



Solangi, Kazakhstan envoy discuss strengthening of bilateral relations in diverse sectors

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that Pakistan valued its relations with Kazakhstan and was working on strengthening them in diverse fields. (Details on Page 8)



People's rule will be established after winning Feb 8 elections: Bilawal

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari stated on Wednesday that a people's rule would be established after winning the Feb 8 general elections. Addressing a public rally in Chitral, Bilawal declared that upon forming the next government, he would prioritise the implementation of the 18th amendment. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on preparations with regard to COP-28 on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Caretaker Prime Minister to represent Pakistan in COP-28 high-level segment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will represent Pakistan during the high level segment of 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) being held in the United Arab Emirates on December 01-02.

The prime minister chaired an inter-provincial review meeting with regard to the COP-28. The meeting was attended by the caretaker federal ministers for finance, foreign affairs, climate change and planning, and relevant officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press

release.

PM Kakar said that climate change was an issue of national endurance for the countries like Pakistan and observed that Pakistan was playing a positive role in the global climate debate through climate diplomacy. He said that despite its less than one

percent imprints in the global climate change factors, Pakistan was amongst the countries hugely affected by the changes. One third of the country's population was badly affected by the climate induced floods, he added. The prime minister also lauded the relevant institutions and

organizations of the country for their best role in the reconstruction efforts in the post-flood period. He also directed the relevant authorities to make full preparations for representing Pakistan's stance during the COP-28 on climate finance and other issues effectively.

Israel-Hamas war as both sides agree to temporary truce for hostage exchange

News Desk

GAZA: A cease-fire agreement between the Hamas militant group and Israel has been confirmed by both parties, along with Washington and Qatar, which helped broker the deal that would bring a temporary halt to the devastating war that is now in its seventh week.

The Israeli government said that under an outline of the deal, Hamas is to free over a four-day period at least 50 of the roughly 240 hostages taken in its Oct. 7 attack on Israel, and Israel is to release some Palestinian prisoners in exchange. Egyptian state media say the truce will begin Thursday morning. Egypt helped mediate the cease-fire agreement, which would bring the first respite to war-weary Palestinians in Gaza, where more than 11,000 people have been killed, according to health authorities.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said before the Cabinet voted early Wednesday to back the agreement that the war would continue even if a deal was reached. Some 1,200 people

China welcomes temporary truce between Israel and Hamas

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China welcomed the temporary ceasefire reached by the parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday. Addressing a regular briefing held here, she hopes it will help ease the plight of the humanitarian crisis, de-escalate the conflict and ease tensions.

As per media reports, the Israeli cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposed hostage release deal with Hamas, which will also see a temporary halt in fighting.

Earlier on Tuesday, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said the group's officials are "close to reaching a truce agreement" with Israel and that Hamas has delivered its response to Qatar.

have been killed in Israel, mostly during the initial incursion by Hamas.

Imam-e-Kaaba arrives in Islamabad on a 4-day visit



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid arrived on Wednesday in Islamabad for a four-day visit to further strengthen the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He was welcomed by prominent figures, including Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti, Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi, Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, and several other senior officials.

During his visit, Imam-e-Kaaba is scheduled to lead the Friday Prayer at the iconic Faisal

Mosque, a momentous occasion for the local Muslim community. Additionally, he is set to engage in meetings with key figures, including the President, Prime Minister, Chief of Army Staff, and other high-ranking officials. Talking to APP, Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, said Imam-e-Kaaba's presence would garner widespread anticipation, emphasizing the significance of this spiritual and diplomatic engagement. He said the spiritual leader's visit would contribute to the promotion of peace, unity and shared values of the two nations.

After China and Russia, Arab Islamic Ministerial Committee visits the United Kingdom



Spokesman Report

LONDON: After visiting China and Russia and meeting their foreign ministers, the Arab Islamic Ministerial Committee, headed by Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, traveled to the United Kingdom where it held an official meeting with British Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

More Gaza children will die without access to water: UNICEF

News Desk

GAZA: "The perfect storm for tragedy: a desperate lack of water; fecal matter strewn across densely packed settlements; unacceptable lack of latrines" – UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned that if access to water and sanitation in Gaza continues to be restricted and insufficient, the world "will see a tragic – yet entirely avoidable – surge in the number of children dying."

UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said, during a press conference in Geneva on Tuesday: "Let's be clear: the control of fuel and the access to water is to control whether thousands – perhaps tens of thousands – of children live or die."

He said the minimum amount of water per person per day – be it in war or famine-like conditions – is 15 liters. That is, to drink, clean, and cook, are all critical to prevent



waterborne and other infectious diseases.

"And yet there are parts of Gaza, particularly the north, ...where people struggle to access as little as three liters per day. On the same day, none at all."

He said without enough fuel, "we will see the collapse of sanitation services."

Elder said this situation creates the perfect storm for the spread of disease.

"The perfect storm for tragedy: a desperate lack of water; fecal matter strewn across densely packed settlements; unacceptable lack of latrines;

severe constraints on handwashing, personal hygiene and cleaning."

The spokesperson said that already they are seeing almost ten times the monthly average of reported cases of diarrhea among children under the age of five, in addition to conditions such as scabies, lice, chicken pox, and respiratory infections.

Elder said it is urgent that the supply of water and sanitation materials be permitted, including equipment for the emergency repair and operation of critical water and sanitation services.

"Immediately provide safe and unimpeded access to a daily supply of fuel," he added.

He also said a humanitarian ceasefire is critical, along with safe and unimpeded humanitarian access.

"Without these, an indifferent world will watch the death of countless children in Gaza."

Israeli warplanes attack different locations in Gaza



Wafa

GAZA: Israeli warplanes tonight attacked different locations in the Gaza Strip causing many injuries.

Wafa correspondent said that the occupation warplanes targeted a house for the Saleh family in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, wounding a number of people. He said the occupation artillery launched violent bombardment in the town of Al-Fokhari, east of Khan Yunis.

In the north of the Gaza Strip, the occupation artillery bombed the Beit Lahia project area.

IHC summons PM Kakar in missing Baloch student case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar on November 29 in a case pertaining to the missing Baloch students, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

IHC Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani issued the directives while hearing a case concerning the

implementation of the recommendations of the Baloch Enforced Disappearances Commission as the government failed to recover the 'missing students'.

The IHC summoned interim PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar on November 29 if 55 'missing' Baloch students were not recovered by the next hearing.

Along with the caretaker prime minister, interim ministers and

secretaries of defence and interior were also directed to appear before the court at the next hearing. It also sought a report from the federal government committee within a week.

"We are sitting in Islamabad and talking about the rights of Balochistan. I'm giving seven days to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Baloch Enforced Disappearanc-

es Commission," Justice Kayani remarked.

Meanwhile, the additional attorney general requested Justice Kayani to not summon the ministers or the prime minister.

Expressing his disapproval, the judge said: "There is nothing wrong in summoning the PM and other ministers. Everyone is trying to make a joke out of this case".

At the onset of the hearing,

Justice Kayani rejected the report of the committee set up to look into the matter. The one-page six-point report was submitted to the court by Assistant Attorney General for Pakistan Usman Ghuman.

Justice Kayani ordered a representative of the Ministry of Defense to appear at the next hearing along with the defence minister as well as the interior minister.

Two soldiers martyred in North Waziristan due to explosion of explosives

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 22 November 2023, an improvised explosive device exploded on a convoy of security forces in general area Razmak, North Waziristan District.

Resultantly, two soldiers; Lance Naik Ehsan Badshah (age: 33 years, resident of: District Karak) and Lance Naik Sajid Hussain (age: 30 years, resident of: District Kurram), embraced Shahadat.



Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

US Ambassador inaugurates a US-funded Women and Juveniles Facilitation Centre in Quetta

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald A. Blome, inaugurated the one-stop Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre (WJFC) in Quetta on 20 November 2023 in a high-level ceremony hosted at the Chief Minister House in Quetta. The WJFC is funded by the US Embassy Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and established through the technical support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in coordination with the Balochistan Police and local authorities from the Government of Balochistan.

The launch ceremony took place in the presence of Inspector General of Police, Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh (PSP) and Country Representative for Pakistan, UNODC, Jeremy Milsom, along with a cross-section of

senior officers and stakeholders from the rule of law sector in Balochistan.

The Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre underscores the collective commitment of the Government of Balochistan towards creating safer spaces for survivors of gender-based violence.

The Country Representative for Pakistan, UNODC, Jeremy Milsom stated, "UNODC has so far established two similar facilities in Punjab that are successfully supporting survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. This Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre is modelled on the global standards of providing protection and safeguard services to vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, and juveniles who are often victims of violence. We express our deepest gratitude for INL's commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of GBV survivors."



The in-charge of the WJFC, Paria Gul Tareen—who is also the first female Assistant Superintendent of Police in Quetta—provided a guided tour to the US Ambassador and the visiting delegation from the INL.

She shared, "WJFC is a great step forward in addressing GBV issues in Balochistan. I hope we are able to replicate this intervention across the province to ensure every survivor finds the support they deserve."

The Centre is fully equipped and easily accessible to offer inclusive and all-encompassing gender and GBV-sensitive services, including first aid, counselling, legal advice, psycho-social support and referrals for access to shelter, legal aid and protection.

In addition, the WJFC also provides a host of dedicated facilitation services to women such as character certificate, police verification, learner driving license, driving license renewal, etc.

The WJFC will go a long way to provide a safe haven for those affected by violence, fostering a culture of compassion and justice in Balochistan.

Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: Naib Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Mian Muhammad Aslam addressing a press conference regarding Children of Ghaza March, which will be held today (Thursday) outside Faisal Mosque in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

ID blast in Wana, presidential award winner Malik Aslam Noor died with 4 people

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: the government officials say that a ID Blast in Dazaa Ghundai area of South Waziristan Lower district on presidential award winner Malik Aslam Noor Wazir Ghani Khel on thursday evening time.

As a result of which 4 people including Malik Aslam Noor Wazir's 2 younger sons died and 3 people were injured.

According to eyewitnesses, explosives were pre-planted on the roof of a shop in Daza Ghundai area of Wana, where it exploded with a loud bang.

Due to which four people died including Malik Aslam Noor Wazir's 2 sons.

However, 3 persons were seriously injured, the injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Wana and CMH FC, Wana, where they are undergoing treatment.

Eyewitnesses say that Malik Aslam Noor Ghani Khel often used to sit and stand in this shop.

According to reports, the area of Daza Ghundai is located at a distance of 5 km from his native village Leva Kanda of tehsil birmal.

Officials say that the died including the presidential award winner Malik Aslam Noor Ghani Khel Wazir, his two young children Sher Aslam, Aslam and Shopkeeper Sahib Noor.

It should be noted that the elder brother of Malik Aslam Noor, the late Malik Khadin, who was always fighting against foreign terrorists from 2004 to 2007.

In which several ID blasts were carried out on Malik Khadin, in which he was seriously injured, one of his sons was killed in 2007.

Malik Aslam Noor was hit with ID blasts several times in which he was also seriously injured.



Rs 9 million looted from trader in Hazro

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In one of the biggest robbery heist in the Hazro town of Attock, armed bandits looted cash worth Rs 9 million from a trader near village Qutab Bandi on Tarbella road in the limits of Hazro Police station. The trader Malik Sarfaraz- a poultry dealer has reported to Police that he was present at his farm while a gang of armed bandits equipped with different weapons entered in to the farm by scaling the wall. Later they made hostage them all the people present there and snatched cash worth Rs 9 million from him on gun point and fled away with the looted booty successfully. Hazro Police registered a case and launched further investigation. It may be mentioned here that a trader was shot and injured in a targeted case in the same police station limits. Social and business circles have expressed their grave concern over poor law and order condition in the rural areas of district Attock.

EC will fulfill the constitutional responsibility of conducting clean and transparent elections

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A meeting of PPP Bahawalpur Division was held at Bilawal House Multan in which former Prime Minister and Senator Central Senior Vice Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani participated as a special guest and former Governor Punjab and President PPP South Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mehmood addressed the meeting. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that PPP has a clear level playing field for everyone. We expect that the Election Commission will fulfill the constitutional responsibility of conducting clean and transparent elections. Biased behavior and conduct of any election will be a question mark.

If the economy runs, the laborer should be paid according to his hard work and the PPP is the protector of the labor class. All the problems are solved in the manifesto of the PPP. If the PPP government works for anyone, it is the poor class. We will expand the Benazir



Income Support Program after coming to power.

Benazir will start the labor card program, under this labor card, health, education and other facilities will be easily available to the workers. He added that on November 30, the establishment day meeting of the PPP will be held in Quetta, on November 30, the party leaders

central meeting of the foundation day. This is the reason why they are only talking about the people's problems and their solutions in all their meetings. At this time, the people are suffering from inflation, unemployment and economic depression.

But the party that is afraid to face the people will be defeated by the people's power from the entire South Punjab. In the meeting, Senior Vice President of the People's Party South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator Abdul Qadir Shaheen, Javed Akbar Dhillon, Muhammad Ali Ahsan, Basro, G., Pir Abdul Rahman Deen Puri, Shahrukh Malik, Malik Muhammad Saleem, Malik Shah Muhammad Chanar, Hafiz Hussain Madani, Malik Imtiaz Chanar, Javed Hasan Dad Gujjar, Raja Sain Solangi, Malik Rustam, Rana Imtiaz Ahmed, Mian Amir Wattoo, Irshad Khan Sarvia, Rana Saleem, Javed Raza Raymond Advocate, Farooq Mughal, Peter John Mato and others participated.

across the country will hold a meeting. And the workers will renew their pledge to continue the democratic journey with their leader and chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

In the meeting, the organizational performance was reviewed and consultations were held regarding the election and it was decided to participate in the

Sit-in of Wazir tribes for facilities at Angoor Adda border enters 6th day

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The sit-in is continuing for the sixth day regarding demands of the Wazir tribes in connection with providing facilities at Pak Afghan border Angoor Adda of South Waziristan Lower.

PPP announced support for the demands of the sit-in participants.

The sit-in organizers have blocked Angoor Adda bazaar, customs office and entry and exit routes of the area.

PPP district president Aman Ullah Wazir and Imran Mukhlis addressed the participants and said that last year, traders and local tribes had put 18



demands before the government and the government had also promised to fulfill these demands, but so far not a single demand has been fulfilled.

The sit-in participants say that the sit-in will continue

until our demands are acceptance.

The sit-in organizers said that the youth of our area have become unemployed and our children are dying of hunger.

While our employment

has deteriorated badly due to which the wheel of life has been completely jammed.

It should be noted that on thursday four major casts of Ahmadzai Wazir tribes held a Jirga at Pak-Afghan Border

Adda Gate,

In which a protest was announced due to the non-fulfillment of the demands, including the expansion of commercial activities at the Angoor-Adda border.

The PPP leaders demanded the government to provide facilities to the local tribes living along the border.

The leaders added that the people of Waziristan have been badly affected by various military operations for the past 20 years.

Therefore, the government should take concrete steps on an emergency basis to provide facilities to the common people including the business community at Angoor Adda border.

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited has sufficient gas to meet Islamabad's demand during winter: spokesperson

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has sufficient gas to overcome the low pressure of the sugas throughout the region, including Islamabad, Attock, Wah, Taxila, Fateh Jang, Murree, and Kahuta during the sizzling season of winter, said a spokesperson of the SNGPL on Wednesday.

A spokesperson Shahid Akram said that to address the issue of low gas pressure in the Islamabad region, the company is connecting multiple large-diameter pipelines to the system.

He said that regional complaint centres are operating 24/7 to swiftly resolve consumer complaints. He said, that due to the rapid response of these area complaint centres, individual and area complaints have substantially decreased in the region, and valued consumers are enjoying the facility at normal pressures.

He further said that a "Situation Room" had been established at the regional office I-9 Islamabad for monitoring gas pressures and resolving complaints through dedicated teams. The spokesperson said that an effective load management strategy has been devised and implemented throughout the region, including Islamabad, Attock, Wah, Taxila, Fateh Jang, Murree, and Kahuta. The

spokesperson informed that numerous major pipeline projects have been completed in the Islamabad region, including multiple large-diameter pipelines from Rawat to Faizabad. Additionally, rehabilitation work on old pipelines is in progress to eliminate low-pressure problems, he said.

He said that the objective of these pipeline projects is to ensure a consistent and reliable gas supply for the residents of the capital.

Regarding LPG cylinder services, Shahid Akram said that SNGPL provides cylinders to consumers at competitive rates, adhering to international quality and safety standards.

The spokesman highlighted SNGPL's Anti-Gas Theft Campaign being carried out in collaboration with FIA, in which numerous cases of gas theft and improper domestic to commercial use, including illegal use of compressors, have been traced.

He said that individuals involved in such unlawful activities have been arrested, with many facing trials in the courts. Shahid Akram urged citizens to report gas theft and the illegal use of compressors without fear. He assured that the identities of informants would be kept confidential to encourage active participation in maintaining the integrity of the gas supply system.

ISLAMABAD
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 5:19 am
Zohr 11:54 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 & 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
Holy Family 9290322-7

Speakers highlights progress in education in a Seminar jointly organized by FDE, NIP, and IMCG



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a momentous event organized by Federal Directorate of Education in collaboration with National Institute of Psychology, and Islamabad Model College for Girls (Post Graduate-Margala) F-7/4, Islamabad, esteemed guests and educational stakeholders gathered to address the pivotal Dyslexia Special Measures Act 2022, on November 20, 2023. Mr. Tanweer Ahmad, Director General Federal Directorate of Education, Ms. Rifat Jabeen Director Academics and Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, Director Training were also present on the occasion. Commencing with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Na'at, the ceremony set the tone for an enlightening exploration. Honourable Director General Mr. Tanweer Ahmad extended a warm welcome to all participants, emphasizing the Act's significance in fostering inclusive education. Distinguished speakers, Dr. Rubina Hanif and Dr. Humaira Jami, provided expert insights into dyslexia and associated disorders, contributing to a collective understanding of the subject. As the seminar concluded, participants engaged in a dynamic Questions and Answers Session, followed by distribution of college crests among the resource persons and the National Anthem. The event concluded with an invitation to join for refreshments, providing an opportunity for networking and continued discussions.

Emerging Technologies

COMSATS inks Cooperative Agreements with DGST-KP and RIHS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) signed two separate cooperative agreements with the Directorate General of Science and Technology, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DGST-KP) and Rawal Institute of Health Sciences (RIHS) today to forge cooperation in areas of emerging technologies for tech-based solutions to developmental challenges.

The agreement between COMSATS and DGST-KP was signed by Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, and Dr. Sajid Hussain Shah, Director General of DGST-KP on behalf of their respective institutions. The areas of cooperation, inter-alia, include: IT and Digitalization, Climate Change and Environment, Human Resource Development, Skills Development, Electric Vehicles, Renewable Energy, Natural Resource Exploitation (Gemstones and Mines), Micro Hydro Plants, and Biomedicine.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Provincial Minister for Science and Technology and Information Technology, KP, H. E. Dr. Najeebullah Marwat and Ambassadors and diplomats of Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, as well as Heads and senior officials of government departments.

The agreement with RIHS was signed by Co-Chairperson Board of Directors, Mrs. Saleha Khaqan, on behalf of the Institute that formalized relations for cooperation in the field of health and education.

COMSATS and RIHS plan to cooperate in the areas related to health sector, inter-alia, including AI-based solutions, people's health and environment, internationalization of medical education and facilities, human resource development, electric vehicles for persons with physical disabilities.

The KP Minister for ST&IT announced that his government is creating one-hundred million dollar venture fund to facilitate realignment of R&D with the contemporary needs of the province and



the country. He informed that a research agenda for academia in the province is being launched soon that will allow for standardizing and establishing centralized and regional labs on the model of Innovate UK.

Addressing the gathering, Executive Director COMSATS informed that COMSATS has recently signed agreements with a number of Government departments and private companies that are primarily focused on facilitating R&D

and technology transfer. Co-Chairperson RIHS, being a part of the private sector, looked forward to collaborating with COMSATS for strengthening of health sector in the country.

Hunting

ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are busy in fishing along the Rawal Dam, during sunny weather in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

AIOU holds seminar on World Cities Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A one-day seminar titled "Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University on World Cities Day 2023. Executive Director, United Nations Habitat, Memona Sharif, was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the crucial role of urban areas in accomplishing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. She further explained that ensuring safe and stable cities is an integral part of achieving sustainable development goals.

Javed Ali Khan, Country Program Manager of UN-Habitat Pakistan, congratulated Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Vice Chancellor of AIOU on university's 50th anniversary. He praised the university's educational services, stating that they are



truly commendable. Javed Ali Khan and consultant from the World Bank, Gul Najam Jami, delivered presentations that highlighted the facilities, opportunities, and problems faced in the urban areas. They also shared valuable information about the services and financial assistance provided by the United Nations and the World Bank in relation to urbanization.

The seminar was presided over by the Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad. He explained that this seminar is a part of the series of events organized in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of AIOU, and its aim is to provide intellectual training and mental upbringing to the new generation. Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences

and Environmental Design, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, and Additional Director, Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Dr. Saima Nasir, also spoke at the event. They discussed the objectives of the seminar and expressed their gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, for his support in organizing the event.

PIDE holds second day of 37th AGM and Conference on Aid-Debt Chains



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Today was the second day of the 37th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE). The Conference on "Breaking the Aid-Debt Chains" is being hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

The second panel discussion of the Conference was on "Is Taxing More the Only Solution?" The session was moderated by Mahmood Khalid, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, while the panelists included Mukaram Jah Ansari, Member Customs, Legal and Accounting at the FBR, Asim Saeed, Former Member at the Planning Commission, Abdul Jalil, Professor at the NDU, and Omer Siddique, Senior Research Economist at PIDE.

In his introduction to the session Dr. Mahmood Khalid, PIDE said that the current focus on taxing more ignores the burden it imposes. Our complex tax system and regulatory landscape contribute to a high regulatory burden. Pakistan ranks low in ease of paying taxes, discouraging firms from growth and formalization. PIDE's approach suggests improving the system first before considering additional taxation.

Mukarram Ansari explained Pakistan's fiscal model, highlighting an annually rising tax collection target given to the FBR. Two-thirds of the collection is from customs and withholding agents. Asim Saeed questioned the purpose of taxing, i.e., whether it is to cover expenditures or fiscal discipline. Abdul Jalil criticized Pakistan's projection as a nation of tax thieves, emphasizing the need to build a narrative of growth, and stressed that tax collection does not cause growth, citing China and India's examples of promoting growth first. Omer Siddique posed the question of whether taxing is a panacea for our ills. He said that even though taxes create distortions and disincentivize economic activity but nevertheless are essential.

Abdul Jalil advocated encouraging transactions and taxing once the economy is moving, aligning with Adam Smith's suggestion, while Omer Siddique urged moving away from anomalies and ad hocism that harm the economy. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, expressed concern that we are already taxing ourselves too much and criticized economists for not making a case for investment and growth beyond advocating for more taxes. Dr. Ashfaq H. Khan stressed the role of interest payments in harnessing the deficit.

In another panel discussion "Evaluating Pakistan's Public Debt Management Policies and Practices" were discussed. The moderator of the panel was Nasir Iqbal, Associate Professor at PIDE, Muhammad Arshad of the Ministry of Commerce, and Nofal Daud, Head Strategy and Strategic Initiatives at the Bank of Punjab.

Haider Ali, Assistant Professor at PIDE, initiated the discussion by highlighting the alarming rise in Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio, currently at around 70%, with the potential for further increase. He identified fiscal imbalances, a high exchange rate, and neglect of various borrowing instruments as contributing factors.

Muhammad Arshad shed light on the absence of a formal policy on debt management in Pakistan. He emphasized the fragmented nature of institutions handling debt, with poor coordination among them.

Dr. Ashfaq H. Khan emphasized the need for a debt office and law to ensure fiscal prudence. He criticized the violation of the law, particularly Article 6. Dr. Khan highlighted the power of the debt office, reporting directly to the minister, and noted its weakening after his departure in 2009. In light of this discussion, Nasir Iqbal raised concerns about the disconnect between institutions, including the debt management office, questioning the responsible party for this situation.

Environmentalists urge UET students to embrace sustainability

News 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.

Imam-e-Kaaba Lauds IIUI for Promotion of Islamic Values & Its International Stature

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imam Kaaba Professor Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Al Hameed has said that Pakistan feels like my home, Pakistan-Saudi relations are deep and historical, education is best source to end hatred, International Islamic University is playing an exemplary role in promoting Islamic teachings.

These views were expressed by Imam Kaaba while meeting with Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi. Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Said Al-Maliki and President of International Islamic University Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi were also present on this occasion.

Imam Kaaba said that I am always happy to meet Pakistanis. He said



that people of both countries have immense love for each other. Imam Kaaba said that the ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Islamic University will benefit students all over the world. He appreciated the International Islamic University for organizing a conference on the importance of human life in the light of Sharia and law, in which

he has specially come to participate. Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Al Hameed said that the His Majesty Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Royal Crown Prince have expressed their best wishes for this conference. He also praised the role of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi for providing the best higher education facilities to the

students of Muslim world in the light of Islamic teachings.

On this occasion, the Minister of education thanked Imam Kaaba for visiting Pakistan and the International Islamic University. He said that IIUI is playing an important role for the promotion of religious and contemporary studies. He opined that the Ministry of Education will continue to cooperate with the University.

It is pertinent to mention here that Imam Kaaba arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday to attend the conference organized by International Islamic University. He will deliver a special address in the conference on Thursday at 9:45 am at Faisal Masjid. Imam Kaaba will also lead Friday prayers in Faisal Mosque on Friday.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Why Knocked at China's door to end Gaza Genocide - I

The death toll in Gaza is approaching the Zionist target of 14000 martyrs in place of 1400 Israelis killed, which is now abundantly clear that the majority of the Israelis were killed by Israeli airstrikes to get a pretext to decimate the Palestinian population, forcing them to migrate to other parts of the Arab world, paving the way for complete and final occupation of both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to fulfil Jews' dreams of cleansing their pure land from Arabs.

The entire Muslim world, Organization of Islamic Countries, Arab League, the United Nations, the Red Cross have tried their hardest to use all diplomatic channels available to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinians. However, their combined power appeared to have no value, clout, or influence over Israel or the United States to stop this madness. Israel, despite being one of the smallest countries surrounded by Muslim countries, has grown so large and formidable that it has had the audacity and wherewithal to frustrate all attempts by the international community and rational people all over the world to stop Israel from unleashing terror, inhuman bombing, sulphur rain, and other forbidden weapons in Gaza while trampling human values and human rights with total impunity.

Frustrated and humiliated by the combined might of Israel and the United States, having lost faith in the United

Nations and lacking confidence in their own clout, all Muslim countries have turned to China for intervention to stop Israel's merciless assault on unarmed Palestinian civilians, destroying places of worship, hospitals, schools, civilian residential areas, and refugee camps.

This visit has many connotations, interpretations, and outcomes regardless of China's appetite to intervene in this highly complex, sensitive, and dangerous conflict where any wrong move by any player will almost certainly attract the wrath of a trigger-happy US and its stooge Israel, which has long forgotten any sense of decency or respect for human lives other than its own.

This is the significance of China, which has been bestowed with the position of a superpower by virtue of its ability to counter or face off with the United States. If there had been another superpower, the Muslim may have knocked instead of China.

Why did Muslim countries not visit the UK because it has been reduced to a puppet of the United States. They did not go to Russia, which has the mussels but is already overburdened with his standoff with Ukraine. With no other country in sight to say what needed to be said, Muslim countries were left with no alternative but to knock on China's

door in their final bid and last resort to save what little remained of Gaza and the West Bank.

China may be the only country that consistently maintains its position on a higher moral pedestal. It does not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries. In order to achieve its goals, it does not change the government of any country or replace one dictatorship with another.

Throughout its history, even when the Chinese monarchy was among the most powerful in the world, it never colonised any territory or nation. On the other hand, it constructed a powerful wall to protect itself from outside assault.

Pakistan's historical interactions with global powers have been marked by challenging experiences, with notable exceptions in its relationship with China. The bitter legacy includes the UK's colonial rule over the Indian subcontinent, which encompassed the region Pakistan calls home.

Pakistan also felt the impact of the USSR's hegemonic designs, especially during its presence in neighboring Afghanistan, a situation that directly affected Pakistan's security. Furthermore, the U.S. involvement, from using Pakistan as a frontline state against the USSR during the Cold War to subsequent engagements against Taliban and

Al Qaeda, has left lasting impacts. More recently, Pakistan experienced destabilization attributed to U.S. involvement in regime changes, impacting the nation profoundly. Throughout these encounters, Pakistan's relationship with China stands out as a positive exception.

China's stance toward Pakistan represents a departure from conventional power dynamics. Despite being a major global player with significant interests in manipulating its political landscape. This approach has been consistent, even during China's challenging periods in the 1960s and 70s and its remarkable progress from the 1980s onwards.

China's approach exhibits astute political acumen, displaying the capacity and adaptability to foster positive relations with various regimes, encompassing a wide political and military spectrum. This consistent approach extends comfort and ease across diverse political landscapes within Pakistan.

Throughout my four decades in the corridors of power, I witnessed our leaders facing substantial pressure and demands from the USA, consistently urging us to do more. The USA staunchly opposed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and when we sought their aid in resolving our communication, infrastructure, and power issues, they declined outrightly, offering no solutions or assistance.

To be continued



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

National Call for the Restoration of Military Courts - I

A rapid and clear judicial system forms the bedrock of an equitable and efficient legal framework within any society. The timely administration of justice and the transparency of legal procedures are pivotal components that support the rule of law, safeguard individual rights, and instill public confidence.

An expeditious and transparent judicial system ensures that individuals promptly access justice. Prolonged legal proceedings can inflict significant hardships on litigants, impacting their lives, livelihoods, and overall well-being. By hastening the resolution of cases, the legal system becomes more accessible to all, irrespective of socioeconomic status, thereby diminishing the risk of delayed or denied justice.

A swift judicial system acts as a deterrent to potential wrongdoers. When individuals witness the legal process swiftly addressing and adjudicating cases, the fear of facing consequences becomes a potent deterrent. This deterrent effect is crucial in upholding law and order, dissuading criminal activities, and instilling a sense of security among the populace.

Timely legal proceedings aid in preserving crucial evidence and eyewitness testimonies. Memories fade, evidence deteriorates, and witnesses may become unavailable over time. A prompt judicial process mitigates these challenges, ensuring that the court receives the most accurate and reliable information, thereby enhancing the quality and fairness of the legal decision-making process.

Transparency in judicial proceedings is indispensable for maintaining public trust in the legal system. When legal processes are conducted openly, and decisions are clearly explained, the public develops confidence in the fairness and integrity of the judiciary. This trust is vital for a well-functioning democracy, as citizens must believe that the legal system operates impartially and in the interest of justice.

A swift and transparent judicial system contributes to economic development. Investors and businesses are more likely to invest in a jurisdiction where legal disputes are resolved efficiently and fairly. A transparent legal environment fosters economic growth, attracts foreign investment, and encourages entrepreneurship by assuring stakeholders that contractual and legal disputes will be promptly addressed.

A prompt legal system is crucial for the protection of human rights. Individuals facing legal challenges, especially those involving civil liberties, deserve a timely resolution to avoid prolonged uncertainty and potential abuse. A transparent process ensures that the legal system is held accountable for upholding human rights standards and principles.

Speedy and transparent judicial processes assist in reducing case backlogs, a common issue in many legal systems. By efficiently managing caseloads, the judicial system can focus on emerging challenges and prevent the accumulation of unresolved cases that hinder the overall effectiveness of the legal apparatus.

In the ongoing struggle against terrorism, nations worldwide have had to adopt diverse strategies to protect their citizens and uphold national security. An integral component of this endeavor involves the establishment of military courts to address terrorism-related cases. Military courts play a crucial role in delivering prompt and effective justice, sending a resolute message to potential terrorists that their actions will not be tolerated.

These specialized courts are designed specifically to handle cases pertaining to national security threats, particularly terrorism. Judges presiding over

military courts possess a profound understanding of the intricate dynamics surrounding terrorism, insurgency, and other forms of asymmetric warfare. Their expertise facilitates a more nuanced decision-making process, ensuring that justice is served while considering the unique challenges posed by terrorist activities.

One primary advantage of military courts in terrorism cases lies in their capacity to administer swift and efficient justice. The urgent nature of terrorist threats necessitates a rapid response to prevent further harm and gather crucial intelligence. Military courts are structured to expedite legal proceedings, minimizing delays that could hinder the pursuit of justice. This expeditious adjudication is vital in conveying a clear message that acts of terrorism will be met with immediate and decisive consequences.

Terrorism cases often involve sensitive and classified information that, if disclosed, could compromise national security. Military courts provide a secure environment for handling such information, enabling the prosecution to present evidence without jeopardizing essential intelligence sources and methods. This level of confidentiality is crucial to ensure that the legal process does not inadvertently aid terrorist organizations or compromise ongoing counterterrorism operations.

The establishment of military courts for terrorism cases serves as a potent deterrent to potential terrorists. The knowledge that they will face a specialized and expedited legal process can discourage individuals from engaging in terrorist activities. Moreover, the transparent and efficient functioning of military courts enhances public confidence in the justice system's ability to effectively address terrorism. This confidence is vital for maintaining societal resilience and cohesion in the face of persistent security threats.

To be continued

Congo Virus; another Biological Challenge

Neyash Tauseef

Congo Virus is another biological threat after the waves of Congo Virus, we have experienced in the last few years. Congo Virus spreads by mutual contact of body fluid among humans or any other animal. It lasts minimum 1-3days and maximum for 9days. The fatality rate is 40%. 2023 is the year of its outbreak through out the world. People working at slaughterhouses, butchers, associates of live-stock and agriculture are at the risk of Congo Virus. The biological problem is causing problems for the lower working class whose livelihood is associated with the live-stock industry. Congo in Baluchistan Pakistanis facing the Congo challenge as 47 people are infected by it in Baluchistan province. Three mortalities due to Congo Virus have been reported this week. The emergency situation has been declared by the authorities of the particular area. The current outbreak has been taken in the area where there are insufficient medical facilities. In the recent outbreak of Congo in Pakistan, it becomes the highlighted issue as 12 doctors and paramedical staff are also infected. The first case this year was reported on 21st of October in Baluchistan. Government has imposed a ban on the animal slaughter places in Baluchistan. Emergency in Sindh As the affected area lacks medical facilities, patients are referred to Karachi, Sindh. The authorities called for extra care and intensive checkups on the Sindh-Baluchistan borders to avoid a major

outbreak in Sindh. As the people and life stock is moving on the daily basis across the borders, the fear sparks among the people of Sindh. The locality of Sindh is in fear of getting affected by the Congo. Governmental Efforts Emergency alert has been introduced in the areas more likely to be affected. Health and live-stock departments have been directed to intensive the care and surveillance program. The authorities have also directed the following organizations to raise awareness among the public. The people have been dictated to use insect repellents, wear full-sleeves dress, cover the body and take their cattle for examination and monitoring. The health institutes are asked to establish isolation units for the patients and provide them with good care and attention to the Congo patients. The special transportation is continuously provided to the patients from Baluchistan to Sindh. The advice for the public from the experts is to use gloves and facemasks while dealing with the cattle. As soon as the symptoms are detected, move to the hospital for a detailed check-up. If there is one infected patient in the family, it will be better for other members to go for the check-up. Boosting up the immune system and adopting the organic way of life is also essential to cope up with the issue. The polluted environment is involved in giving rise to such biological challenges. So, it is also necessary for us to keep our surroundings clean.

Writer is pursuing Bachelor in Defense and Diplomatic studies in Fatima Jinnah Women University.

Webinar

ISSI holds Webinar on 'Regional Perspectives on the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), hosted a webinar titled, "Regional Perspectives on the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict." The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers at the webinar included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Dr. Nader Al-Turk, the Deputy Ambassador of Palestine in Pakistan; Dr. Moatmer Amin, Department of Political Science, University of Cairo, Egypt; Dr. Joseph Bahout, Director, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon; Dr. Ali Bakir, Professor, Ibn Khaldon Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Qatar University, Doha; Dr. Bilgehan Öztürk, Researcher SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, Türkiye; Dr. Hanan AlHajeri, Department of Political Science, University of Kuwait; Dr. Aziz Alghashian, Saudi researcher and fellow with the Sectarianism, Proxies and De-sectarianisation project; and Dr. Omid Babelian, Research Fellow IPIS, Iran.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the heart wrenching situation being faced by the

people of Gaza. He added that while there was an array of international opinion about the 7 October attack, the UN Secretary General had rightly pointed out that this did not happen in a vacuum. He noted the historical context of illegal occupation, unabated oppression, relentless appropriation of Palestinian lands, and systematic denial of Palestinian rights. The occupied Palestinians' right to resistance was recognized by international law and their right to self-determination enshrined in numerous UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Director CAMEA Amina Khan highlighted the severe consequences of Israel's total blockade on Gaza, attributing it to the systematic oppression of the Palestinian people. She characterized Israel's military campaign as devastating and indiscriminate, using terms such as apartheid and genocide. Ms. Khan stated that over 13,000 casualties, including 5,500 children and 3,500 women, as of October 7, 2023 have taken place. Criticizing the international system's prioritization of conflicts, she questioned the sanctity of human rights and international law.

Dr. Nader Al-Turk highlighted that the events on October 7, 2023, are part of a 75-year history of Israeli apartheid. He condemned Israel's actions, emphasizing the collective punishment inflicted on Palestinians. Expressing gratitude to China and Russia for support,



he criticized Western double standards and urged intervention by regional countries and the Muslim world to stop Israel's state terrorism in Gaza.

Dr. Moatmer Amin, while expressing his views, said that this ongoing conflict is a wakeup call for Egypt and wondered whether a change in course or in the entire direction was underway. The bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel are going through a rough patch.

Dr. Joseph Bahout highlighted the Gaza war's significance in prioritizing the Palestinian question and stressed

its inclusion in any reconciliation or bilateral agreement. Post-Gaza, challenges include finding a new Palestinian interlocutor, reshaping Israeli dynamics, and navigating the American factor. Despite initial downsizing plans, the U. S. returned due to influences like China's growing presence.

Dr. Ali Bakir highlighted Qatar's challenges in mediating between Hamas and Israel during the Gaza conflict. Despite Qatar's efforts to free hostages, US institutions, media, and Israel undermine its role. The dual stance of the US, calling for Qatar's

involvement while facing criticism, created challenges reminiscent of the 2017 Gulf crisis.

Dr. Bilgehan Öztürk, while giving the Turkish perspective to the Israeli aggression in Gaza said that the situation is unfortunate in many respects and Türkiye's reaction and attitude has been different as compared to before. President Erdoğan has called Israel a terrorist state and has vowed not to look away from such the plight of the Palestinians.

Dr. Hanan AlHajeri highlighted Kuwait's steadfast stance against Israel

over seven decades, opposing normalization until a Palestinian state is established along the 1967 borders. Kuwait was among the first to call for international aid to Palestinians and to hold Israel accountable.

Dr. Aziz Alghashian analyzed the nuanced dynamics of Saudi-Israeli relations amid the ongoing war. Saudi Arabia's swift statement aimed to convey a clear position, acknowledging potential normalization talks while warning against the Netanyahu-led government's actions. He emphasized Saudi Arabia's strategic reaction to the polarized moment, avoiding contributing to Israel's momentum in Arab states.

Dr. Omid Babelian underscored that the current situation is rooted in a seven-decade history, impacting the dignity of Palestinians. He highlighted the influence of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, leading Israel to act destructively due to Western indifference.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood in his concluding remarks stated that all limits have been crossed by Israel and the double standards of the West have been exposed. He underscored that a ceasefire be implemented immediately and that a solution reached according to the UN resolutions.

After the Speakers' remarks, an interactive session followed during which further complex aspects of the evolving situation and its regional and global ramifications were taken up.

Seminar on 'Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the 21st of November 2023, Islamabad observed the World Cities Day (WCD), an initiative established by the UN-Habitat to signify the culmination of Urban October Activities. UN Habitat in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, organized a seminar centered around the theme of "World Cities Day" focusing on "Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All." This dynamic and thought-provoking event took place at the Department of Nutritional Science & Environmental Design, AIOU. It served as a platform uniting experienced professionals and experts deeply passionate about urban living, aiming to honor and acknowledge the significance of cities while highlighting their crucial role in shaping the future of urban spaces.

Distinguished experts like Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Country Program Manager at UN-Habitat Pakistan; Ar. Gul Najam Jami, Senior Consultant at The World Bank Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad, Dean Facul-



ty of Sciences at AIOU; Dr. Muhammad Latif Gondal, Director of ORIC at AIOU; and Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU graced the panel discussion.

The discourse commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmad, acknowledging cities' influential role in global development and emphasizing the shared responsibility

in nurturing cities as inclusive, sustainable hubs.

A video message from Executive Director Maimoona Mohd. Sharif emphasized the necessity for a new financing framework to facilitate sustainable urban development, stressing the importance of integrated planning and prioritizing shelter and housing as fundamental human

rights. Mr. Najam Jami's presentation delved into "How can cities contribute to Pakistan's Economy," highlighting the value cities add while addressing impediments imposed by government regulations hindering their growth.

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan shed light on the "Challenges and Opportunities for financing sustainable urban future for all," emphasizing the need for inclusive urban development. He highlighted that Karachi generates 55% of the country's revenue, underscoring cities' substantial economic contributions.

Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad expressed gratitude, spotlighting AIOU's role in sustainable development through research and teaching, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 4, 8, and 17.

Dr. Muhammad Latif Gondal, in closing remarks, urged acknowledging political constraints and moving ahead with climate-smart initiatives. He emphasized collaboration with communities and academia to ensure research and initiatives resonate with the country's needs, aiding its development.

100% SAF

Emirates world's first airline to operate A380 demonstration flight

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Emirates has become the world's first airline to operate an A380 demonstration flight using 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Today's flight, proudly commanded by Captain Khalid Binsultan and Captain Philippe Lombet, took off from Dubai International Airport (DXB) with one of four engines powered on 100% SAF, helping demonstrate its potential as a drop-in replacement that matches jet fuel's technical and chemical requirements, while being a more sustainable alternative. SAF can reduce carbon emissions by up to 85%* over the fuel's life cycle when compared to conventional jet fuel.

Adel Al Redha, Chief Operating Officer, Emirates Airline said: "Emirates is the first passenger airline in the world to operate an A380 with 100% drop-in SAF powering one of four Engine Alliance GP7200 engines. This is another proud moment for Emirates and our partners, as we put words into action with the research into and the trialling of higher concentrations of SAF to eventually lead to industry adoption of 100% SAF flying. This marks another significant step in validating the use of SAF in one of the engines of the A380, a wide-body aircraft with four engines. The growing global demand for lower-emission jet fuel alternatives is there, and the work of producers and suppliers to commercialise SAF and make it available will be critical in the coming years to help Emirates and the wider industry advance our path to lower carbon emissions."



GSMA Intelligence study

60% of Pakistanis willing to accept lower salary to work for sustainability focused organizations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A recent research conducted by GSMA Intelligence with support from Huawei, revealed that about 60% of survey respondents in Pakistan would accept a lower salary in order to work for an organization that had set a target to reduce its carbon emissions. That compares with about half of respondents, on average, in other countries surveyed. Companies that fail to embed climate change in their core business strategy risk damaging their reputation and also lose the opportunity to launch potentially profitable new lines of business.

Pakistan is working to decrease CO2 equivalent emissions. The government is pursuing strategies for combating climate change, including the promotion of renewables and electric vehicles, a ban on plastic bags, and the billion-tree plantation drive.

The research found that 80% of consumers surveyed across 16 countries now view climate change as the world's No. 1 challenge. Moreover, it found that 60% of respondents consider climate or sustainability when buying a product, while 45% say they are willing to pay a premium for products and services that have been certified carbon neutral.

The inclination toward such "green



purchasing" appeared to be greatest in countries that are most exposed to extreme weather conditions induced by climate change. The highest correlations are seen in the Philippines, Pakistan, Brazil, Türkiye, and Indonesia—fast-growing emerging economies with direct exposure to warming and extreme weather events. Consumers in such countries indicated an above-average willingness to change their behavior in response to climate change.

From an industry perspective, Tim Hatt of GSMA Intelligence stated that, "For operators, selling 5G and other technologies to enterprise verticals offers both productivity gains and

higher power efficiency," said. "The latter has historically been underappreciated but is now center stage; any company on a 2050 net-zero timeline will have to cut CO2 emissions by 50% in each successive decade.

"When it comes to investing, sustainability is no longer considered a niche," said David Trevitt, a digital transformation advisor at Huawei, which funded the GSMA Intelligence research.

GSMA Intelligence is the definitive source of global mobile operator data, insights, and forecasts, and a publisher of authoritative industry reports and research. All three GSMA Intelligence white papers are available here.

Wasi Shah lauds passion of youth at Tajikistan World Cup Qualifier

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah, attended the historic FIFA World Cup Qualifier match between Pakistan and Tajikistan held at Jinnah Stadium Islamabad.

Emphasising resilience in the face of defeat, Wasi Shah engaged in an exclusive conversation with the youth, encouraging them to view setbacks as opportunities for growth. Serving as Chief Guest, Wasi Shah, also Chairman PTDC and Adviser to the Prime Minis-

ter on Youth Affairs, was joined by top government officials, including Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki.

In his address, Wasi Shah expressed unwavering support for the youth, the Pakistani team, and the sport of football. Notable was the vibrant enthusiasm of young spectators throughout the historic match. Post-game, Wasi Shah engaged with journalists, particularly addressing the youth, drawing parallels to a cricket match in Ahmedabad where a single shot

hushed the crowd.

Highlighting the sportsmanship of Pakistani fans, especially the youth, Wasi Shah commended their collective heartbeat for the national team. He acknowledged the audience's applause for every goal by the Tajikistan team, showcasing the spirit of fair play. Despite limited resources, Wasi Shah praised the Pakistani team's progress in football, underscoring the potential for even greater achievements with adequate resources and training.

Wasi Shah urged not to forget

the substantial investments made over decades in the teams participating in today's World Cup. With the assurance of ample resources and training, he emphasized the significant talent within the sector, stating that the Pakistani team possesses the ability to excel on the international stage.

During the match, Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki also had an informal conversation with State Minister Wasi Shah and expressed the same thoughts that there is immense talent in every field in Pakistan.



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
58,198.76	57,371.58
Day's High	Day's Low
58,405.92	57,418.50
Index Value	Change
14,940,247,299	+827.18
Percentage	Time
+1.44%	22 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,469.51	-12.48
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	22 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,281.37	+193.08
Percentage	Time
+0.55%	22 Nov, 12:14 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,451.83	+97.69
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	22 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	185
Bahrain Dinar	759.01	767.01
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	40.12	40.52
Danish Krone	41.82	42.22
Euro	312.9	316
Hong Kong Dollar	36.61	36.96
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.57
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.41	935.41
Malaysian Ringgit	61.33	61.93
New Zealand \$	172.96	174.96
Norwegians Krone	26.8	27.1
Omani Riyal	741.33	749.33
Qatari Riyal	78.4	79.1
Saudi Riyal	75.95	76.7
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.31	27.61
Swiss Franc	323.13	325.63
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	77.9	78.65
UK Pound Sterling	356.5	360
US Dollar	283.65	286.5

New Pension System

KPK successfully transitioned from traditional pensions to a futuristic VPS for civil servants

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The KPK government successfully transitioned from traditional defined-benefit pensions to a futuristic Voluntary Pension System (VPS) for its civil servants. The new pension system has been launched for those employees who have joined the government service in the province on or after June 7, 2022. It is anticipated that around 33000 civil servants of KP will join the new pension system.

To celebrate the successful transition of the new pension system, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in collaboration with the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), organized a conference on KPK Pension Reforms: Leading the Way Forward in Peshawar.

The Chairman of SECP, Akif Saeed, said that the launch of a new pension system is a significant step towards efficient management of the fiscal space, which has been greatly burdened by the growing public pension bill. He emphasized the need to expand the VPS framework's scope to meet the retirement benefits needs of all the departments of the federal and provincial governments.

In his key note address, Secretary Finance KPK, Mr. Amer Sultan Tareen, praised SECP's role in the smooth implementation of pension reforms in KPK. Tareen highlighted the significant increase in provincial pension expenditure over the past two decades, reaching 132 billion in fiscal year 2023-24, from 878 million in FY 2003-04. SECP Commissioner, SCD, Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi emphasized the need for pension fund managers and trustees to modernize to meet futuristic demands.

CEO MUFAP, Mashmooma Z. Majeed, provided an explanation of the investor journey from joining to retirement and post-retirement benefits.

Prices hike

Govt should prioritize reforms over administrative actions, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the continuous increase in the price of electricity and gas is beyond the tolerance of the people and the business community.

He said that the IMF wants electricity and gas not to be subsidized, and full cost recovery must be ensured.

However, the business community believes that if the government reduces the expenses by eliminating mismanagement, incompetence and corruption in these sectors, the prices can be reduced instead of increasing.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the IMF is justified in its demand that electricity and gas should not be sold cheaper than the cost of production because, in this case, the government has to take huge loans.

He added that the people and the industrialists ask why they should pay the price for corruption, mismanagement and incompetence in electricity, gas and other sectors.

The business leader said the agreements with the IPPs should also be revised because the people are bearing their effects.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that after the overall increase in gas prices by 194%, electricity rates are also likely to be increased soon, which will benefit the power sector but will affect people and business activities and further increase poverty in



the country. The high cost of living has forced people to

continuously reduce the expenses of feeding themselves, children's education and medical treatment, which will devastate the country's economy in the long run.

He said that the current caretaker government has yet to do any substantial work in the field of reforms but has considered increasing the price of everything as the solution to all problems, equivalent to indifference to the people's problems.

The caretaker government should take difficult and unpopular reforms and administrative measures as it focuses too much on administrative actions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government's intervention had reduced the dollar's value, but it should be examined what was left behind in these measures, which is causing the dollar to rise again.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Karim Aziz Malik CEO, Barkat Rice Mills, Senior Vice President Islamabad Industrial Association, former Vice President FPCCI met with Chairman, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Mr. Zubair Motiwala.



LNG is costly

Increasing domestic output only way to address gas shortages

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that the masses and economy are suffering from a gas crisis for the last fifteen years.

He added that the only solution to the country's gas crisis is increasing local production, which is currently insignificant.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that after wasting gas for decades, now this clean fuel is less than its requirement in the country.

Importing gas from Central Asia and Iran has become very difficult. Domestic resources do not allow importing expensive LNG according to the requirement, so, the only solution to the problem is to increase local production.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the gas crisis continues throughout the year, but its severity increases in winter, which affects people and businesses as gas exploration

and production have declined. He noted that LNG could not be over-relied because rich countries pay more to buy gas, and suppliers often ignore Pakistan despite the deal. Apart from this, the price of LNG increases a lot in winter.

To solve these pressing problems, the government should encourage foreign companies to explore gas in Pakistan; formalities should be completed in time, and all the permits should be given without unnecessary delays.

He informed that gas is the third-largest energy source consumed around the world. Pakistan has less than a 1 per cent share in world gas consumption. It meets its energy demand through imported and indigenous resources. Natural gas and imported LNG contribute more than 40 per cent to the country's current energy mix.

He said that harassment of foreign investors interested in the energy sector should be stopped; otherwise, the gas crisis will continue to increase.

ICCI urges MCI to desist from making any increase in property and other taxes

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the MCI is working to make a massive hike in the property and other taxes including water, conservancy charges and waste management fees, which is not justified and urged that in the prevailing tough conditions, the MCI should desist from making any hike in property and other taxes.

He said that businessmen are not against the payment of taxes, however, any tax rationalization should be done in a gradual manner and after getting the input of stakeholders instead of putting enormous burden on them, which is totally unjustified.



Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Acting Senior Vice President and Ahmed Khan Acting Vice President ICCI said that MCI should not consider making any increase in property and other taxes till the case is decided by the court.

UPaisa offers exciting weekly cash-back prizes for 100 lucky Super Card users

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital financial platform, UPaisa has announced an exciting Lucky Draw Campaign set to award full cash back on Ufone 4G Super Cards to 100 UPaisa users every week from Nov.20th to Dec 16th, 2023. Building on the success of recent cash-back and value-added offers, the Campaign aims to elevate the UPaisa customer experience by introducing exciting rewards and further enhancing the overall value proposition.

Winners may receive notifications through their registered UPaisa contact details and may be announced on social media platforms. The full prize, equivalent to the Ufone 4G Super Card amount, will then be credited to their UPaisa accounts.

TECNO to Power 5G Innovation Hackathon in Collaboration with Jazz and NUST

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TECNO, Pakistan's premier technology brand, is joining forces with the Jazz 5G Innovation Lab and the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) to host the highly anticipated 5G Innovation Hackathon, scheduled to take place from December 8 to 10, 2023. In this strategic partnership, TECNO will serve as a sponsor, bringing its innovative expertise to the forefront of this breakthrough event.

Pakistan's first 5G Innovation Hackathon will see different teams presenting solutions addressing critical challenges in Pakistan's key sectors, including health, education, financial services, disaster management, climate change, agri-tech, and Industry 4.0, powered by the 5G technology. Under the partnership, TECNO will be providing participants with mobile phones for research and development purposes



at the event. The winners of the competition will also be presented with the TECNO's 5G devices.

TECNO's Head of Marketing, Mr. Ali Raza said, "TECNO is proud to sponsor the Jazz-NUST 5G Hackathon. Our dedication to technological development in Pakistan aligns with the objectives of this initiative. By providing a platform for innovation and education, we hope to contribute to the identification of impactful solutions and further enhance Pakistan's position in the global digital landscape."

TECNO has consistently played a crucial role in technological development in Pakistan and has been dedicated to promoting education by making such contributions.

Tetra Pak shares hope at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference and Expo 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak Pakistan, a frontrunner in sustainable food processing and packaging solutions, proudly participated in the 26th Sustainable Development Conference and Expo, held from November 19th to 20th in Islamabad. The annual flagship event, hosted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), brought together thought leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to address pressing issues and pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient South Asia.

The company's sustainability aspirations and achievements took center stage in the closing Plenary of the Sustainability Expo, reaching a wider audience eager to embrace sustainable prac-



tices. Furthermore, Tetra Pak Pakistan's Sustainability Manager, Muhammad Bin Shahzad, participated in a Fireside Chat session titled "Sustainable Consumption, Production, and Green Jobs," shedding light on Tetra Pak's pivotal role in advancing sustainability in the country.

JS Investments leads collaboration with sect, MUFAP, and KP gov't for KP pension reforms conference

PESHAWAR: JS Investments, collaborates with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), and the KP Government, for the conference on KP Pension Reforms - Leading the Way Forward.

The primary objective of the conference is to enhance awareness about the KP Pension Fund among government employees JS KP Islamic Pension Fund is designed to provide Shariah-Compliant retirement benefits to government employees of KP enrolled after June 2022.

The fund, managed by JS investments, Pakistan's oldest private sector asset management company with a proven track record,



and an added benefit off free Life Takaful Coverage of up to Rs. 50 lakhs for its investors. Ms. Iffat Mankani, CEO of JS investments, commented on the collaboration stating, "This is a great initiative that will help build awareness regarding the KP Government Pension Reforms and address any questions amongst government representatives."

Pakistan tour of Netherlands postponed over PCB's request

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket team's tour to the Netherlands for a three-match T20I series has been postponed at the request of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) citing scheduling issues, reported by Cricbuzz.

According to the report, PCB approached the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) and requested to reschedule the series, which was initially scheduled for May 2024. This decision aims to alleviate the strain on a congested cricket calendar.

Pakistan and Netherlands' cricket boards are working on finding alternative options to reschedule the T20I series at a more suitable time.

Roland Lefebvre, the High-Perfor-



mance Manager at KNCB has expressed his frustration over the postponement of the series, however, he also remained positive about finding a suitable time to play the series.

"We're obviously disappointed but of course, we understand the situation, and remain optimistic a new window will be found to play the series either at home or away," KNCB High-Performance Manager Roland Lefebvre said.

Pakistan's three-match series against the Netherlands was scheduled for early May 2024, before Pakistan's tour of Ireland and England.

But Pakistan is scheduled to play a five-match T20I series against New Zealand in April, making the schedule tighter with a little room left for the Netherlands tour.

Adam Azim claims European light-welterweight title

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: British boxer of Pakistan-origin Adam Azim has become the new European light-welterweight champion after overpowering Franck Petitjean of France in round ten of their fight in Wolverhampton. The 21-year-old rising star,

who has his family roots in Kotli AJK produced an emphatic performance, dropping the defending champion in the fifth with a body shot.

Petitjean, 35, beat the count but his corner threw in the towel in the tenth after he went for a second time, BBC reported.

Azim improved his record to 10 wins and seven stoppages. He hopes to emulate his idol Amir Khan by becoming a world champion by the age of 22. He will turn 22 next July. "I'm feeling amazing," he said. "I want to thank my team and the main man Shane McGuigan for getting me to this point."

"He [Petitjean] was really tough, I knew I couldn't stop him in the early rounds, this was a development fight for me. I had to chop the tree down and I did that."

"I could have gone another 15 rounds then."

Punjab Sports Department established institute of Sports Science to train coaches, players according to int'l standards

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Taking a revolutionary initiative, Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab has established Punjab Institute of Sports Science for the international standard training of coaches and players of the province.

Deputy Director Chand Parveen will be the Principal, M Hafeez Bhatti chief instructor while Shaista Qaiser and Sajid Ali will be the instructors in Punjab Institute of Sports Science.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on Wednesday said that coaches and players of all games will be trained under this programme according to the international rules.

He said that Punjab Institute of Sports Science will play an important role for the development of sports culture across the province. "International Master Trainers will also be invited for imparting world class training to our coaches and players," he elaborated.

Shaw's return to training boosts injury-hit Man United

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Manchester United defender Luke Shaw has returned to training after being sidelined for three months with a muscle injury, the club said on Wednesday.



The England left back suffered the injury in August after appearing in United's first two Premier League games of the season.

Erik ten Hag's team have several injury concerns ahead of Sunday's league game at Everton. Christian Eriksen (knee) and Rasmus Hojlund (thigh) withdrew from the Denmark squad last week and goalkeeper Andre Onana was hurt playing for Cameroon.

Virat Kohli closes gap with top-ranked Gill in ICC ODI Batting Rankings

DUBAI: Star Indian batter Virat Kohli claimed the third position and is now in striking distance from top-ranked fellow Indian batter Shubman Gill and second-ranked Pakistani batter Babar Azam in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI Batting Rankings.

Virat Kohli jumped one place to third, earning the reward for his record-breaking performance during the ICC World Cup 2023.

He scored 765 runs during the mega-event, setting the record for most runs in a single edition of the World Cup, a record previously held by Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli scored three centuries during the ICC World Cup 2023 and became the first batter to score 50 centuries in ODI cricket, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's 49 centuries.

The third-ranked Virat Kohli has closed the gap with top-ranked Shubman Gill to only 35 rating points with 791 rating points, while Gill has 826 rating points, holding on to a close lead over Babar Azam who has 824 rating points.

The top three batters in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings are followed by Indian captain Rohit Sharma, who also jumped one place to fourth with 769 ratings, owing to his scintillating during the ICC World Cup 2023.

Union Club OK Estate and Builders Tennis Championship concluded

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Union Club OK Estate and Builders Tennis Championship concluded at Union Club today Shehzad Kazmi, Secretary Union Club was the chief Guest who gave away the Trophies to the winners and Runners up of various events.

Mr. Shakil Aslam Vice president KTA, Ahmed Ali Rajpoot, Ghulam Muhammad, Ghulam Yaseen, Fahim Ursani, Asif Zaheer, Muhammad Saeed, Abdul Hameed, Qazi Ayazuddin, Zohra Qureshi, Humaira Qazi, Raisa Ashfaq, Naseem Bukhari, Perween Akhter, Ishrat Zehra, Muhammad Shafiq, Shagufta Samadani, Hussain Ali, Sabira Hussain. We're Also present

Mr. Kazmi offered the



venue of Union Club always available for healthy sports activities.

Muhammad Khalid Rehmani

President Karachi Tennis Association thanked Sponsor OK Estate and Builders and Syed Mashkoor Ali for sponsoring this tournament. he also thanked Union Club

for their support.

He informed the select gathering that Sindh Tennis Association has planned to hold another tournament at Hyderabad to give practice for the forthcoming Sindh Games and will establish a new Tennis court in Tharparker soon.

Ghulam Muhammad.

Shakil Aslam and Visually impaired Sabira Hussain also Speak at the closing ceremony

Final Results:
Men's Singles Final
Ahsan Ahmed beat Muhammad Ali 9-7
Men's Doubles Final
Eibad Sarwar + Ahsan Ahmed beat Mustafa Burney + Ahsan Siddiq 8-5
Under 17 Singles Final
Ahsan Ahmed beat Ismail Aftab 6-3- 6-2
Under 13 Singles Final
Ismail Aftab beat Laraib Shamsi 4-0.4-0
Wheelchair Men's Singles
Fida Hussain beat Muhammad Ayub 2-0 Rtd
Special Boys Singles Final
Shakir Ali beat Abdul Wahid
Special girls Singles Final
Shamaila Rubab beat Saadia Junaid.

David Warner reacts to Mohammad Kaif's 'best team on paper' comment



A Sports

LAHORE: Australian opening batter David Warner has responded to former Indian batter Mohammad Kaif over the latter's statement about India being the 'best team on paper' despite the loss in the ICC World Cup 2023 final.

Indian team gave a dominant performance in the ICC World Cup 2023, remaining undefeated in ten games before the final, where they lost to Australia, who won their sixth World Cup title.

Mohammad Kaif, while talking to an Indian channel after the match claimed that "India is the best team on paper".

"I can never accept that the best team has won the World Cup. The Indian Team is the best team on the paper," said Kaif.

"The way Rohit Sharma's team has played, my chest swells with pride, it was just a bad day, it happens in the game," he further added.

His statement garnered several reactions from the cricket fraternity, including Australian broadcaster Glenn Mitchell, who took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) and reminded Mohammad Kaif that "World Cup finals are won on the cricket field and not on paper".

David Warner also joined the fray and quoted Mitchell's post with his own response stating that it does not matter which team is better on paper.

"I like MK [Mohammad Kaif], issue is it does not matter what's on paper. At the end of the day you need to perform when it matters. That's why they call it a final. That's the day that counts and it can go either way, that's sports. 2027 here we come," posted Warner.

Moreover, Warner ended the post with '2027 here we come,' warning other teams that Australia are eyeing another World Cup win four years down the line.

David Warner was the highest run-scorer for Australia and the fifth-highest run-scorer during the ICC World Cup 2023 with 535 runs at an average of 48.63 with two centuries.

India series puts dampener on Australia's World Cup celebrations

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Australia won their sixth World Cup title after defeating India, however, they have been denied a full-scale heroes' welcome home as they are scheduled to face the same team in a T20I series, a mere four days after meeting in the ICC World Cup 2023 final.

The stunning six-wicket victory on Sunday, against previously unbeaten India in front of nearly 100,000 partisan fans in Ahmedabad, saw Australia extend their World Cup tally to six – the most by any team.

But celebrations had to be scaled back by the demands of the international cricket calendar.

Seven members of the triumphant ODI squad will remain in India for the five-match T20 series including Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith and Travis Head, who scored a century in the final.

That meant a low-key return for the rest of the one-day squad as they flew



home in dribs and drabs, with smiling skipper Pat Cummins among those landing in Australia on Wednesday.

It was a far cry from some of the raucous ticker-tape parades enjoyed by victorious Australian cricket teams of yesteryear.

"We've all split off our own different ways, there's T20s coming up, some guys are on aeroplanes at the moment getting home as well," wicketkeeper-batsman Alex Carey told reporters on arrival home in Adelaide.

He added: "It's probably pretty odd scheduling now that you look at it, to win a

World Cup and a few days later you're playing again."

India have named an almost completely different squad for the series, which starts in Visakhapatnam and then goes to four different venues, concluding in Bengaluru on December 3.

Suryakumar Yadav will captain for the first time, in the absence of Rohit Sharma, and is one of only three players retained from India's World Cup squad.

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan was much less diplomatic than Carey about the prospect of India and Australia meeting again

so soon.

After Australia's veteran opener David Warner withdrew from the series on Tuesday, Vaughan wrote on social media: "As all the players who won the World Cup should."

"They should have been pulled out to allow them time to recover but importantly get back to Oz to enjoy the celebrations."

Vaughan, who is now a high-profile pundit, was even more forthright last week, calling the series "complete greed and overkill".

"Why can't we allow players the chance to have a moment's rest after a WC or whoever wins the chance to celebrate properly for a couple of weeks," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The ICC World Cup 2023 trophy has remained in India and will not be reunited with captain Cummins – who has this year also guided Australia to win the World Test Championship and retain the Ashes – until next week, The Age newspaper said.

Argentina defeat Brazil 1-0 in FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0 on Tuesday in an ill-tempered FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers clash marred by pre-match crowd trouble that forced kick-off to be delayed.

A 63rd-minute header from veteran defender Nicolas Otamendi secured victory for Argentina as the world champions bounced back from last week's defeat to Uruguay to beat their bitter South American rivals.

The win at Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium leaves Argentina on top of the South American qualifying standings with 15 points from six games.

Brazil's third defeat of qualifying, meanwhile, leaves the five-time world champions in sixth place with seven points from six games.

Temperatures flared in the

stands at the Maracana moments before kick-off, with Brazilian police seen using batons to drive back a block of Argentine fans at one end of the ground.

Several Argentine players went towards the disturbances in an apparent attempt to plead for calm, with goalkeeper Emi Martinez attempting to jump into the seating area at one stage to confront a baton-wielding Brazilian police officer.

Argentina's players led by Lionel Messi then returned to their dressing room as the clashes continued, with Messi appearing to say: "We're not playing, we're leaving."

The 2022 World Cup winners re-emerged onto the field shortly before 10 pm local time and the match kicked off shortly afterwards, roughly 30 minutes later than the scheduled start time.

The febrile pre-match atmosphere spilt onto the field when

play finally got underway, with Brazil's Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus being given a yellow card after just five minutes after clashing with Argentina's Rodrigo De Paul.

The tense nature of the contest continued throughout a poor first half, with neither side creating much in the way of goalscoring opportunities in a game littered with niggly fouls.

Brazil winger Raphinha was booked in the 14th minute for flinging an arm into the face of De Paul and was lucky not to receive a second yellow five minutes later after catching Alexis MacAllister with a wild studs-up challenge.

Brazil meanwhile failed to register a single shot – either on or off target – until a 38th-minute free-kick from Raphinha deflected wide for a corner.

The only shot on goal from either side in the entire first half came on 44 minutes when

Brazil's Gabriel Martinelli lashed a muffed clearance from Argentina goalkeeper Martinez back towards goal.

Martinelli's shot was heading for the net but Argentina breathed a sigh of relief after defender Cristian Romero blocked the effort on the line.

Brazil started the second half more positively, with Raphinha having a shot blocked at the near post by Martinez after 54 minutes.

Martinez then rescued Argentina again, parrying Martinelli's goal-bound shot after a good run by Gabriel.

But Brazil were rocked after Argentina took the lead on 63 minutes with their first attempt on target of the match.

Giovani Lo Celso swung in an inviting corner from the left and the 35-year-old Otamendi soared above Brazil midfielder Andre to head home for 1-0.



A miserable night for Brazil got worse in the 82nd minute when substitute Joelinton – who had only been on the field for 12 minutes – was sent off for an off-the-ball clash with De Paul.

Workers convention

CHITRAL: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the workers convention.



Photo: APP

Workers convention

People's rule will be established after winning Feb 8 elections: Bilawal

Saif ur Rehman

CHITRAL: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari stated on Wednesday that a people's rule would be established after winning the Feb 8 general elections.

Addressing a public rally in Chitral, Bilawal declared that upon forming the next government, he would prioritise the implementation of the 18th amendment.

Bilawal criticised leaders of opposition parties, asserting that they had disappointed the people, and the masses of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were now looking up to the PPP for the resolution of their problems.

The PPP chairman argued that veteran leaders of opposition parties had failed to address the masses' problems during their tenures as prime ministers, and he suggested that they should now retire, allowing young leadership to tackle the country's problems.

Bilawal urged these older politicians to step aside, stating that it was the youth's demand to rid themselves of the old guard. He distanced himself from this demand, saying, "This demand isn't mine, but that of the country's youth."

While expressing his respect for the elderly, Bilawal reiterated that he was conveying the demand of the youth of Pakistan.

Bilawal asserted that the people of KP would reject all political parties that failed to deliver despite being in power for nearly 10 years in the province.

The PPP chief highlighted the negative impact of a Punjab-based political party that, in his view, led the country into a price hike affecting the lives of the common man.

He stated that the country suffered due to the politics of confrontation and hate-based politics by two opposition parties that deceived the masses in the name of so-called change and respect for votes.

Solangi, Kazakhstan envoy discuss strengthening of bilateral relations in diverse sectors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that Pakistan valued its relations with Kazakhstan and was working on strengthening them in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin important issues including bilateral relations, strengthening cooperation in the media sector, promoting public relations and regional situation were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi and the ambassador agreed to establish offices of state media organizations of both countries



in Pakistan and Kazakhstan. "There is a need to promote public relations and exchange of cultural delegations between the two countries," he said and stressed for further promoting the cooperation between state media institutions of two countries.

He said that the PTV and Radio Pakistan were the main source of access to information

on both sides.

The issue of signing a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan was also discussed in the meeting.

In this regard, it was also agreed to hold a Zoom meet-

ing between the Information Ministers of Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

A memorandum of understanding for media cooperation was signed between Associated Press of Pakistan and Kazakh Information Agency in 2018, Murtaza Solangi said. A team from Lahore was leaving for Kazakhstan for film shooting, which was an important step towards promoting cultural relations between the two countries, he said.

Pakistan, he added, was a key member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization and next meeting of the SCO was being held in Kazakhstan.

Terming SCO a dynamic platform for building rela-

tions with regional countries, Murtaza Solangi said

Pakistan maintained deep, historical and cultural ties with members of the SCO as "Our interests and objectives are broadly intertwined."

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan invited the minister to visit Kazakhstan to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan. He said that the President of Kazakhstan profoundly loved Pakistan and the people of Pakistan.

The Ambassador said the President of Kazakhstan will visit Pakistan next year.

This visit of the President

US has no favourite in Pakistan for political office: Miller

News Desk

USA: United States (US) does not favour anyone for political office in Pakistan, said Mathew Miller, the spokesman for the US State Department said Tuesday.

"We do not take a position - a position on candidates for political office in Pakistan or any other country," he said while addressing a press briefing in Washington.

Miller confirmed millions of dollars in aid for the security forces in Balochistan. He detailed recent reports of aid packages for security forces in Balochistan so they could 'serve' their community.

"We're going to provide

\$4 million in assistance to expand the anti-terrorist force training facility - \$2 million to repair or replace 10 flood-damaged police stations; 2 million to construct 10 new police stations that incorporate the same model to improve service to women, girls, and all Pakistanis; and an additional \$250,000 in equipment to protect law enforcement officers in the course of conducting their work," Miller said.

Commenting on the Afghan refugee issues, Miller said that the US government was in constant touch with Pakistan over the matter of return of Afghan refugees.

Pakistani technologies shine at China International High-Tech Fair in Shenzhen

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan set up a national pavilion and showcased the nation's latest technologies and products at the 25th China International High-Tech Fair (CHTF) in Shenzhen, China. The fair attracted participants from over 105 countries and regions and featured the participation of 4,925 companies.

"This is a fantastic exhibition that helps us understand the overall market in China, and our aim is to foster more collaboration with China. I have come across many innovative ideas and high-tech compa-



nies and products from around the world," said Muhammad Shirjeel Jamal, an exhibitor from Pakistan.

He further mentioned that they brought innovative ideas and solutions related to VR, software services, and digital media markets. "We have a total of four products, includ-

ing a comprehensive restaurant management system that provides operational solutions for the restaurant industry. Additionally, we offer customer relationship service systems and UCN systems that facilitate communication between companies and clients," he added.

Afghan govt not issuing visas to Pak journalists: Bugti

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Wednesday said that the Afghan government was not ready to issue visas to Pakistani journalists to visit its soil. Contrarily at the same time, it was demanding from Pakistan not to send back illegally Afghan nationals residing in the country, he wrote in a post in Urdu language on the social media platform X.



Pakistan plans to transform optical fiber cable network into global digital gateway

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Wednesday said that the government had finalized a plan to transform Pakistan's optical fiber cable network into a global digital gateway.

The implementation of the proposed project would benefit Pakistan by millions of dollars, he disclosed while speaking in a high-level meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives of key organizations, including the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA),

Special Communication Organization, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL), TransWorld, and CyberNet. He said that all the necessary resources and facilities had been provided for the digital gateway initiative.

Dr Saif said that the existing optical fiber cable infrastructure, existing from Karachi to Gwadar, could be connected to global marine cables. It would facilitate digital access to regions spanning the Middle East, Central Asia, China, and Europe at competitive rates, he added.

The minister said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council platform would

also be helpful in the project. He informed about the ongoing discussions with global entities such as Google and Meta, indicating that soon Pakistanis would hear about positive developments regarding global network connectivity, the state news agency reported.

At present, Pakistan has nearly 180,000 kilometres of fiber optic cable and 6,000 mobile towers. With ongoing projects aiming to increase the installation of optical fiber cables to 300,000 kilometres and 20,000 mobile towers, the expansion is poised to enhance connectivity, providing consumers with improved Internet services.

Meddling in state affairs: Sheikh Rashid appears in Murree court

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed appeared before a civil court of Murree on Wednesday in connection with meddling in state affairs case.

Sheikh Rashid was accompanied by his lawyers Sardar Shehbaz Khan and Raja Majid Noor when he appeared in court of Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Zeeshan.

The Murree police submitted challan of the case in the court after which the court allowed Rashid to mark his attendance and go. The court asked Rashid's lawyers to advance their arguments in the case on next date of hearing.

The case against AML head had been registered in February this year. The case was registered in Murree for meddling in state affairs.

Interior Minister chairs meeting on ECL

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet sub-committee on Exit Control List (ECL) in the Ministry of Interior here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar and other officials of the Ministry of Interior and other institutions to review various cases related to ECL.

The sub-committee recommended the inclusion of 41 names in the ECL to be sent by various departments and agencies. On the recommendation of NAB, 29 people, including Imran Khan, are recommended to be placed on ECL in the 190-million-pound scam. Thirteen different types



of cases were also recommended to be removed from the ECL list. On the instructions of the judiciary, the names of 7 persons were recommended to be removed from the ECL. Out of the appeals submitted for revision, the names of 3 persons were recommended to be removed from the ECL. The recommendations of the sub-committee will be sent to the supervising federal cabinet for final approval.

ANF moves SC against Hanif Abbasi's acquittal in ephedrine case

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has lodged an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) against the acquittal of PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in the ephedrine case.

The petition challenged the decision of the Lahore High Court (LHC), which had cleared Abbasi of charges on Oct 18.

The trial court had previously sentenced him to a life imprisonment. The ANF seeks reexamination of the case, extending the legal proceedings for another fourteen days. The ephedrine case continues to be a focal point in the legal battle, highlighting the complexities of drug related prosecutions.

IHC reserves ruling on Shireen Mazari's plea to remove name from PCL

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court on Wednesday reserved its judgement on former federal minister Shireen Mazari's plea to remove her name from passport control list (PCL).

Islamabad High Court Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the petition filed by Mazari seeking removal of her name from the PCL. Additional attorney general and deputy attorney general appeared in the court on behalf of federal government whereas advocate Tahir Kazim represented the police department.

The court asked there were so many people in Islamabad against whom criminal proceedings were underway, so why Mazari's name was placed on PCL. Council for the police said there were seven cases registered against former minister. "People who have no money to have meal, do not travel abroad.