.

President Xi Jinping's response to the multifaceted question about China's vast investments in initiatives like the Belt and Road, Global Development, Global Security, and Global Civilization was incredibly inclusive. He expressed China's openness to engagement with all countries, including the United States, and a willingness to participate in U. S.-proposed multilateral cooperation initiatives.

President Xi Jinping, with humility and determination, outlined China's ambitious vision for modernization, acknowledging the immense challenge of uplifting a staggering population of 1.4 billion. He emphasized China's dual identity as both a massive economy and market, presenting the nation's modernization as a substantial global opportunity.

Highlighting the success of China's socialism, he underscored the historic achievement of lifting over 900 million people out of poverty. This milestone, achieved through relentless state-wide efforts and aligning with the millennia-old dream of Chinese prosperity for all, led to meeting the U. N. 2030 Agenda's poverty reduction goal a decade ahead of schedule. President Xi pledged to sustain this momentum, focusing on high-quality development to ensure the benefits of modernization reach every corner of China.

President Xi Jinping articulated a people-centered vision for China's development, emphasizing economic

strength, improved living standards, cultural enrichment, and holistic personal development. He championed the Global Civilization Initiative to address the balance between material and cultural progress, advocating for global human civilization advancement.

Committing to sustainable development, China prioritizes environmental conservation, boasting significant achievements in renewable energy, afforestation, and emissions reduction. Pledging carbon neutrality by 2060, China aims to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030.

President Xi reaffirmed China's commitment to peaceful development, rooted in its cultural values, rejecting aggression and expansion. He emphasized the Chinese people's desire for stability and enduring world peace, crucial for China's rejuvenation.

Internationally, President Xi's approach, echoed by global observers, is admired for his statesmanship and vision. China's efforts extend beyond its borders, assisting developing nations with tangible infrastructure, technological support, and knowledge transfer for accelerated development. This approach starkly contrasts with perceived unilateralism and power politics, aligning with universal principles of peaceful coexistence outlined in the UN Charter. Xi's philosophy emphasizes that successful endeavors must originate from, derive strength from, and be achieved by the people.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan stresses implementation of anti-poverty declaration

Pakistan has called for implementing the Political Declaration, adopted by last September's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit, under which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, and build inclusive and peaceful societies that leave no one behind. "These pledges and commitments on development should be endorsed by the Security Council so as to transform these into binding obligations," Ambassador Munir Akram said at the U. N. on Monday.

In particular, the Pakistani envoy emphasized that those promises must be implemented to expand concessional and grant development finance, re-channel the unused special drawing rights (SDRs), provide urgent debt relief, and meet climate commitments, among others. Speaking in a Security Council's debate on the promotion of sustainable peace through common development, he voiced support for the U. N. Peacebuilding Commission's efforts to address the resolution of conflict situations through the promotion of development. "Yet, no amount of development can bring peace when peoples are suppressed by foreign occupation and forcibly denied of their right to self-determination as is happening in Palestine today and in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Ambassador Akram added. Acknowledging the interdependence between peace and development, he said although hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty in the past 8 decades, the Charter's vision of prosperity for all the "peoples" has yet to be realized. "We live in an age of inequality," that had created the super-rich and the super-poor. Noting that development progress made in the past few decades has been halted and reversed — by the Covid pandemic, climate change impacts and proliferating conflicts., the Pakistani envoy said 150 million people have descended into extreme poverty. "Growing poverty and hunger and the illegal exploitation of natural resources are the principal causes of many of conflicts and disputes among and within states, such as in the Sahel and other parts of Africa," he said. Climate change is exacerbating the scramble for scarce resources, particularly water, and could lead to the proliferation of conflicts. Opening the debate, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council that no peace is secure without inclusive and sustainable development which leaves no one behind. "Human development lights the way to hope — promoting prevention, security, and peace", the UN chief said. He added that advancing peace and sustainable, inclusive development must go hand-in-hand. Developing countries — particularly least developed countries — are being battered by a "perfect storm of crises", including crushing debt burdens, evaporating fiscal space, and soaring prices, the secretary-general said. With 85 per cent of the SDGs missing their mark, he called on the international community to act with greater urgency and ambition. He proposed a set of concrete actions that the international community can take now — including a Sustainable Development Goals Stimulus of \$500 billion a year to reduce debt burdens and release resources for long-term, affordable financing from multilateral and private sources. "To secure peace and advance development, we must jettison the self-defeating logic of zero-sum competition, recommit to cooperation, and summon the courage to compromise," with the Council at the heart of this vital effort.



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

The Challenges and Opportunities of Pension Reforms in Pakistan

Public sector employment remains an attraction for two important reasons, job security and a guaranteed pension. Unlike other countries Pakistan has not reformed its public sector pension system and maintains a pay-as-you-go defined benefits type pension system which has resulted in build-up of unfunded liability for the government. Pakistan practices a legacy pension system where pensioners are paid directly from the revenues as part of the current expenditures. This practice is inherently unsustainable as pension expenditure growing at around 25%, cannot be provided from an economy growing at a significantly lower rate. The pension burden is therefore bound to grow, doubling every four-years. It is estimated by 2050, pensions will account for 56% of current expenditure. The government will not have the funds for pension expenditure after 8-10 years.

The pension system in Pakistan is undergoing a major reform to cope with the increasing fiscal burden and to ensure the sustainability and adequacy of pension benefits. The government has initiated several measures to revise the pension rules and rates, such as introducing a contributory pension scheme, increasing the minimum pension, and linking the pension increase with inflation. The reform seeks to integrate pension regulations and orders for various kinds of pensioners, including as civil, military, and judicial, as well as to streamline the process

of authorizing and paying benefits. The Pay and Pension Commission, which is in charge of examining and recommending pension policies and practices in Pakistan, is expected to guide the reform in the future. In addition to existing measures, the government has announced significant pension reforms for 2023, including the establishment of the Pension Fund, the elimination of multiple pensions for officers of grade 17 and higher, and the implementation of penalties for early retirement. The Pension Fund will be a separate body that will administer the pension contributions and payments of government employees, and it will be governed by the Finance Division's laws and regulations. Multiple pensions will be eliminated, preventing retired officers from obtaining more than one pension from different sources and ensuring a fair and equitable allocation of pension payments. The penalty for early retirement will deter government employees from taking voluntary retirement before the age of superannuation, reducing the government's pension responsibilities. These reforms are designed to improve the efficiency and efficacy of Pakistan's pension system.

Pension policy improvements in Pakistan 2023 are a good step toward assuring the pension system's sustainability and equity. The reforms seek to lessen the burden of the pension budget, which has grown by 500% in the last 12 years, as well as to give a fair and adequate



pension to all retired government employees. The reforms include the establishment of a Pension Fund, the elimination of multiple pensions for officers of grade 17 and higher; the imposition of early retirement penalties, the revision of gross pension calculation, and the limitation of the period of family pension. These improvements are designed to enhance the government's fiscal situation as well as the wellbeing of seniors and their families. These improvements are expected to improve Pakistan's pension system and make it more effective, equitable, and inexpensive. They will also assist the government in allocating additional funds for development and social welfare projects.

Writer is doing postgraduate in Governance and Public Policy from NUST Islamabad. She has bachelor in International Relations from BUTEMS Quetta. She can be reached at batoachakzai@gmail.com



Analysis

Batoora Achakzai

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

In the state's legislative assembly, the opposition Congress party emerged victorious with 135 seats, compared to the BJP's 66 seats, providing Modi's opponents with momentum as they gear up to challenge the populist leader in next year's general election.

Karnataka, with an 84% Hindu population among its 65 million residents, witnessed a BJP campaign heavily tailored to appeal to this majority. In recent years, the state has enacted legislation rooted in Hindutva, such as banning the sale and slaughter of cows, considered sacred to Hindus. Additionally, a controversial anti-conversion bill was passed, making it more challenging for inter-faith couples to marry. Last year, Karnataka also banned Muslim girls from wearing the hijab in educational institutes, leading to protests and deepening religious tensions.

The BJP's electoral setback is seen by some as the beginning of its decline. The failure



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

The failure of the Hindutva ideology in India serves as a lesson that extremism lacks durability and cannot sustain itself in the long run. A gentle approach, addressing all issues equally and transparently, appears to be more effective in winning the hearts of the people.

of the Hindutva ideology in India serves as a lesson that extremism lacks durability and cannot sustain itself in the long run. A gentle approach, addressing all issues equally and transparently, appears to be more effective in winning the hearts of the people. This situation in India serves as an eye-opener for extremists,

Anti State elements and Separatists, that to live with Pakistan is better than to be with India or remain independent.

Readers, The conditions in Pakistan seem more favorable than those in India, providing all citizens with the freedom to move, reside, and work anywhere in Pakistan and A.J.K. The law and order situation is deemed satisfactory, with minorities enjoying respect and equal rights. The overall improved situation is attributed to the security and safety measures upheld by Pakistan and the Pak Army. People in Pakistan acknowledge the advantages of residing in the country and actively contributing to its strength.

Ambassador of Netherlands called on Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at the Finance Division

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The discussions covered various aspects of bilateral economic relations between the two countries. Secretary EAD and senior officers from the Finance Division attended the meeting.

The upcoming elections in the Netherlands were a prominent topic of discussion, with both parties emphasizing the importance of Democratic processes. Ambassador Mrs. Henny De Vries congratulated Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs for reaching the Staff Level Agreement of 1st Review of IMF Pakistan Standby Arrangement (SBA) and also on overall improvement in the economic situation in Pakistan.

The Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar highlighted the reforms being taken by the Government in various sectors specifically those related to the expansion of the Tax net through the "Broad-



ening of the Tax Base" initiative led by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), showcasing the commitment of the Government to improve the Tax to GDP ratio of the country and reduce the Current Account deficit further. The Minister also requested the

Ambassador to enhance focus on the Dutch Fellowship Program in the past was one of the flagship foreign-funded scholarship programs for Pakistani students.

H. E. Mrs Henny De Vries acknowledged the positive momentum in

economic recovery, highlighting the resurgence of sectors such as agriculture, services, and even industry. She specifically appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government for financial inclusion, particularly those targeting women, and also praised the measures aimed at enhancing the labor participation of women across various sectors of the economy in order to boost the social and economic development of the country. She also expressed the commitment of the Netherlands to bring more investment in the country.

Pressing issues of post-flood rehabilitation and climate change impact on Pakistan, particularly in the context of the 28th session of UNFCCC's Conference of Parties (CoP) to be held in Dubai were also discussed.

In conclusion, the Minister expressed a strong commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties with the Netherlands and making collaborative efforts for the benefit of both countries.

Global role for Pakistan finance leader

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Ayla Majid elected deputy president of ACCA. A woman from Pakistan has been elected deputy president of the world's leading professional accountancy body.

Ayla Majid, who is based in Islamabad, is now the second-highest ranked officer at ACCA, (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants), which has more than three-quarters-of-a-million members and students in 191 countries.

Majid said: 'I couldn't be prouder. I will do all in my power to carry on the aim of opening more and more doors to chances in life to more and more people everywhere.

It is also very satisfying to take on this role as a Pakistani woman. It shows that women from emerging and developing world are ready to contribute and seize opportunities, not only at the national level but also on the global stage. Role of women in key governance positions is also extremely important for diversity and strength of organizations—something which truly global organizations have acknowledged and embraced.'

Majid was first elected to ACCA's global governing Council in 2014. She has 22 years of experience in transaction advisory, mergers & acquisitions, and project development across energy and infrastructure. She has 14 years of board leadership experience including chairing boards as an independent director on boards in energy, pharmaceutical and not-for-profit sectors.

Majid has been a member of the Global Future Council of Energy Transition of the World Economic Forum and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

She is now CEO of Planetive, which she founded in 2020, a consulting and project development practice which promotes sustainable finance, decarbonization and energy transition, with organizations across the world, with particular focus in the Middle East and Pakistan.

The new president of ACCA is Ronnie Patton, a retired accountancy lecturer from Northern Ireland.



ISSI signs MoU with Malaysia's Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Further strengthening its international collaboration, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), Malaysia. The virtual ceremony, held simultaneously at the High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur and Islamabad, marked a pivotal moment in the deepening ties between the two premier institutions.

His Excellency Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia, expressed his great privilege in hosting the ceremony, emphasizing the strong cultural and research connections discussed during recent meetings between the two countries. Dr. Maszlee bin Malik, Chairman of IAIS and former Malaysian Minister of Education, was warmly welcomed as a visionary scholar and key collaborator in fostering intellectual exchanges. The ceremony was attended by Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, and His Excellency Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, among other distinguished guests.

High Commissioner Mazlan highlighted the long-standing ties between Malaysia and Pakistan, encompassing areas such as defence, economy, and education. He added that the signing of the ISSI-IAIS MoU was a testament to the shared commitment to



enhance institutional collaboration, a goal reaffirmed during bilateral political consultations in March 2023. The MoU is expected to pave the way for deeper engagement, understanding, and collaboration in research and cultural domains.

In his address on the occasion, DG ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood highlighted the historic Pakistan-Malaysia ties, shared faith and common values, growing bilateral economic collaboration, and convergence of views on key regional and international issues. He also underscored the tradition of Pakistan and Malaysia always espousing the causes of the Muslim Ummah. Besides, he added, Malaysia was a crucial partner in the context of

Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy and its desire for an elevated partnership with ASEAN. He expressed the confidence that the MoU would serve as a catalyst for intellectual exchanges, reinforcing better understanding and cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues.

High Commissioner Mazlan congratulated both institutes and highlighted the robust economic ties, with bilateral trade reaching new heights. He emphasized the immense potential for further collaboration, especially in areas such as education and cultural exchanges.

Dr. Maszlee bin Malik echoed the sentiment, envisioning the MoU as a starting point for future joint events,

research activities, and conferences that would strengthen the bonds between Malaysia and Pakistan.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood thanked the two High Commissioners and all other contributors and emphasized the crucial importance of the MoU in reinforcing people-to-people links, research collaborations, and educational exchanges. He extended a cordial invitation to Dr. Maszlee bin Malik to visit Pakistan at the earliest opportunity.

The ceremony concluded with expressions of gratitude and optimism for the future, symbolizing another milestone in the enduring friendship and cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan.

BYP's Uttar Pradesh govt bans sale of halal-certified products in latest anti-Muslim move

Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has enacted an immediate ban on the sale of products carrying a halal certification, encompassing the entire supply chain, from production to distribution and sale, within the state.

However, it exempts products intended for export from these restrictions. The official order emphasises the imposition of stringent legal measures against individuals or entities engaged in any aspect of the production and sale of halal-certified medicines, medical devices, and cosmetics within the state.

According to the order, the parallel system of halal certification creates confusion regarding the quality of food items and is deemed untenable under Section 89 of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

It asserts that the authority to determine the quality of food items rests solely with institutions specified in Section 29 of the Act. The order further points out that certain medicines, medical devices, and cosmetic products display halal certification without any provision for such marking in government rules related to drugs and cosmetics.

This move follows a police case against a company and several organisations accused of exploiting religious sentiments to boost sales through allegedly "forged" halal certificates. Entities such as halal India Private Limited Chennai, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust Delhi, Halal Council of India Mumbai, and Jamiat Ulama Maharashtra face charges of issuing forged certificates to manipulate sales based on religious preferences. The complainant expressed concerns about a widespread conspiracy that aimed to decrease the sales of products lacking a halal certificate.

In response to the allegations, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust labelled them as "baseless" and pledged to take necessary legal measures to counter what they deemed as misinformation. Halal certification, found on the labels of various food products, signifies adherence to Islamic law in preparation, ensuring the food is unadulterated and free from components prohibited in the Muslim diet.

Beyond Handshakes

Business, Backlash, and the Bottom Line

In the picturesque landscape of California, where sun-kissed shores meet towering skyscrapers, a diplomatic spectacle unfolded as Chinese leader Xi Jinping descended upon the Golden State. Ostensibly, the purpose was a tête-à-tête with President Biden, yet the true stage was set for an enthralling dance between political priorities and profit motives.

Xi Jinping's visit had a dual agenda - engaging with President Biden on diplomatic fronts and captivating the attention of America's financial titans. CEOs of major tech and financial companies, including luminaries like Tim Cook, Elon Musk, Larry Fink, and Stephen Schwarzman, were the coveted audience.

While the Biden-Xi meeting yielded a vague climate deal, a reopening of military channels, and pledges onentanyl reduction, the narrative swiftly pivoted towards economic interests. The grand gestures of diplomacy took a backseat to the pragmatic pursuit of financial gains.

In a curious spectacle, CEOs inked deals to extend their businesses into China, seemingly indifferent to apprehensions about Xi Jinping's geopolitical agenda. The allure of profits trumped concerns about China's political trajectory.

Xi Jinping emerged as the true victor in this Californian

saga. The global business elite, in defiance of governmental caution, flocked to secure deals, emphasizing a stark contrast in priorities between financial magnates and political leaders. The episode underscored the divergence in priorities - while financial leaders globe-trot for profit, political leaders are tasked with upholding democratic standards. The question arises: can these conflicting motives coexist harmoniously?

Xi's visit to the Bay Area was a spectacle of competing intentions. CEOs willingly shelled out up to \$40,000 for the chance to dine with him, signaling an eagerness for Chinese investment, a stark contrast to the cautious governmental approach. Despite an extensive four-hour tête-à-tête, President Biden achieved only a temporary reprieve in the escalating tensions. Protesters, critical of China's human rights record and other grievances, were left on the fringes, overshadowed by the allure of business deals.

The success of Xi's visit resonated in the stock market, witnessing a powerful rally, especially in tech, financial, and renewable energy sectors. The symbolism went beyond financial gains, representing a diplomatic reset and China's reemergence on the global business stage.

China's leadership in renew-

able energy, despite environmental concerns, played a role in the positive market response. The intersection of economic gains and environmental stewardship added complexity to the unfolding narrative. CEOs, undeterred by concerns over China's actions, saw the visit as a lucrative opportunity. In the dynamic junction of politics and profits, Xi Jinping's journey through California unfolded as a nuanced performance, prompting contemplation on the intricate equilibrium between economic aspirations and worldwide governance. As we witness the sunset on this chapter, the repercussions—whether in the political sphere or financial landscape—are bound to reverberate well beyond the shores of California, shaping the broader narrative of global interactions.

China is at the forefront of a green revolution, taking the lead in renewable energy initiatives. In a recent groundbreaking move, China and the U.S. have united to champion a global effort to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030. This collaboration comes as a beacon of hope on the eve of the COP28 climate conference, demonstrating a shared commitment to a cleaner, greener future.

China, often under scrutiny as the globe's largest coal consumer, impressively demonstrates a ten-year commitment to leading the way in renewable power generation. Their noteworthy initiatives include the rapid establishment of a substantial amount of new solar capacity in just one year, surpassing the

entire installed capacity in the United States. This commendable effort highlights China's dedication to environmental protection and sustainable energy practices.

Looking ahead, China is not only poised to exceed its 2020 renewable capacity commitment but also aims to achieve this goal five years ahead of schedule. Industry experts predict a remarkable milestone - a whopping 1,000 GW of solar power by the end of 2026, an endeavor that aligns with global targets outlined in the Paris Agreement.

A pivotal moment in China's green journey was marked in 2020 when the country pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This announcement triggered substantial investments in renewable energy, underscoring China's unwavering political support for a sustainable and eco-friendly future. Fueling this green revolution is a strategic shift in investments. China, cracking down on excessive real estate lending since 2020, has redirected financial resources into the manufacturing of renewables, particularly in the high-tech and green sectors.

Despite being a global leader in renewables, approximately 70% of China's electricity still originates from fossil fuels, predominantly coal. Technical challenges and integration issues pose hurdles to fully harnessing the potential of solar and wind power, but ongoing efforts aim to overcome these obstacles. China's dominance extends beyond its borders as it controls over 80% of the world's solar manufactur-



ing capacity. This comprehensive control of the solar panel supply chain has resulted in surplus production that is driving solar component prices to record lows. While this benefits the global push for affordable renewable energy, concerns linger regarding potential global price wars and industry consolidation. A positive shift is anticipated in China's greenhouse gas emissions, potentially entering a "structural decline" as early as next year. Analysts attribute this optimistic outlook to the rise in renewable installations, an increase in hydropower generation, and a moderate economic recovery. To further enhance the renewable utilization rates, China is tightening its emissions trading systems and plan-

ning reforms in the power sector. Challenges persist, including capacity payments to coal generators, but China remains at the forefront of the global effort to combat climate change through sustainable and innovative solutions. China's remarkable strides in renewable energy underscore its commitment to a cleaner future, influencing global initiatives and shaping the landscape of sustainable energy production. China is making significant efforts to contribute to a safer and cleaner world, and their commitment to becoming carbon neutral, smart investments, and leadership in solar panel production are commendable. By taking on a crucial role in the global push for an eco-friendly and cleaner future, China is

paving the way for a better world. Their actions, which involve a careful balance between politics and economic interests, are not only impacting California but are set to inspire positive changes worldwide. This underscores the hope for a more interconnected world where nations can live in peace, emphasizing the importance of giving diplomacy and cooperation a chance.

[The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar. He can be contacted through syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]

Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
57,371.58	57,077.96	
Day's High	Day's Low	
57,691.22	57,176.45	
Index Value	Change	
11,868,305,648	+293.62	
Percentage	Time	
+0.51%	21 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,481.99	-14.37	
Percentage	Time	
-0.19%	21 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
35,074.92	-76.12	
Percentage	Time	
-0.22%	21 Nov, 12:10 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,354.14	-33.89	
Percentage	Time	
-0.10%	21 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184	186
Bahrain Dinar	766.58	774.58
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.82	40.22
Danish Krone	42.01	42.41
Euro	311.4	314.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.98	37.33
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.57
Kuwaiti Dinar	935.36	944.36
Malaysian Ringgit	61.34	61.94
New Zealand \$	173.74	175.74
Norwegians Krone	26.59	26.89
Omani Riyal	748.71	756.71
Qatari Riyal	78.85	79.55
Saudi Riyal	76	76.7
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.25	27.55
Swiss Franc	325.98	328.48
Thai Bhat	8.16	8.31
U.A.E Dirham	78	78.7
UK Pound Sterling	355.5	359
US Dollar	285.2	288

Huawei 2023 Sustainability Forum

'Thrive together with Tech' Realizing Sustainable Development

PPA

ISLAMABAD: In a world increasingly reliant on digital connectivity, Huawei continues to spearhead efforts to bridge the digital divide through its commitment to the ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. The tech giant, having joined forces with the coalition in 2022, pledged to bring connectivity to over 120 million people in remote areas across 80 countries by 2025. Today, as we stand on the precipice of the "Thrive Together with Tech: Realizing Sustainable Development" event, Huawei is eager to share the strides made in achieving this ambitious goal.

The event, scheduled for November 21, 2023, in Dongguan, China, and featuring parallel sessions globally, serves as a platform to unveil the tangible progress in global connectivity initiatives. A significant focus is on the symbiotic relationship between technology, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

Huawei's collaboration with the ITU and other partners has materialized in groundbreaking projects, one of which is the Gokina Smart Village initiative in rural Pakistan. This collaborative effort involving Huawei, ITU, Universal Service Fund (USF), Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), and UNDP has successfully brought network coverage and essential



services to an area previously lacking connectivity and untouched by technology.

In his address Hassan Nasir Jamy, Federal secretary for the Ministry of IT Telecommunication in Pakistan expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all the partners for achieving a significant milestone in our journey towards a Digital Pakistan. It is indeed an honor to share the remarkable progress we

have made in collaboration with Huawei and other esteemed partners. The Smart Village Pakistan Project is a beacon of hope, a symbol of progress, and a testament to the power of collaboration. Together, let us build a Digital Pakistan that leaves no one behind"

Mr. Ethan Sun CEO Huawei Technologies Pakistan stated that the Gokina Smart Village Project is not just about connectivity;

it's about transforming lives. It aims to overcome challenges such as limited access to essential services.

Talking to media, Deputy CEO and Director Subsidiary Board Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud highlighted the progress and achievements of Gokina, saying, "We recognized three areas to work on which are education, health, and digital skills. Our collaboration with Tele-Taleem for e-education, Sehat Kahani for e-health, and the holistic approach towards digital skills and entrepreneurship is a strategic move to address the challenges faced by the local residents".

Furthermore, the smart village project is in close proximity to the capital as Gokina Village is located in the mountains of Islamabad. This collaboration of smart village is skilled up with different communities of Pakistan. so, the impact of providing education, health and other essential services. They can contribute a lot towards the economic development. It has huge potential and are proud that we are collaborating and always coming up with ideas and this all we need the idea and to do something for these remote areas of Pakistan. The Gokina Smart Village initiative is a shining example of collaborative development as experts from different industries have joined hands with the public sector to create a high value, scalable model to bring opportunities to underserved and unconnected communities.

Cherry

AUSTRALIA: People picking the cherry from Cherry Hill Orchards during their visit in Melbourne Australia as the Cherry Hill Orchards' story began in 1940 when George Rise borough planted his first cherry trees in Victoria's fertile Yarra Valley, 80 years later, Cherry Hill is still 100% Australian owned and proudly carries on cherry growing tradition with diligence and passion to produce Australia's finest cherries.



Photo: Online

Pak Zone Electric Motors and Bank Al Falah signs MoU

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Unaffordable prices of petrol and inflation have affected the poor and middle class as well as the rich. At a time when no one is on their side, an incredible deal has created opportunities for people to move forward.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Pak Zone Electric Motors and Bank Al Falah providing people electric motor bikes on easy installments.

According to the details, an agreement has been reached between Pak Zone Electric Motors (Pvt) Limited and Bank Al Falah, the first electric bike company of the country. According to the agreement, Bank Al Falah will provide people electric motor bikes in their name in three installments without any markup and down payment. Apart from this, electric bikes will also be available in easy installments under one, two and three year plans.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Shahzeb Amjad, Managing Director of Pak Zone Electric



Motors and Mr. Qasim Rashid Janjua, Business Head of Unsecured Lending Segment of Bank Al Falah. On this occasion, National Corporate Head of Pak Zone Electric Motors Arshad Sindhu, National Sales

Manager Mian Naeem and After Sales Head Zeeshan Mansoor while Bank Al Falah Loan Unit Head Mian Sajid Rafiq and Regional Sales Manager Rashid Sarfaraz were also present along with their team.

Chikoo and Bank Alfalah Announce Industry-First POS Payment Device Partnership

PPA

KARACHI: In a pioneering move, Chikoo, a leading digital business platform, and Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial banks in Pakistan, announced their strategic partnership at the largest technology conference, #92Disrupt, organized by Katalyst Labs. The industry-first partnership aims to empower the more than 5 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Pakistan with a comprehensive suite of digital solutions seamlessly integrated with cutting edge payments technology from Bank Al Falah.

During the announcement, the CEO and co-founder of Brandverse & Chikoo, Raza Matin, revealed that the solution will be jointly marketed and distributed by Chikoo and Bank Alfalah. The Head of Payments Division at Bank Alfalah, Amaar Naveed Ikhlas, represented the bank during this announcement.

Expressing his excitement about the collaboration, Raza said, "It is a momentous occasion for the team at Chikoo. We have been quietly working on this project for well over a year and are excited to announce the pairing of our powerful platform with the best-in-class payments experience from Bank Alfalah, to accomplish our shared mission of delivering merchant delight to the millions of MSMEs in Pakistan."

Amaar Ikhlas, Head-Retail Payment Solutions highlighted that Bank Alfalah takes immense pride in working with impact creating platforms like Chikoo paving the way for Pakistan's digital future.

The partnership between Chikoo and Bank Alfalah is a major milestone as it allows all types of businesses to manage their daily needs around payments with ease and transparency helping them sell more. This collaboration promises a transformative experience for businesses and opens doors for digital commerce innovation throughout Pakistan.



Eastnets to host a conference on 'Financial Crime in the Digital Age' on Nov 25

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Eastnets, a global provider of compliance and payment solutions for the financial services sector, will host a conference on "Financial Crime in the Digital Age" on November 25 at the Pearl-Continental Hotel in Karachi.

The conference will bring together experts, regulators, and industry practitioners to discuss the challenges and trends in combating financial crime in the rapidly evolving digital payments landscape, including the growing threat of fraud and money laundering.

The conference will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and case studies on different topics. Some of the key speakers of the event are and Sirajuddin Aziz-Banking Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Pakistan, Nadeem Hussain, Chairman - Pakistan Fintech Network, Kashif Bokhari, Co-Chairman - Fraud Prevention Forum Pakistan Banks' Association, Hazem Mulhim, Founder & CEO - Eastnets.

Commenting on the occasion, Hazem Mulhim, Founder and CEO - Eastnets said: "The banking and financial sector across the world is adopting innovative technological trends at a faster pace, but it is also encountering continuously changing challenges and issues at the same time. Eastnets, with its global exposure and in-depth knowledge in this niche industry, provides cutting edge solutions to the financial services sector to overcome the ever-evolving risks and continue the growth momentum."

SECP takes notice of surrogate ads by cryptocurrency exchanges and betting platforms

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), taking notice of the increasing trend of surrogate advertisements on certain internet-based cryptocurrency exchanges and betting platforms, has directed all companies, including limited liability partnerships (LLPs), not to enter into any type of advertisement or sponsorship agreements with entities involved in surrogate advertising.

Surrogate advertising is the promotion of banned products, digital coins, and betting platforms as substitute goods, often through indirect means like sponsorship of sports events,



aiming to implant the brand in consumers' minds. It has also been observed that various online platforms, disguised as sports blogs and news websites, are promoting illegal digital coins, online betting, and cryptocurrency investments.

The Notification issued under Section 40B of the SECP Act also advised all companies and LLPs to immediately terminate all existing agreements with such surrogate entities/companies and ensure compliance in true letter and spirit.

Zong 4G and Knowledge Platform Launch 'Zong Digital Scholars Program'



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, begins the execution of its collaboration with Knowledge Platform, a prominent education technology company. This collaboration has given rise to the "Digital Scholars Program," an innovative initiative aimed at transforming education in 60 schools, benefiting 3,000 students across Pakistan.

Zong Digital Scholars Program is a key component of Zong's Sustainability Initiative to improve education in remote and under-resourced areas across Pakistan. The schools were selected across the country in marginalized areas to provide technology-driven education. Previously, Zong 4G has worked with organizations such as PAGE, HANDS, and PBM to set up digital labs across the country to better equip and digitalize schools and vocational centers.

Participating schools will have access to an array of resources, including lesson plans, assessment tools, and educational games and videos. Zong is committed to providing the necessary tools for schools to create a conducive learning environment.

Zong Digital Scholars program will present awards to recognize and celebrate high-performing students, teachers, and schools on both a monthly and annual basis. This initiative highlights Zong's dedication to encouraging excellence in education and acknowledging the efforts of those contributing to its success.

Zong 4G looks forward to the positive impact the Zong Digital Scholars Program will have on education in Pakistan. Through this partnership, Zong aims to contribute to the development of a digitally literate and empowered generation, paving the way for a brighter future for the nation.

Pakistan hammered by Tajikistan in FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Tajikistan came out all guns blazing in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers against Pakistan as they handed a 6-1 defeat to the hosts at the Jinnah Stadium here on Tuesday.

Tajikistan started the game on a high as they opened the scoring in the opening minutes when Amadoni Kamolov scored for the touring side. His strike took a minor deflection from Abdullah Iqbal and ran into the net.

The visitors doubled their lead five minutes later with another outside-the-box strike. Tajikistan striker Rustam Soirov fired a scintillating kick which beat Pakistan's goalkeeper Yousuf Butt.

Pakistan fans at the Islamabad Stadium then finally found a moment to cherish when Rahis Nabi pulled one back for the home side in the 21st minute.



He nailed a long-range strike from his left foot, glimmering a ray of hope for Pakistan.

Pakistan's comeback, however, was shortlived as Tajikistan exploited their errors in the possession, especially in

the midfield and restored their two-goal advantage in the 26th minute with yet another outside-the-box strike.

The visitors, with momentum in their favour, strengthened their command of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers by netting their fourth goal just before half-time.

There was no change of fortune for Pakistan in the second half as Tajikistan continued to dominate the hosts.

The visitors got another reward for their superior possession and pace in the 66th minute when Kamolov scored a screamer from outside the box.

Pakistan's struggles did not end there as Tajikistan scored yet another goal in the 90th minute, courtesy of Shahrom Samiev.

In the first match of the second round of FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, Pakistan suffered a 4-0 thrashing from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Cadbury Dairy Milk collaborates with PCB and Khelo Cricket to empower women cricketers

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cricket stands as one of the strongest binding forces in our nation's fabric. The increasing number of young women eager to showcase their cricketing talent has not gone unnoticed. Cadbury Dairy Milk Pakistan has embarked on a groundbreaking partnership with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Khelo Cricket to support female cricketers in the country.

In line with the brand's purpose of goodness and generosity, Cadbury Dairy Milk has committed to supporting women cricketers as an Associate Sponsor, aiming to inspire the next generation of female cricketers in Pakistan by shedding a brighter and more equitable spotlight on the National Women's Cricket Team. Customized packs



were created, each featuring star players from Pakistan's Women Cricket Team not just as players but as beacons of aspiration.

To bolster support for women cricketers, Cadbury Dairy Milk has launched the "Get in the Game" campaign, targeting the parents of these sportswomen. The campaign aims to create a powerful and thought-provoking narrative, emphasizing the significance of parent support for female participation in cricket.

Sami Wahid, Managing

Director, Mondelez Pakistan, shared his sentiments, "For me, the most significant factor is the empowerment of genuinely talented young sportswomen who have all the potential to make a mark globally. I could not be happier to carry on the legacy of equitable opportunities that Mondelez identifies with. Cadbury Dairy Milk's 'Get in the Game' is a wave of change, a surge of inspiration, and a bright new future for our young girls."

The scholarship program, introduced by Cadbury Dairy

Milk Pakistan, will be executed by Khelo Cricket. It will be rolled out in Karachi, Lahore, and the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, with the primary goal of providing a level playing field for aspiring women cricketers in Pakistan. The response has been overwhelming; the brand has received over 1700 entries from girls interested in applying for the scholarship program, providing insights into its mechanics and benefits.

This pioneering partnership between Cadbury Dairy Milk, PCB, and Khelo Cricket is a significant step towards fostering gender equality and nurturing talent in women's cricket. It is poised to make a lasting impact by empowering women cricketers to contribute to the growth of cricket in Pakistan and highlighting the country's potential for equitable opportunities in sports.

11th Addition of IC Inter School Tennis Championship and two IC Pakistan Philanthropy events concluded

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 11th Addition of IC Inter School Tennis Championship and two IC Pakistan Philanthropy and Wheelchair Tennis events concluded at KPT Sports Complex.

Ms. Nassim Ahmed, Secretary IC Pakistan was the chief guest who distributed Trophies among winners and Runners up.

9 government Primary School took part in Boys and Girls Tennis events. Farha Riaz and Zubair Raja and Salman Karim

Mughal conducted the competitions.

Muhammad Aslam Khan President KCSA Congratulated and thanked Ms. Nassim for working on underprivileged segment of society.

Rehmani thanked KPT Sports Complex manager Maj Mahmood who has given permission for four months long duration activities at KPT Complex including 11th IC Inter School Tennis Championship.

Maj Mahmood KPT Sports Complex. Qazi Ayazuddin, Assistant Attor-

ney General Pakistan. Zohra Qureshi. Rotary Paragon. Humaira Qazi. Rotary Club Paragon.

Muhammad Khalid Rehmani
Muhammad Aslam Khan. Ghulam Yasin. Veena Masood. Nargis Rehmatullah. Muhammad Saeed Darts. Nasim Bukhari. Shagufta Samadani. Shariq Abrar and many schools teachers were present.

Results in brief:
Boys Singles.

Winner Ayan of Jut Line Govt School

Runners up Junaid of Allama Iqbal School Liyari Girls Singles

Winner: Maham. Jut Line govt Girls School Runners up... Saeed Shareef. Jamiya Muhammad govt Girls School Liyari Ball Boys Singles Final (eight Ball Boys took Part)

Winner: Soyam sham Runners up... Ejaz Abbasi Wheelchair Tennis (15 Players took part) Winner... Shahid Rasheed Runners up Maarooof.

Babar Azam gifted crown by fan, pictures surface

A Sports

A devoted fan gifted a specially crafted crown to former Pakistan captain and star batter Babar Azam, the image capturing the moment took the internet by storm.

Babar, who recently relinquished Pakistan's captaincy from all three formats, continued to get unwavering support from his passionate fans.

The right-handed batter is one of the top batters in the world and is often compared with the likes of Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root and Kane Williamson.

For his unreal consistency, he is also called "The King" by a large number of fans.

Meanwhile, in the latest turn of events, one of his fans presented him with a crown.

"A lucky fan got to meet Babar Azam and gave him a crown," the user wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

For the unversed, Babar Azam's



captaincy and his future in the role came under question following the national team's below-par performance in the ICC World Cup 2023.

The team suffered five losses, the most in their World Cup history, including their first defeat against Afghanistan in ODIs and also their first against South Africa in World Cups this century.

Under the batter's leadership, Pakistan failed to qualify for the semifinals as they finished fifth in the standings with eight points.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf then met the star batter at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium earlier this month to discuss the leadership options for the

national men's team.

However, sources claimed, Babar was not in favour of retaining captaincy for any one format and later announced to step down.

"Today, I am stepping down as the captain of Pakistan in all formats. It's a difficult decision but I feel it is a right time for this call," the right-handed batter said in a statement issued on X.

"I vividly remember the moment when I received the call from PCB to lead Pakistan in 2019. Over the past four years, I've experienced many highs and lows on and off the field, but I wholeheartedly and passionately aimed to maintain Pakistan's pride and respect in the cricket world," he added.

"I will continue to represent Pakistan as a player in all three formats. I am here to support the new captain and the team with my experience and dedication," he said, acknowledging PCB for "entrusting me with this significant responsibility." Babar Azam concluded.

Sindh provisional badminton tournament starts in Sukkur



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The provisional level badminton tournament has started in Sukkur. Iqra University and IBA University are conducting Sindh Provisional league badminton tournament for girls and boys under prime minister youth program, in which boys and girls teams from 5 regions including Karachi, Hyderabad and Nawabshah are playing. Hyderabad girls badminton team is coached by Nirmala Nihal sharma, the badminton tournament will continue from 21 November to November 25. On the first day of tournament teams from Karachi won both girls and boys competitions from larkana. Nirmala Nihal sharma, s hyderabad girls team also defeated nawabshah, s team. The Coach of Hyderabad girls team nirmala nihai said that the girls team of Hyderabad had prepared fully, iam happy for the success, i wish that the girls team of Hyderabad will reach the top in whole of sindh.

Punjab's first ever Sports Medicine Clinic will be functional in the first week of Dec 2023



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab's first ever Sports Medicine Clinic will be functional in the first week of Dec 2023. DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail on Tuesday said that the construction of SBP Sports Medicine Clinic has been completed and now this great health facility is ready for inauguration.

In this regard, Dr Asif Tufail visited Ghurki Hospital on Tuesday where Dr Naeem and other medical experts briefed him about the working of latest medical technology being utilized for the treatment of orthopedic patients.

During his visit, Dr Asif Tufail, who was accompanied by Deputy Director Tariq Khanzada and DSO Lahore Tanveer Shah, inspected various sections of Orthopedic Department and their working.

Talking on this occasion, Dr Asif Tufail said that the unique Sports Medicine Clinic will be the first of its kind in Punjab province and definitely, it will be a great facility for all players, coaches and sports persons where they will get free treatment and consultancy.

He said that renowned health experts including orthopedic surgeons, psychologists, physiotherapists and nutritionists will be available for the treatment of all athletes who got injuries before, during and after sports competitions.

David Warner to miss T20I series against India



A Sports

Experienced Australia opener David Warner on Tuesday, withdrew from the upcoming five-match T20I series against India after his ICC World Cup 2023 exploits.

His withdrawal means just seven players from Australia's World Cup-winning squad will feature in the away T20I series against India, among them are Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell and Steve Smith.

Consequently, all-rounder Aaron Hardie has been named the replacement for David Warner, who is all set to bid adieu to Test cricket.

"Selectors decided Warner would return home on the back of a successful yet demanding World Cup campaign," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

Notably, David Warner played a pivotal role in Australia's successful World Cup campaign as the left-handed opener was their top-scorer with 535 runs at 48.63.

In the grand final on Sunday, Australia outclassed unbeaten hosts India by six wickets to lift their sixth title.

The two sides meet again in the five-match T20I series, scheduled to commence on November 23 in Visakhapatnam.

Imam-ul-Haq's wedding festivities kick off in Norway

The wedding festivities of Pakistani cricketer Imam-ul-Haq have started off with a mehndi event in Norway, it emerged on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old national player is set to tie the knot with his betrothed, Anmol Mehmood coming weekend after his return from World Cup 2023 campaign.

Imam was in the national squad which recently played in the ICC's showpiece event in India.

The glimpses of Anmol dressed in a lavish bridal outfit from a local brand on her mehndi, came out this evening.

The bride wore a heavily embellished deep red and dull gold gharara and shirt, with a pinch of orange and purple for vibrancy. The pictures and videos from a picturesque location somewhere in the Scandinavian country were shared by Anmol on her official Instagram account.

A few images of the bride were also shared by the designer on their Instagram page with the caption "Imam ki Anmol" (Imam's Anmol), tagging both the cricketer and his future wife.

Group Photo

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo with participants of 5th PN Industrial Seminar 2023 on Tuesday.



Pakistan Navy holds Industrial Seminar at Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Industrial Seminar was held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the partic-

ipants of seminar, Naval Chief lauded the valuable participation of academia and representatives of various industries from private sector. He emphasised that technology is continuously evolving and the armed forces also need to keep pace with the evolving technology.

This necessitates close cooperation of the defence sector with local industry and educational institutions. This industrial seminar will provide significant opportunity for local industries to showcase their potential to support Pakistan Navy which is a technology intensive armed

force of Pakistan.

Appreciating the response of private sector in a technologically challenging environment, Chief of the Naval Staff said that Pakistan Navy and local industries will together attain our aim of self-reliance. Speakers from different

organizations also highlighted the importance of indigenization and self-reliance.

The seminar was attended by a large number of Naval officers, dignitaries, representatives of local industry and prominent members of academia.

SC grants one-week time to Pervaiz Musharraf's lawyer to take instructions

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday granted one week time to the lawyer of Pervaiz Musharraf to get instructions from his family members regarding the appeal pertaining to the verdict of special court in the high treason case.

The apex court raised the questions on the appeal against the decision of Lahore High Court (LHC) and sought legal assistance from senior lawyer Hamid Khan.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the appeal against the LHC verdict. Former president Pervaiz Musharraf's lawyer Salman Safdar adopted the stance that he could not get instructions from the family of former president as he failed to

contact them despite several attempts. He said he also did not want to pursue the appeals.

He, however, prayed the court to grant a one-week time to contact the family of Pervaiz Musharraf. The Additional Attorney General adopted the stance that the Federal Government did not support the LHC verdict about the status of special court. The CJP observed that there were questions regarding filing and fixing of the petition for hearing in the LHC. How the petition was firstly fixed before a single member bench and then before the four-member bench of high court after the objections of the Registrar Office, he asked.

The chief justice asked Hamid Khan Advocate to assist the court on the points. The court then adjourned the case till Wednesday.

3rd China-Pak non-wood forest S&T exchange conference to be held this month

China-Pakistan

BELJING, NOV 21 (APP): The third Science and Technology Exchange Conference on China-Pakistan Tropical Arid Non-Wood Forest will be held from October 26 to 28 in Zhengzhou, China, and Gwadar, Pakistan. The conference will take place both online and offline simultaneously.

The event is hosted by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) and Central South University of Forestry and Technology, and organized by Henan Agricultural University, Henan Forestry Society, Economic Forest Branch of CSF, China Overseas Port Holding Company and Yulin Holdings. With a focus on medicinal woody plants and

their active substances, the organizers will invite experts from both China and Pakistan to discuss the advancements made in improving the efficiency of the non-wood forest industry in arid areas. The conference will specifically highlight the extraction and utilization of these plants and their active substances in arid regions. The science and technology exchange conference also seeks to facilitate the improvement of the ecological environment and people's livelihoods in Pakistan's tropical arid areas. At the same time, its research results will also contribute to the Chinese market and help address the shortage of non-wood forest products in China.

Funeral prayers offered Sepoy Shahzeb Shaheed



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Namaz-e-Janaza of Sepoy Shahzeb (age: 26 years, resident of: District Rawalpindi) who embraced shahadat at general area Gharyoum, North Waziristan District, due to Improvised Explosive Device exploded was offered at his native town Tehsil Gujjar Khan,

District Rawalpindi.

Shaheed was laid to rest with full military honour.

Senior serving military officers, relatives and locals of the area attended the funeral.

Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs.

Govt fully committed to promote vibrant, responsible media landscape: Solangi



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that the government was fully committed to promoting a vibrant, diverse and responsible media landscape in the country. "Today we face many challenges in the media sector, the rapid development of technology has changed the methods used in the media," Murtaza Solangi said during a meeting with

Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and former Information Secretary Zahoor Ahmed who met him here.

The Caretaker Federal Minister of Information congratulated Shahera Shahid on assuming the charge of the Information Secretary. Murtaza Solangi also appreciated former secretary MoIB Zahoor Ahmed, a senior officer of the Secretariat Group, for his services to the ministry. The minister said that both Shahera Shahid and Zahoor Ahmed were competent officers and he was proud to work with them.



ISLAMABAD: Donor Coordination Committee (DCC) Meeting witnesses renewed commitment from international development partners to foster Pakistan's economic growth. The meeting was chaired by the Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Ministry of Economic Affairs. Photo: APP

Oman National Day Celebrated

Pakistan, Oman enjoy strong ties on 53rd National Day: Federal Minister Jamal Shah

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan H. E Fahad Sulaiman Khalf Alkharusi hosted a lavish reception to celebrate the 53rd National Day at Serena Hotel Islamabad. A number of diplomats, dignitaries, government officials and others graced the occasion. The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman and the core team of the embassy welcomed the guests. Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture of Pakistan Syed Jamal Shah was the chief guest on the occasion. A cake cutting ceremony was also held on the occasion.

The Federal Minister Syed Jamal Shah congratulated His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, Ambassador of Oman to Pakistan and peoples of Oman on this prestigious occasion. He talked to "Spokesman" he said I avail myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes for His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq's everlasting health and happiness and for the continued progress, stability and prosperity of the brotherly country.

Syed Jamal Shah said that Pakistan and Oman enjoy historical bonds of affinity and kinship. The relations are strongly pegged on common faith, culture and values. I am confident that these would continue to grow under the great leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq.



Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan H. E Fahad Sulaiman Khalf Alkharusi has said that the Sultanate looks forward to strengthening the cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in all fields, including economic, trade, investment, security, military, and other fields of common interest between the two countries.

Expressing solidarity with Palestine, the Ambassador noted, "We reaffirm Oman's firm position in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for freedom, dignity, and self-determination. The heinous and indiscriminate Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, extensive destruction of infrastructure, service and humanitarian facilities, and buildings, the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their places of origin, and the loss of their loved ones and relatives, has flagrantly exceeded

all justifications, excuses, ethics, and human values."

H. E Fahad Sulaiman Khalf Alkharusi, Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman, in his speech, shared: "My country, the Sultanate of Oman, has consistently celebrated its National Day year after year, reflecting on the past, embracing the present, drawing inspiration for the future, mobilizing enthusiasm, honoring values and renewing national action in all fields. This occasion serves as a tribute to the enduring memory of Oman's modern and renewed renaissance, where determination strengthens and hands extend towards achieving further progress and development."

Palestine Issue

"We should seize the opportunity of our meeting today to reaffirm Oman's firm position in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for freedom, dignity, and self-determination. The heinous and indiscriminate Israeli aggression on the



Gaza Strip, which resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, extensive destruction of infrastructure, service and humanitarian facilities, and buildings, the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their places of origin, and the loss of their loved ones and relatives, has flagrantly exceeded all justifications, excuses, ethics, and human values, Ambassador emphasized.

The Ambassador said that there is no military solution to the Palestine issue. He said, "History has shown the impossibility of a military solution to the Palestinian issue. The only solution lies in ending the unlawful Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and establishing an independent state within the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its

capital, based on international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, and the two-state solution as proposed by the Arab Peace Initiative."

Oman Vision 2040 BY Sultan Haytham bin Tariq

Ambassador shared the details of Oman Vision 2040 envisioned by His Majesty the Sultan Haytham bin Tariq. H. E. said, "has been prepared to serve as a guide and a key reference for the state planning during the period 2021-2040. At the same time, it takes into account socio-economic reality and explores the future in an objective manner, while keeping pace with local, regional and global changes. Vision 2040 aims also to place Oman in the ranks of developed countries in the economic, social and envi-

ronmental fields and in the areas of governance and institutional development."

In addition, the Sultanate of Oman has embarked on a national strategy for zero carbon neutrality and energy transition. To this effect, it has exerted relentless efforts starting with the launch of the Carbon Management Laboratory in cooperation and partnership with a number of relevant governmental and private bodies, which culminated in the royal directives of His Majesty the Sultan Haytham bin Tariq regarding the establishment of Oman Sustainability Center. Then it announced the year 2050 to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

"The Sultanate of Oman has also launched opportunities and

incentives for investment in the hydrogen sector. It has allocated an area of more than 50,000 square km for green hydrogen projects, which will be launched in phases. Our ambitious plans also aim to produce more than one million tons of green hydrogen by 2030, and with the exploitation of 30% of the allocated land, production will increase to about 8 million tons, Ambassador added.

Bilateral relation

H. E Fahad Sulaiman Khalf Alkharusi spoke highly about Oman Pakistan relations. He said, "The Oman-Pakistan relations have long-standing strategic and cultural relations based on solid foundations of the bonds of religion, brotherhood and cultural values, as well as geographical proximity. These relations are characterized by mutual understanding and a comprehensive vision of various issues on the regional and international levels.

The establishment of Pak Oman Joint Ministerial Commission represents an essential framework for the fields of joint cooperation, in order to promote and facilitate areas of cooperation between the different bodies in both countries, there are many agreements and memorandums of understanding signed between the two countries, in addition to high-level exchange visits between the two countries.

Photos Raja Farid