



'Pakistan to get \$1.5b quick financial assistance after IMF board approval'

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shamshad Akhtar said that Pakistan would get quick disbursement of financial assistance from various multilateral institutions once the first review of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) is approved by the IMF Executive Board next month. (Details on Page 8)



Spreading tentacles of Indian Global Terrorist Network to US, Canada alarming: Mushaal

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Husain Mullick expressed alarm over the fast spreading tentacles of Indian Global Terrorist Network after the US thwarted plot to kill Sikh separatist on American soil, saying that the Indian genocide mongers and death squads became a threat to the world peace. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Presided

Rawalpindi: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff presided over the 82nd Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ.



Photo: ISPR

82nd Formation Commanders Conference

Terrorists, facilitators to be dealt with full might of the state: COAS Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), presided over the 82nd Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army, ISPR.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of martyrs including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Pakistani citizens.

The participants were briefed on professional matters, national security challenges and measures being undertaken to counter traditional and non-traditional security threats, a press issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) read.

The forum took holistic view of the ongoing counter-terrorism (CT) operations and resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan will be dealt with the full might of the state.

COAS General Asim Munir expressed satisfaction over operational preparedness and high standards of training and morale maintained by formations to deal with the emerging threat paradigm.

The forum expressed unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support to the people of Palestine and reiterated Pakistan's principled stance supporting the two-state solution, based on pre-1967 borders with Al Quds Al Sharif as the capital of Palestine.

The participants also expressed concerns over the continued repression of Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and condemned the unabated human rights violations by Indian forces.

Forum reaffirmed that Pakistan shall continue to support Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally. Participants stressed that the only solution to the issue lies in providing the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir according to relevant UNSC resolution.

The forum resolved to fully support the government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable recovery of the economy and curbing illegal activities including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, implementation of the One Docu-

ment Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners and safeguarding of national database etc.

The forum noted that despite challenges, recent months have witnessed an increasing sense of stability, certainty and optimism across Pakistan and resolved that vested efforts towards engineering of despondency will be defeated through perseverance and continued positive actions, with the support of the people of Pakistan, InshaAllah.

The participants affirmed that the Pakistan Army will continue defending and serving the nation in every possible way; in our journey towards enduring stability and security. The forum urged the proud people of Pakistan to stay determined and united.

Pakistan firmly supports two-state solution of Palestine issue: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan firmly supported a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestine issue, based on the two-state solution. The president expressed these views while talking to Imam Khatib at Masjid Al-Haram and Advisor to Saudi Royal Courts of Saudi Arabia, Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, also attended the meeting. He said that the world must realize the pain of the Palestinian people and play its role in ending the Israeli



atrocities in Gaza that had killed thousands of innocent people, including women and children. The meeting exchanged views on the situation in Gaza, Islamophobia, and other challenges being faced by the Islamic World. Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid said that the Muslim World had adopted a unanimous stance on the Palestine issue that the Palestinians should be given their due rights based on the two-state solution. He remarked that joint efforts by the Muslim World were needed to end the ongoing violence and atrocities in Palestine and extend humanitarian and diplomatic support. President Alvi appreciated the role played by Saudi Arabia for important Muslim causes.

ECP orders PTI to hold intra-party elections within 20 days

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has ordered the PTI to hold intra-party elections within 20 days.

However, bat will remain election symbol of the party, the ECP said in its decision on the PTI's intra-party election that was reserved on September 13. The election commission had taken notice of the PTI's intra-party elections. The PTI had submitted details of its party elections on June 08 last year. "The PTI has failed to hold transparent intra-party elections," the electoral body said its verdict.

An ECP panel headed by commission's member Nisar Durrani, announced the decision. The Election Commission had served a notice to the party's internal restructuring and intra-party elections.

PM stresses media role to highlight outcomes of drive against smuggling, power theft



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the media to play its role to create public awareness on the outcomes of the government's initiatives like the drive against smuggling and power theft and its benefits for the common man. The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, also emphasized the media to highlight the importance of the strategy for economic stability formulated under the Special Investment Facilita-

tion Council. He said that the media had a key role to play for good governance and creating awareness among the masses. Calling media the fourth pillar of the state, the prime minister said the media's contribution for society's progress and intellectual development of the people was of critical importance. He also assured the delegation of government's support for the resolution of the issues confronting the newspaper industry. He instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure the payment of advertisement dues payable

Gaza 'most dangerous place in the world to be a child'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Gaza Strip is the "most dangerous place in the world to be a child," the head of the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said on Wednesday.

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell told the U. N. Security Council that more than 5,300 Palestinian children had reportedly been killed since Oct. 7 - when Palestinian militants of Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking hostages, most of them civilians.



Israel has focused its retaliation against Hamas in Gaza, a territory of 2.3 million people.

"The true cost of this latest war in Palestine and Israel will be measured in children's lives - those lost to the violence and those forever changed by it. Without an end to the fight-

ing and full humanitarian access, the cost will continue to grow exponentially," Russell, who last week visited Gaza, said at a council briefing on women and children there.

Israel has bombarded Gaza from the air, imposed a siege and invaded with soldiers and tanks.

"The Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child," Russell said. "In Gaza, the effects of the violence perpetrated on children have been catastrophic, indiscriminate and disproportionate."

Israel agreed on Wednesday to a ceasefire with Hamas for four days to let in humanitarian aid and free at least 50 hostages held by militants in exchange for at least 150 Palestinians jailed in Israel.

"Women in Gaza have told us that they pray for peace, but that if peace does not come, they pray for a quick death, in their sleep, with their children in their arms. It should shame us all that any mother, anywhere, has such a prayer," U. N. Women Executive Director Sima Bahous told the 15-member council.

Jammu and Kashmir's new minister takes oath

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath of office to the newly elected Minister Ms. Kausar Taqdees Gilani and Ms. Imtiaz Naseem here today. The swearing-in ceremony held at Kashmir House Islamabad was attended by Prime Minister Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary and others.

Justice Minallah's note in election date verdict issued

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued a 41-page note of Justice Athar Minallah in the judgment about the date of general elections. Justice Athar Minallah, in his note, said that the National Assembly was dissolved on August 09, 2023 and general elections were to be held within ninety days i.e., not later than November 07, 2023.

"It was not disputed by the Attorney General that, under Article 48(5) of the Constitution, the duty to 'appoint' a date was imposed upon the President while the announcement was to be made by the Commission as required under section 57(1) of the Act of 2017. We had also made it absolutely clear that it was not the function of this Court to appoint a date nor was it conferred with any power or jurisdiction to do so."



Justice Minallah said that the court had asked the Attorney General to inform the President and the Commission that the violation of the Constitution had taken place in the case of Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa while the infringement had become imminent to the extent of holding general elections to the National Assembly and the two provincial assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan.

"The duty to ensure that the people of Pakistan are not deprived of their right to vote and they do not remain unrepre-

sented for more than a ninety day period was that of the President, the governors and the Commission."

The note said that the date of February 08, 2024 was appointed by the President and announced by the Commission without prejudice to and notwithstanding the consequences that they may have exposed themselves to on account of the violations of the Constitution and denial of rights to the people of Pakistan.

"The violation of Article 224(2) and the resultant denial of the rights to the people of Pakistan is so grave and profound that it cannot be cured, condoned nor the acts are 9 immune from being held to account," it added.

"The 125,626,390 registered voters are victims and the responsible authorities i.e the President, governors and the Commission are accountable to them for causing injury and loss."

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Lawyers Community have made countless sacrifices for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan: Naheed Khan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's Political Secretary and Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party Workers Mrs. Naheed Khan and General Secretary of Grand Democratic Alliance Senator Safdar Abbasi met with the President of High Court Bar Association Multan Rana Asif Saeed and other members of High Court Bar Association Multan. Talking to the Bar officials and lawyers at their office, he said that the roles and sacrifices of lawyers and lawyers are more important than political parties in the restoration of democracy and the end of dictatorship in Pakistan,



which cannot be denied by lawyers and lawyers. Only they can put Paki-

stan on the right direction of development and they should play their role in politics.

President of High Court Bar Association Multan Rana Asif Saeed said that the lawyers of Pakistan and especially Multan Bars have their own status and historical place. We are ready to make sacrifices for Pakistan.

Member of Punjab Bar Council Dawood Vance, Vice President Rabia Manal, Farzana Kausar Rana, Ibrahim Khosa, Asad Ali Haraj, Rana Ameer, Sajid Tagha, Ashraf Sindhu, Chaudhry Muhammad Saeed, Chaudhry Khushi Muhammad, Yasir Hameed Bhatti Malik Bilal Vance, Farast Ali Chawan also participated

Farewell

News Desk

LAHORE: A farewell party was organized in the honour of Adil Aamir, head of HRD Urban Developer on this occasion MD Urban Developer Usman Anwar appreciated the services of Adil Aamir and presented him bouquet a large number of dignitaries were present which included M Umar Farooq, Vh. M. Sarwar, Nasir Majeed, M. Shahid Amir, Col. M. Shahid Alam, Umar Qureshi, M. Waqas, Abdul Mansion, Amanat Ali, Kanwal Saqlain, M. Yousaf, Hasham Ali, M. Qasim, M. Kaleem, M. Qasim, M. Meharban, Akhtar Mehmood, Touseef Zafar, Umar Farooq. At the end Adil Aamir thanked all the guests and MD Urban Developers Usman Anwar to host the party in his honour.

Transgender Community does not have so many opportunities in terms of health



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Wasaib Sanwaro Transgender CBO and Multan Rising Stars Love Club organized a free sugar camp, the main objective of which was to educate the transgender community about diabetes and conduct transgender-free diabetes tests, addressing the function. Project Manager Muhammad Ilyas Malik and Drop-in Center Coordinator Miss Nosheen Afzal said that the transgender community does not have so many opportunities in terms of health because it is considered a very backward community. It is not possible but we can definitely control it, so we should keep getting our tests done from time to time.

In order to get a timely diagnosis, more than 42 million people worldwide are suffering from this disease. On this occasion, Dr. Waqas also addressed the transgender and said that diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot use sugar, so the blood The level of sugar increases, which damages other organs of the body. On this occasion, Dr. Usman Farid said that many other diseases can be caused due to diabetes, including blindness, heart diseases, kidney diseases and others. Diseases are included, on this occasion, Miss Larib, Miss Hania, Miss Anchal, Miss Sunina and Miss Babli also expressed their views and Murid Khawaja Sarane participated in the ceremony.

Shahri organization holds workshop on climate change to help address its impacts



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Shahri organization organized a workshop on climate change, its impacts and solutions in collaboration with Federic Noman Foundation. Sarwar Khalid, a representative of the shahri organization, said in the inaugural address that there is a need to focus on increasing education and awareness about climate change and changing one's lifestyle to effectively deal with its effects. Social leader Boota Imtiaz said that there is a need to create awareness among the people on the environment and other issues related to it. Chairman Union Council Abid Qureshi said that in order to avoid climate change and save everyone, we should do our part. Avoid the harmful effects of climate change. Social leader Abdul Majeed Mallah said that over the past few years, extreme weather conditions have become the norm in Pakistan. Extreme heat waves, droughts and floods have become common every year affecting food and water security. Advocate Suba Bhatti said that farmers should be given necessary training and awareness regarding climate change. He said that the farmers are directly affected by the effects of climate change. Father Shamon said that we have to change our lifestyle keeping in mind the climate change, UC Vice-Chairman Nasir Parvez, Ms. Ghafrana Arain, journalist Qayoom sarohi, Rana Pradeep and Junaid Ahmed Dhari also spoke in the workshop.

RPO Dera issued orders to solve problems of Tank police in Darbar

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Police Darbar was held on Thursday by RPO Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood satti to solve the problems of Tank police.

On this occasion District Police Officer Tank Iftikhar Shah, SP Investigation Nasir Khan and officers of all ranks of various units of Tank Police and police personnel participated in large numbers in the police Darbar.

Addressing the participants of the Darbar, RPO Dera Nasir Mehmood Satti said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Force is fighting against terrorism and bringing the terrorists to justice by crushing their evil ambitions.

He said, I pay tribute to the Tank Police especially the way they are fighting bravely.

Police duty is actually worship, the best police officer is he who, living on the truth and truth, should do justice to the oppressed without any recommendation and bring the oppressor to his original place.

He said, We have worn the police uniform for the protection of life and property of the people and law and order, for which they will not hesitate to make any sacrifice.

On this occasion, he urged the participants of the Darbar to create facilities for the pilgrims coming to the police stations and play your role in changing the culture of the traditional police station by showing good manners with them.

Rule of law and justice, corruption free police and welfare of the force are my top priorities.

All resources will be utilized for the welfare of the police force, and under the systematic system of development prevailing in the force, every police officer and jawan will be provided equal opportunities for development.

Street Vendor

ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is selling roasted corns on his hand cart along the road side at Sector F-6 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Aga Khan University Hospital Honours World Children's Day with Heartwarming Celebrations

City Desk

KARACHI:- The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of its youngest patients with a series of heartwarming and engaging activities in celebration of World Children's Day.

The Children's Day journey commenced on 20th November 2023, marked by a momentous walk and a vibrant art exhibition at the AKU Sports Centre. Attended by Hospital leadership, faculty and staff, and students from various schools across Karachi, this event set the tone for a celebration focused on joy, learning, and health for children.



The festivities continued the next day in the Paediatric wards and clinics. The children's ward at AKUH buzzed with excitement as the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health representatives and patients gathered for a special cake cutting ceremony, led by Dr Fyezah Jehan, Chair, and Dr Ali Faisal Saleem, Vice Chair. "World Children's Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the resilience and spirit of these young souls and to reaffirm our commitment as a society to ensure the wellbeing, safety and healthy upbringing. We are delighted by

the enthusiastic participation of these young champions; their vibrant energy profoundly enriched this celebration. Thank you for making this World Children's Day memorable and full of creativity" said Dr Farhat Abbas CEO, Aga Khan University Hospital.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, brushes and face paints were brought out as residents and nursing staff adorned children's faces with colourful designs. The magic show, a crowd favourite, added an extra layer of enchantment to the day's festivities, mesmerizing the young audience with tricks, illusions, and interactive performances.

BankIslami partners with The Pakistan Freelancers' Association to Empower Freelancers Nationwide

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: BankIslami Pakistan Limited proudly announces the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Pakistan Freelancers' Association (PAFLA), marking a significant milestone in facilitating the burgeoning freelance community in Pakistan.

This collaboration aims to revolutionize financial services for freelancers, offering a dedicated Freelance Account Opening service. BankIslami takes the lead as the first financial institution to introduce a Foreign Currency (FCY) debit card designed specifically for individual freelancers and software houses against their specialized exporting foreign currency retention account.

World should play role in stopping massacre of innocent Palestinians: Imam Kaaba

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Imam Kaaba, H. E. Professor Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Thursday, said that the killing of human life is forbidden, Muslims are being massacred in the name of human rights in Gaza, the international community should respect the sanctity of human lives and they must act to stop the crimes in Gaza.

He expressed these views during a special address at the international conference on the topic of "Protection of Human Life in Shariah and Law" held at the Faisal Masjid Campus of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

Imam e Haram said that the massacre of innocent people in Gaza is the darkest period in human history. He said that he prays for the end of the



cruelty of the Muslims of Palestine. Imam e Kaaba said that special attention was paid to the sanctity of human life in Islam. He added that in Islamic Shari'ah and law, human life has special importance without distinction of belief.

Speaking on this occasion, interim Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi said that the whole of Pakistan is grateful to Imam Kaaba for his visit. He said that the youth have the ability to change the destiny of the Muslim Ummah.

We're deeply grateful for Khadam-e-Harameen Sharifeen and the government of Saudi Arabia for their invaluable support for us., Dr. Samina Malik, Rector of the International Islamic University. Thanking Imam e Kaaba for gracing the conference, she also shared prominent features of the International Islamic University. She also appreciated the efforts of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and his team for bringing transformative changes in the University.

Speaking on this occasion, IIUI President H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi said that today is a blessed day that Imam Kaaba has come to participate in the conference on our invitation. He said that I thank the custodians of Al-Haramain Al-Sharifeen for their continued cooperation with the university.



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Fire Services Rawalpindi/
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Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

HOSPITALS

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

Charity

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center concludes Winter Relief Distribution

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In response to the pressing needs of communities affected by the floods caused by unprecedented monsoon rains, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has undertaken a vital initiative to provide winter relief to individuals in the coldest regions of Pakistan who have been adversely impacted.

KSrelief has significantly intensified its relief efforts in Pakistan, 19000 winter relief packages has been distributed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan in collaboration with NDMA, PDMA, RR&SD, UN agencies. The objective is to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the floods and extend assistance to deserving individuals in dire need.

11,000 winter relief packages were distributed across five districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral, Upper Dir, Upper Swat, and Upper Kohistan). Additionally, 8,000 relief packages were distributed in four districts of Balochistan, namely Kalat, Sohrab, Killa Saifullah, and Ziarat. These packages include 2 Polyester quilts and a kit of warm shawls for both men and women, as well as warm clothing for children and adults.

The distribution process was carried out with utmost transparency, in collaboration with provincial governments and Hayat Foundation as implementing partner, ensuring that the assistance reached those who needed it most. Overall, the winter relief packages provided by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center benefited more than 133,000 individuals in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan.

Hopeful Pakistan

Persistence in education will take us to greater heights: Sadia Rashid

Bureau Report

KARACHI: One should not fret over the challenges on the path. As per a Chinese proverb, the journey of a thousand miles commences with the initial step. Hence, one should not fear the distance to the destination but persistently advance forward. These views were expressed by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, yesterday in her presidential address at the monthly Hamdard Naunehal Assembly meeting titled: "Message of Allama Iqbal, Hopeful Pakistan" held at Bait-ul-Hikmah Auditorium, Madinat al-Hikmah.

She also said "Allama Iqbal described children as Falcons (Shaheen), embodying a love for soaring to great heights. One day you all will contribute to the greatness of Pakistan, as the future of the nation rests in your hands. Persist in your educational pursuit with determination and dedication to acquire profound knowledge. Illuminate the candles of hope in society



by embracing the message of Allama Iqbal, and bring an end to the darkness of despair."

The chief guest, renowned poet and broadcaster Hidayat Sair speaking on the occasion said Allama Iqbal instilled hope in the Muslims of the subcontinent in the era of slavery, urging them to remain

optimistic even during challenging times.

He also said "As the new generation of the country, it is your responsibility to step forward and assume leadership of the nation. Hence, comprehend the teachings of Allama Iqbal and spread the message of hope to others. Pakistan was created only after the great sacrifices of our elders. It is now your mandate to responsibly hand it over to the next generations.

Young speakers from different schools, while speaking on the topic said Allama Iqbal's poetry conveys a profound message of enduring hope, relentless struggle, purposeful action, elevated vision, and self-awareness. Hope, the paramount weapon in life's struggles, guides one to success. The realization of Pakistan's development hinges on the practical application of Iqbal's teachings.

Children from different schools presented tableaux and national songs. The meeting was concluded after students of Hamdard Public School and Hamdard Village School recited Dua-i-Said.



Federal Minister Jamal Shah inaugurates Department of Pashto

Future World School & College, Islamabad celebrated Iqbal's Day



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Future World School & College H-11/4, Islamabad celebrated Iqbal Day as the students pay a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Poet of the East last day says a press release.

Students at the Future World School & College presented performances, speeches, and extracts of Dr. Allama Iqbal's poetry in a praiseworthy manner. The performance included recitations of iconic poems such as "Shikwa," "Jawabe Shikwa," "Tariq ki Dua," "Ishq or Maut," "Mairaj-e-Mustafa," and various other celebrated Persian works of the visionary poet. The students' enthusiastic presentations depicted their deep appreciation for Allama Iqbal's literary legacy, creating a memorable synergy between the past and the present.

Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's grandson Senator Walid Iqbal as a Chief Guest arrived at Future World School & College H-11/4, Islamabad on Iqbal Day celebrations to mesmerize the students with his awe-inspiring address.

Students thoroughly enjoyed Senator Walid Iqbal's remark that "If Roots Millennium School had existed in his time, Allama Iqbal would surely have been enrolled there." It was an overall innovative and thought provoking oration.

The Chief Guest's captivating speech encompassed many instances and references to Allama Iqbal's personal life which are not well known to public, his philosophy of life, his adoration for ALLAH (SWT) and Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), his call of awakening to the youth to be the change makers, invigorating passion and deference for the visionary poet and his astounding work. Senator Walid Iqbal also appreciated the work of Future World School & College Management & efforts of Urdu Department especially Ma'am Hijab Bano for preparing the students so well.

Present at the occasion, Director the Millennium Education Group Mrs. Sabina Zakir added, "We take pride in our students' ability to embrace and showcase the rich cultural tapestry of our history. The performances resonated with the essence of Allama Iqbal's message and left a lasting impact on everyone present."

Pakistan's role in sustainable energy holds great promise: Speakers



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The future of renewable energy in Pakistan holds great promise as the country seeks to address its growing energy demands while mitigating the environmental impact of traditional energy sources. With abundant sunlight and wind resources, Pakistan has significant potential for solar and wind energy generation. This was said in an event organized jointly by Information Services Academy and Alliance for good governance foundation in ISA auditorium. Those who attended the session included; MD PPIB Mr. Shah Jahan Mirza, Energy expert Engr. Asad Mahamood, Mr. Irfan Mirza from renewable energy resource, Director Bridge Factor Mr. Ashraf Rana, Energy expert Dr. Irfan Yousaf, Economist Dr. Noor Fatima, Col. Tariq Khattak from REAP, Executive Director ISA Dr. Tariq Khan, representatives of civil society, academia, electronic and print media. Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali was the chief guest of the occasion.

Mr. Muhammad Ali said that the government's commitment to increasing the share of renewable in the energy mix, coupled with international support and investment, is paving the way for a sustainable energy future.

Ghaza March

ISLAMABAD: School children chanting slogans during Children Ghaza March protest rally against Israel attack on Ghaza, in front of Faisal Mosque in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Liaquat Ali Chatta opened student's expo at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta inaugurated the Student Expo at the Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Bazm-e-Paigham Pakistan. While addressing the participants of the student expo chief guest Liaquat Ali Chatta said that Youth are the future of Pakistan.

The development of Pakistan lies in the development of youth. 65% of Pakistan's population consists of youth. By investing youth, Pakistan can achieve a high position in the world. Chief guest Liaquat Ali Chatta also inaugurated the exhibition of Islamic



works of Amara Afshin.

The special guest said that Amara Afshin is honored to have three Qurans written by her kept in the Haram Sharif. Quranic verses have

been beautifully captured on canvas by Amara Afshin. In the end, he congratulated the Punjab Arts Council and Bazm-e-Paigham for organizing the successful expo.

Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman said that in order to deal with the current economic challenges, the education system has to be developed according to the requirements of the new era. We have to upgrade the education system according to the demand of the industry to compete with the rest of the world.

The aim of the expo is to increase connectivity between industry and academia in view of contemporary challenges, discuss and find solutions to problems related to emerging technology and employment opportunities, e-commerce, scholarships, expensive education and industry demand.

Appreciations

PANAH appreciates government for sanctioning Rs 6.7 billion for prevention of diabetes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) has been working for the prevention of many diseases including heart and diabetes for the past 40 years, pays tribute to the government's initiative to tackle the alarming increase in diabetes in Pakistan. For this, the federal government has sanctioned Rs.6.7 billion. PANAH appreciates the government's initiative to reduce the incidence of diabetes and requests that necessary policy measures be taken to reduce the incidence of diabetes. Every day in Pakistan 1100 people die due to diabetes or its complications and every third Pakistani is suffering from diabetes. Pakistan has become the first country in the world

in terms of rapid increase in diabetes. Unhealthy foods like sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods are the major reasons behind the rapid spread of diabetes. The world has increased taxes on SSBs and put front-of-pack warning labels on ultra-processed foods to reduce their consumption, which has had very positive results. We also request the government of Pakistan to take such policy measures to reduce diseases because the health of the people is the first priority of the government. This was said by health experts in a media session organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at a local hotel in Islamabad. Among the participants were Director of Nutrition & NFA ministry of National health services, regu-

lation and coordination Dr. Khawaja Masood Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer of Heart File Dr. Saba Amjad, Consultant of Global Health Advocacy Incubator Mr. Munawar Hussain, President Islamabad Press Club Mr. Anwar Raza, Former Commissioner FBR Mr. Abdul Hafeez, PANAH Vice President Mr. Ghulam Abbas, senior journalists of electronic and print media participated. Former Chairperson of National Commission on the Rights of Child Ms. Afshan Tehseen Bajwa was the Chief Guest of the event. PANAH Secretary General Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman hosted the event.

Addressing the participants, Afshan Tehseen Bajwa said that sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods, especially affect our children and young gener-

ation. Children are the future of our nation and we have to raise our voice for this national cause with PANAH to secure our future.

Dr. Khawaja Masood said that unhealthy diet is one of the major causes of diabetes and many other non-communicable diseases and thousands of Pakistanis are losing their lives every day because of this. That is why the government has allocated 6.7 billion for the prevention of diabetes.

Munawar Hussain said that evidence shows that reducing consumption of sugary drinks and ultra-processed products can reduce deaths and illnesses and save lives of many Pakistanis. Sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods has high amount of salt, sugar, trans fats and saturated fats.



Dr. Saba Amjad said that PANAH is raising voice for the national cause; the civil society of Pakistan joins its voice and demands the government to make necessary policies to reduce the consumption of unhealthy food so that the people can be removed from this deluge of diseases.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that PANAH is running an aggressive campaign against diabetes and the factors that cause it. He said that in

recent days, the government has allocated 6.7 billion rupees for the prevention of diabetes.

PANAH appreciates this initiative of the government and also requests the government to address the factors that are causing this, including unhealthy food, especially ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks. Effective policy measures should also be taken to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy foods.

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

Contrastingly, when we turned to China with our challenges, it extended its support without any conditions or expectations. China came to our aid without hesitation, without posing any questions, and without attaching any strings, demonstrating a stark contrast in their approach compared to the USA.

In the context of the Hamas-Gaza conflict, while millions of people from the developing and developed worlds took to the streets to demand an end to Israeli massacres in Gaza and the West Bank, governments from the developed world stood with Israel and threatened any other country with dire consequences if it even considered military intervention. They provided open air, ground, and sea access to Israel, allowing it to launch strikes from every direction and slaughter children, women, the elderly, and youth with impunity. They rendered the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the Red Cross, and other similar organisations obsolete and silent. They reduced all Muslim countries to a condition of helplessness, irritation, indignation, and silence as they saw their unarmed religious brothers and sisters viciously and brutally butchered and slaughtered for no fault or crime of their own.

Feeling insulted and humiliated, Muslim countries resorted to seeking Chinese intervention to end this quagmire in the same manner and approach that helpless and victimised countries

used to seek the help of the superpower of the time to rescue them from the aggression and brutality of enemies stronger than them. In the eighth century, the Abbasid Caliphate partnered with Tang China to fight the threat posed by the Göktürks, a formidable nomadic confederation. The Ottoman Empire supported and protected Muslim populations across Europe, particularly in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, in the 15th and 16th centuries. Mohammad Bin Qasim liberated Msulims imprisoned by Raja Dahir of Sindh in 711 CE.

It is disheartening and shameful for the entire Muslim world that there is no longer a single Muslim country or Muslim leader in the world with the tenacity, resources, and courage to defend our Muslim brothers and sisters from the tyranny of Israel and its handlers, and they have finally knocked on the doors

China made a statement in which it stated that the world must act quickly to end the crisis in Gaza and committed to step up its efforts to play a role in creating a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict, as well as its determination to firmly support justice and fairness. It demanded an immediate ceasefire and the distribution of relief supplies in the war zone.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Beijing amid its efforts to avert open confrontation with Washington and Israel and is struggling to maintain its status of a power broker in the region. Unlike the USA, which is doing all it can to fuel the war against humanity in Gaza, China adopted exactly the opposite path. It supported the peaceful resolution of conflict and firmly defended the legitimate rights and interests of Arab and Muslim countries and firmly stood with the Palestinian people in their efforts to restore their legitimate national rights and interests.

China was the main motivation when the UN passed its first resolution calling release of hostages and extended humanitarian corridors to protect civilians. The peace diplomacy led by China has given it the status of civilised and humane super power while USA and Israel have been branded as brute force and senseless force which are bent upon inflicting untold miseries to the helpless civilians of Gaza and west bank.

With China's emerging status as a responsible state that seeks not to wage war but to lift people from all around the world out of poverty. China, despite its overwhelming economic, financial, and military might, does not threaten any country and instead prefers peaceful resolution of crises. China, which is willingly and happily sharing the fruits of its prosperity and growth with all countries of the world without any strings attached while maintaining the dignity, honour, and respect of recipient countries, possesses all of the ingredients to assure global leadership and lead the world to shared prosperity and growth. It is playing a critical role in restoring some semblance of humanity to the Hamas-Israel dispute and will hopefully continue to play a pacifying role in resolving the issues and conflict through peaceful ways free of threats, arm twisting, and coercion.

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

The peace diplomacy led by China has given it the status of civilised and humane super power while USA and Israel have been branded as brute force and senseless force which are bent upon inflicting untold miseries to the helpless civilians of Gaza and west bank.

Khalistan Sikh leader: Indian assassination attempt

Pro-Khalistan General Counsel of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) Gurpatwant Singh Pannun expressed his fearlessness, asserting that he remained undeterred despite the thwarted plots by Indian authorities to assassinate him on American soil. In his first reaction after the Financial Times (FT) assassination revelations, Pannun, a pro-Khalistan Sikh leader, asserted that India has directly challenged America's sovereignty and national security by orchestrating a plot to assassinate him on U. S. soil using its death squads.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is a New York based Attorney at Law said, India's transnational terrorism has become a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the United States, so I will let the US government respond to the issue of threats to my life on American soil from the Indian operatives. "I am troubled by the fact that the Sikh Community has been under an existential threat since the 1984 Operation Blue Star, the November 1984 Genocide, the decade-long (1984-97) series of extrajudicial killings of Sikhs to suppress the movement for the right to self-determination, and now, the forced suicides of Punjab farmers." At this time, my focus is not the threats to my life but to organize American Phase of Khalistan Referendum which is scheduled to start from San Francisco CA on January 28, 2024 under the supervision of Punjab Referendum Commission, a panel of independent experts on direct democracy. Believing that independence from Indian occupation and establishment of Khalistan is the only solution, Sikh sovereignists have launched the global Khalistan Referendum initiative to peacefully advance the cause of liberating the Indian held Punjab. Being General Counsel of SFJ my responsibility is to organize the secessionist Khalistan Referendum for liberation of Indian held Punjab and to follow UN Charter and domestic laws of the countries where voting is being organized to ensure compliance with the democratic norms, he said. "Just like Canadian Citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar's assassination by the Indian agents on Canadian soil was a challenge to Canada's sovereignty, the threat to an American citizen on American soil is a Challenge to America's sovereignty, and I trust that the Biden Administration is more than capable to handle any such challenge." In a statement after the assassination plot was exposed, the White House said in a statement it was "treating this issue with utmost seriousness".

Adrienne Watson, the NSC spokesman, said the US had raised the issue with News Delhi "at the senior most levels". Adrienne Watson said: "We understand the Indian govt is further investigating this issue and will have more to say about it in the coming days. We have conveyed our expectation that anyone deemed responsible should be held accountable."



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

National Call for the Restoration of Military Courts - II

Military courts often operate under specific guidelines tailored for cases related to terrorism. This ensures a more consistent approach to sentencing, contributing to the establishment of clear precedents and expectations. Consistency in sentencing is essential for conveying a unified message about the severity of involvement in terrorist activities, both to the individuals implicated and potential sympathizers.

Military courts play a crucial role within the justice system, especially in dealing with cases related to national security and terrorism. Globally, there are instances of exemplary military courts showcasing exceptional effectiveness in handling such cases. Several case studies highlight success stories, demonstrating how military courts contribute to delivering swift, fair, and decisive justice in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the United States established military commissions to prosecute individuals involved in acts of terrorism against the country. Operating under the Military Commissions Act, these commissions aimed to provide a legal framework for trying individuals associated with al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. Despite facing legal and procedural challenges, the

military commissions have successfully rendered justice in numerous high-profile cases, emphasizing the U. S. commitment to holding terrorists accountable under a specialized legal framework.

In the aftermath of the attempted coup in Turkey in 2016, the country utilized military courts to prosecute individuals implicated in the coup plot. These courts played a crucial role in addressing the unique challenges posed by the coup attempt, ensuring the swift dispensation of justice for those involved. The trials underscored the significance of military courts in responding to security threats and maintaining stability during times of crisis.

Colombia, a nation grappling with internal conflicts and insurgencies, employs a military criminal justice system to handle cases involving military personnel accused of committing crimes, including those related to terrorism and insurgency. This system strikes a balance between holding individuals accountable for their actions and maintaining discipline within the armed forces. Colombia's experience illustrates how a well-functioning military justice system can contribute to both national security and the preservation of the rule of law.

Regrettably, the civilian judicial system in Pakistan has failed to deliver timely and transparent justice to its

citizens. It is a common observation that legal cases, spanning generations, often remain unresolved. The overwhelming caseload further burdens our courts, with the superior and lower judiciaries grappling with a staggering backlog of 2.144 million cases. In 2021 alone, 4.102 million cases were concluded, while 4.06 million new cases were filed, leading to an overall pending caseload of 2.16 million at the start of the next year.

Statistics from the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court, and five high courts indicate that 229,822 cases were disposed of in 2020, with 241,250 new cases instituted. The pending cases before superior courts at the year's end stood at 389,549, slightly higher than the previous year's tally of 378,216. Similarly, the district judiciary faced 1,783,826 pending cases at the beginning of the previous year, adjudicating 3,872,686 cases while 3,822,881 new cases were filed, resulting in a total pending caseload of 1,754,947 by the end of 2021.

In contrast, recognizing the pressing need for expeditious justice, Pakistan, a country grappling with terrorism, established Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs). These specialized courts aim to fast-track legal proceedings, ensuring a swift response to security threats. ATCs have played a pivotal role in prosecuting individuals involved in high-profile terrorist incidents, contributing to the dismantling of terrorist networks and restoring public confidence in the justice system.

To be continued

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT 2023

Changing Dynamics of Muslim World

Zoya Arshad

As we hear about the Israel-Palestine issue, it is always considered a political issue but it has religious undertones, these religious undertones make this a global issue. Palestinian territory remains significant for all three major Abrahamic religions in the world. But for Muslims, Jerusalem is considered the 3rd most significant religious city; it was the main reason that the Muslim population all over the globe supports the Palestinian cause.

Now that world dynamics are changing, the support from the Muslim state's government also changed. In the last two to three years, Many Middle Eastern countries have started to establish ties with Israel for their national interest, United Arab Emirates recognized Israel in 2020, signed an agreement for formal diplomatic relations, and became 3rd Arab state to acknowledge Israel. Likewise Saudi Arabia. Also, back-channel diplomacy with Israel for the normalization of relations caused massive dismay to the Palestinian cause. Also, there were speculations that this was the reason behind the recent Hamas attack on 7 October 2023.

There are almost 52 Muslim states in the world but reaction toward recent escalation is very minimal. Only some Muslim countries condemn Israeli war crimes in the ongoing conflict. Huge demonstrations and rallies have taken place within the states but state governments don't respond in the same manner. Israel's new Arab allies are facing uneasiness in balancing their relations.

The Middle East is an extremely volatile region, and any conflict has spill effects in the region as the United Arab Emirates warned in the recent conflict. This conflict also disturbs the proportion of power in the region. As we all know Iran and Saudi Arabia both are thriving for regional hegemony and also for the leadership of the Muslim states. Due to the instantaneous modernization and liberalization of Saudi Arabia by Mohammad bin Suleiman and backdoor diplomacy for the normalization of ties with Israel, Saudi Arabia has lost their charm in the Muslim world eye, if Saudi doesn't play an active role in the recent Israel Palestine conflict this will consider as the final nail in the coffin for their leadership of Muslim world. During this conflict, Saudi Arabia also held a musical concert in Riyadh, the whole Muslim world was "so disappointed" by this move of the Saudi government.

Iran gave open and harsh statements against Israel and threatened Israel to use preemptive action from other fronts. The Iran-backed, Lebanese group Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging fire across the Lebanese-Israeli border for days and giving tough times to the Israeli forces. US President Joe Biden warned Iran and gave the statement "Be careful". The US intervened in the situation, to counter Iran in the region.

Turkish president Tayyip Erdogan openly criticized the Israeli bombing of Gaza and called it a "massacre" and also recalled their ambassador from Israel.

Yemen, the Houthis declared open war against Israel, and they launched multiple missile attacks on Israel, now Saudi Arabia started to feel threatened,

they wanted to target their arch-enemy, Houthis have very limited economic resources and hardware to fight against Israel. In the present scenario, the US sends its additional air defense system to different Gulf countries. For this move, the Gulf countries are criticized by Muslims around the world. In this response, China also sent six warships to the Middle East.

Now talking about Pakistan, the Pakistan foreign ministry gave a cautious statement against Israel. Pakistan's foreign office gave the statement

"We are closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the Middle East and the eruption of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians. We are concerned about the human cost of the escalating situation."

Now Pakistan's government hasn't adopted any offensive stance against Israel in the recent conflict. After Imran Khan's dismissal, Pakistan is facing a crisis in every dimension, financial, social, and political. Right now Pakistan is not in the condition to take any stand in the international forum.

From these reaction conditions of the Muslim countries, one can figure out that the dynamics inside the Muslim world as well as in the region are changing drastically. Iran and Türkiye, both strive to fill the gap for leadership, left out by Saudi Arabia in the Muslim world. The presence of both the US and China complicates the situation more. If this situation is not resolved carefully then huge turmoil will take place in the Muslim world and it will have severe regional complications due to the volatility of the region

Writer is pursuing the bachelors in Defence and diplomatic studies in Fatima Finaah Women University

Extraordinary G20 Summit

President of Russia took part in the extraordinary G20 summit, held via videoconference

News Desk

MOSCOW: The summit participants reviewed India's presidency in 2023 and discussed the situation in the global economy and finance, the climate agenda, and the digitalisation and other issues.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin: Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of India, Mr Modi, and all our Indian colleagues for their productive work during India's G20 presidency this year.

They have done a lot to focus the activity of the G20 member states on finding solutions to truly pressing issues on the international socioeconomic agenda. This was the purpose the G20 was created for, as an important multilateral governance tool in the global economy and finance.

In our view, there is an increasing need for this kind of consolidating approach today, especially because various confrontational attempts continue to be made.

Some of our colleagues here have mentioned that they are shocked by "Russia's ongoing aggression in Ukraine." Indeed, military operations are always a

tragedy for specific people, specific families, and the country as a whole. And we must certainly think about how to stop this tragedy.

Russia has never refused to negotiate peace with Ukraine. It is not Russia, but Ukraine that has publicly announced that it is withdrawing from the negotiation process. Moreover, the country's leader signed an executive order prohibiting such negotiations with Russia.

I understand that this war and the loss of life are shocking and could not be otherwise. But what about the bloody coup in Ukraine in 2014, which was followed by the Kiev regime's war against its own people in Donbass? Did that not shock you? Are you not shocked by the extermination of civilians in Palestine and the Gaza Strip today? Is it not shocking that doctors have to operate on children - do abdominal surgeries - and use a scalpel on a child's body without anaesthesia? Did it not shock you when the UN Secretary-General said that Gaza has turned into a huge children's cemetery?

Colleagues, The state of affairs in the glob-

al economy and the world at large require collective, consensus-based decisions that reflect the views of the overwhelming majority of the international community, including both developed and developing countries.

Dramatic transformation processes are underway in the world. New powerful global economic growth centres are emerging and gaining strength. A significant portion of global investment, trade and consumer activity is shifting to the Asian, African and Latin American regions, which are home to the majority of the world's population.

Market turbulence is on the rise. Chronic issues in the international financial sector, as well as energy and food security challenges, are intensifying. By the way, Russia is fulfilling all its commitments in this area and remains one of the largest food exporters. I am here to let you know that the first ships with free Russian grain have been sent to African countries in need.

I would also like to note that the enormous stress on the global economy is a direct consequence of the ill-considered macroeco-

nomie policies of some countries. These actions were justified by the need to fight the pandemic, among other reasons. Trillions of dollars and euros injected into the economy and the banking system have triggered a surge in global inflation and a rapid increase in food and energy prices. This underlies the events that I mentioned above. It is not our actions, not our attempts to restore justice in Ukraine. No. It is the actions of the world's largest economies. As a result, we saw an increase in key interest rates. The poorest countries were hardest hit by that, of course.

Unlawful trade restrictions and the climate agenda pursued by some countries in order to improve their own competitiveness, continue to have a negative impact.

In order to eliminate competitors and to gain advantages, dishonest methods of competition are used, including the destruction of transport and logistics chains and international payment arrangements, and even acts of state terrorism. The explosion at the Nord Stream gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea is a glaring example.



Russia advocates restoring the spirit of open and mutually beneficial international economic cooperation based on the UN Charter and the principles of collegial and mutually respectful joint work. It is important to achieve an effective optimisation of the global economic governance system, in particular, to restart the WTO in its entirety, including its arbitration function.

We need to enhance the role of developing economies in international financial institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank, and to use those bodies' resources to promote the development of countries and regions that really need it, and not for

opportunistic political purposes.

We are ready to work together to address these urgent issues at the G20 and other international institutions, including BRICS, an association that is gaining weight and influence - this much is obvious, especially considering its ongoing expansion.

Our country will certainly continue to contribute to the balanced achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to work on preserving the climate and biodiversity of our planet, the digital transformation of the global economy, and ensuring food and energy security.

I would like to note that Russia prioritises the development of

digital public infrastructure and strengthening information security. In fact, most of our public services are already available digitally.

As a responsible participant in global efforts to combat climate change, Russia plans to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2060. For this purpose, we are using every available and effective tool to reduce greenhouse emissions: nuclear energy, hydropower, increasing carbon sequestration in forests, and using environmentally friendly technologies in all sectors of the economy.

I would also like to mention some tangible steps Russia has been taking to promote women's economic empowerment and greater role in other spheres. Women have a secure and significant presence in Russian government and business today; they head many leading companies, research institutes and public organisations.

In conclusion, I would like to once again highly praise the efforts of India's presidency and wish success to our Brazilian friends, who will take over the G20 presidency on December 1. Thank you for your attention.

Kashmir's EU Week to begin in Brussels

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmir's EU Week to begin in Brussels, the European headquarters early next month

Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) will organize the Kashmir's EU Week from 5 to 15 December 2023 in the European Headquarters Brussels.

This was announced by Chairman of KC-EU Ali Raza Syed in a statement in Brussels today. The events include seminars, conferences, a media conference and debates and a photo exhibition at European Press Club Brussels and the European parliament. There would also be several meetings with the

European officials, members of European parliament and representatives of civil society and human rights organizations during the Kashmir EU Week starting on Tuesday, 5th December 2023.

Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed said, the week long programs of Kashmir's EU week are being organized by Kashmir Council EU for many years and purpose of such programs is to highlight Kashmir issue including miseries of oppressed Kashmiris and beauty of the Kashmir's culture in Europe.

He said, as currently people in all over the world stood against the state terrorism and atrocities on the



common citizens, we hope world would also pay attention to prevent Indian brutalities on the Kashmiris.

He asked the international community especially European Union to put pressure on India to immediately end crimes of Indian security forces against people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and grant them right to

self determination according to the UN's resolutions on Kashmir. He said, since 1947, people of occupied Kashmir are facing endless hardships as their miseries are being increased day by day.

It is duty of international community including Europe Union to take immediate action in order to prevent the atrocities against the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. So that situation of the disputed land should be normalized and people of Jammu and Kashmir should be provided a peaceful atmosphere where they can use their right to self-determination in accordance with their wishes and according to United Nations resolutions.

SCO and ILC join hands for inclusive education and empowerment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with the visionary directives of the Director General, Special Communications Organization (SCO) continues to actively fulfill its social responsibilities by extending unwavering support to the remarkable specially abled children at the Independent Learning Center (ILC), established by Amjad Nadeem in Gilgit Baltistan. The initiatives undertaken by SCO underscore the organization's steadfast pledge to create an inclusive environment that nurtures and empowers these special individuals.

In a recent ceremony honoring the achievements of specially abled children who successfully completed training courses at the ILC, Colonel Rao Muhammad Faheem Akhtar Khan, the Sector Commander of SCO, highlighted the indispensable role of special individuals within society. He reaffirmed SCO's dedication to upholding their rights across all aspects of life, with a particular emphasis on education, promising continued collaborative efforts to ensure their holistic development.

"Special individuals form an integral and invaluable segment of our society," expressed Colonel Rao Muhammad Faheem Akhtar Khan. "Our commitment to securing their rights and enhancing their quality of life is resolute. Even the smallest acts of attention and care can significantly ameliorate their lives, ensuring social security for all. Giving is a responsibility that unites us all."

SCO's support for the specially abled children at ILC encompasses various initiatives aimed at facilitating their learning, growth, and meaningful engagement within society. Among these efforts, SCO has provided free internet infrastructure and essential amenities to facilitate their educational pursuits. Furthermore, the organization has created opportunities for freelancing and

Ambassador of Nepal calls on Foreign Minister Filani



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: H. E Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal courtesy call to Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani at his office in Islamabad. During the call on, discussed the matters of bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Ambassador also discussed the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-28) to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Foreign Minister recalled his visits to Nepal on different occasions and his association with Nepali officials. During the call on, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad were also present.

Operation Ukraine: who supports Ukrainian Nationalism?

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: As soon as World War II ended and the Nazis were defeated, US intelligence agencies built ties with former Hitler collaborators to work together against the Soviet Union and then Russia. The operation to form an armed underground movement in Western Ukraine was dubbed 'Aerodynamic'. The CIA assembled war criminals and Bandera movement activists from filtration camps, and created an agent network. Their task was to sabotage nuclear plants and dams on Ukrainian territory in an effort to separate it from the Soviet Union. They terrorised civilians and were responsible for at least 35,000 casualties, according to CIA co-founder Frank Wisner.

In the early 1950s, Red Army units mostly wiped out the nationalist insurgency, however the CIA employed a new strategy. Since then Ukrainian nationalists have been engaged in an ideological anti-Russian war. The operation 'Prolog' gradually stoked nationalist sentiment in Ukraine and bred loyalty to Nazi ideas. What is the outcome of half-century-long American influence?

Gaza massacre

Gaza reels under new massacres carried out by the Israeli army.



Photo: Palestinian Press Agency via Social Media

Party leader's book on Vietnam's diplomacy launched

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A book of Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong on the building and development of Vietnam's diplomacy deeply imbued with the characteristics of "Vietnamese bamboo" made debut at a ceremony held in Hanoi on November 21.

The book is divided into three parts, with the first focusing on the important role of and major contributions by diplomacy to national construction and defence. It consists of an overview article and seven speeches the Party leader delivered at meetings of the Party Central Committee and national diplomatic and foreign affairs conferences.

The second part - Vietnam's foreign affairs for independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship,

cooperation, and development - gathers 78 speeches, writings, interviews, letters, and messages of the General Secretary at bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activities and forums, showing the close and harmonious coordination among the diplomatic pillars of Party-to-Party, State-to-State, and people-to-people diplomacy.

The third part is about the hallmarks of the country's foreign affairs and diplomacy. It features 52 opinions of international experts, politicians, diplomats, researchers, and friends about General Secretary Trong's role and contributions to the formation and development of Vietnam's comprehensive and modern foreign policy. It also includes the memories, impressions, and stories shared by Vietnamese diplomats, jour-

nalists, and expatriates who used to accompany or meet the leader during his visits and working trips in the country and abroad, reflecting their sentiment towards, respect for, and trust in the Party and the General Secretary's leadership.

Addressing the launch, Truong Thi Mai, Politburo member, Permanent member of the Party Central Committee Secretariat and Chairwoman of the Party Central Committee's Organisation Commission, said the publication of the book demonstrates that the Party always views foreign affairs as an essential, constant, and important task of the entire political system and a major contributor to the national construction and defence.

She noted the book is the biggest and most meticulous and vivid demonstration of that

unique and consistent characteristic of Vietnam's diplomacy, she continued.

Mai held that it is a valuable reference book for those wishing to learn about the country's foreign policy and also a clear illustration of the Party and State's consistent foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation, development, diversification, and multilateralisation. It also reflects international experts, politicians, diplomats, and friends' support for the Party leader's role and contributions to foreign affairs over the past years.

Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son said the book shows the General Secretary's strategic vision, wisdom, and clear-sighted leadership and directions over foreign affairs and diplomacy.

Holding theoretical and



practical values, it is a precious handbook on diplomacy for

those working on foreign affairs of sectors, all-level authorities,

and the entire political system, he added.

Briefing session

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being briefed by Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, regarding national strategy for disaster management on Thursday.



Photo: PID

President for long-term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated Pakistan's desire to forge a long-term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia in all fields, including trade, economy, food security, energy, defence and people-to-people contacts. He emphasized the need to increase bilateral trade and economic ties, adding that there existed enormous potential for the growth and expansion of cooperation in the areas of trade and



economy for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The President gave these remarks while talking to the

outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr Danila Ganich, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the President said that Pakistan attached great value to its relations with the Russian Federation and expressed satisfaction over the existing level of cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. He added that Pakistan-Russia cooperation was rooted in their common approach towards the centrality of the United Nations and a rule-based international order.

During the meeting, the President also highlighted

the situation in Gaza and the brutalities being committed by Israel against the people of Palestine. He condemned the killing of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare professionals, journalists and aid workers.

The President commended the contributions made by the outgoing Ambassador in deepening bilateral ties with Pakistan. He also expressed his best wishes to the outgoing Ambassador for his future endeavours.

Spreading tentacles of Indian Global Terrorist Network to US, Canada alarming: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick expressed alarm over the fast spreading tentacles of Indian Global Terrorist Network after the US thwarted plot to kill Sikh separatist on American soil, saying that the Indian genocide mongers and death squads became a threat to the world peace.

Mushaal, who is also a wife of Kashmir's Revolutionary Liberation Leader Yasin Malik, pressed that the global community must apply pressure tactics on the supremacist Hindutva regime to stop butchery and genocide of Indian minori-



ties.

She vented shock that Indian Global Terrorist Network now expanded across the continents after a long-drawn-out and non-stop spree of target killings in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and within India, which was evident from the coldblooded murder of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and the recent failed murder plot of another prominent Khalistani leader Gurbhant Singh Panu.

Ex-DRAP CEO booked in fake PhD degree case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) Sheikh Akhtar Hussain has been booked in the fake PhD degree case.

The anti-corruption wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) lodged a case against former DRAP CEO Sheikh Akhtar Hussain for holding a fake PhD degree.

The First Information Report (FIR) stated that Hussain possessed a dubious doctorate degree to get the CEO post of the country's top drug regulator.

The Sri Lankan Interpol confirmed the fake PhD degree as the degree-awarding institution was not recognised.

Teams have been constituted to arrest the former DRAP CEO and raids were also conducted in different localities.

Crackdown against medicines profiteers continues

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan, the crackdown on medicines profiteers is going on across the country.

According to the spokesperson of the minister, major action was taken against those selling more than the approved price during the operation in Lahore.

Heparin injection, TB, epilepsy, cancer and life-saving drugs were being sold in the black, said the spokesperson.

According to the details, these medicines were being sold at a higher price than the approved price. Tegrelal epilepsy medicine was being sold for Rs 1300 to Rs 1400 rupees instead of 260 rupees per box.

Heparin injection was selling Rs 1500 to Rs 3000 instead of Rs 975 while Rivotril was being sold at Rs 700 to Rs 800 instead of Rs 267 per box.

A box of Rivotril 2mg was being sold for Rs 800 to Rs 1000 instead of Rs 400. Similarly, a box of Zenax 0.5mg was being sold at Rs.1400 instead of Rs.278 while Zenax 1mg box was selling at Rs 4000 instead of Rs 502.

The Ultrawest box was being sold at Rs 6500 instead of Rs 3418. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that he has initiated action against the involved elements under DRAP Act.

He said that heavy fines and punishments will be given against profiteers as per the DRAP Act.

He said that the task force of DRAP will take full action against the profiteers.

Farhatullah Babar resigns as PPP general secretary

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Farhatullah Babar has tendered his resignation as the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) general secretary. The senior politician Farhatullah Babar has stepped down as the PPP general secretary months before the general elections scheduled for February 8, 2024. The resignation came at a time when PPP is going to issue tickets to its candidates for general elections.

In a statement, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari confirmed the development and said that the former army chief had demanded Babar's resignation but he rejected his demand.

Govt to provide maximum facilities to ECP for holding free, fair elections: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said the caretaker government was committed to conducting free, fair and transparent elections and it would provide all possible facilities to the Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting elections.

He said this during a meeting with the delegation of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), which was led by its President Dr. Raza Muhammad.

The current political and economic situation of the country, the elimination of fake news and disinformation, upcoming general elections, social media issues, and

elections in other countries of South Asia were discussed in the meeting.

The delegation informed the Minister about the IPRI's latest research on the political scenario of the country and appreciated the caretaker government's commitment to conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

"Equal opportunities are being provided to all political parties, there will be no discrimination against anyone," Murtaza Solangi said.

He said for the improvement of the political environment in the country, the development of consensus among all political parties was indispensable. The minister said the world was facing the problems of misinformation, disinformation and fake news, while the latter was the biggest challenge



on social media.

All stakeholders would have to play their role in ending fake news, he maintained. The role of the media in the upcoming general elections was also discussed in the meeting.

Caretaker Information Minister said that the media would be provided a conducive environment during the elections. Equal coverage was being given to all political parties on state media, he added.

The Caretaker Information Minister said that in a striking show of unity, the heads of two of the three biggest parties,

the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), have joined calls by President Arif Alvi and caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for support across the political spectrum to ensure the elections are transparent and legitimate.

He said that the joint declaration reflects a growing consensus that all parties should cooperate to ensure the success of the poll, to be held on February 8, 2024. A fair democratic process, overseen by the independent Election Commission of Pakistan and the non-party caretaker government, is seen as fundamental to the country's stability and to tackling the economic challenges facing its people.

The Caretaker Information Minister said that the elections

'Pakistan to get \$1.5b quick financial assistance after IMF board approval'



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shamshad Akhtar said that Pakistan would get quick disbursement of financial assistance from various multilateral institutions once the first review of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) is approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board next month.

In an interview with a private news channel, she said, Pakistan would not only get \$700 million from the fund but the SBA approval would also unlock financial assistance from many other multilateral financial institutions.

She said that the SBA agreement would go to the IMF Executive Board for approval before the Christmas holidays next month, hoping that on the

basis of performance, if it approved the review, it would unlock about \$1.5 billion quick disbursing programme, behind which there were many reforms which the government had implemented.

The minister said, that the incumbent government smoothly and peacefully implemented the second tranche of IMF's SBA programme in an environment of trust and confidence. She said all the concerned ministries and departments worked as a whole and ensured the IMF that the government was taking all measures seriously.

She said for the implementation of SBA conditions, the government withdrew import bans to promote the investment environment, eased import licensing, and stabilized the exchange rate, not only with exchange companies reforms but with the support of law enforcement agencies.

Interior Minister, AJK PM discuss development in Azad Kashmir



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday visited the Kashmir House where he met Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. Both the dignitaries discussed construction work and progress of development projects in Azad Kashmir at length.

The interior minister assured the A.J.K PM that the Government of Pakistan would provide all possi-

ble support to solve the problems of the people of Kashmir and the government: He said that despite of economic difficulties, full cooperation with the Azad Kashmir government would continue because the latter "stands with the government and the people of Pakistan". "Kashmir is our jugular vein and the hearts of the people of Pakistan beat their Kashmiri brethren," he expressed. Earlier on his arrival at the Kashmir House, Interior Minister Bugti was warmly received by the A.J.K prime minister.

Zardari sees no single party forming govt in next elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday expressed his belief that no single party would secure a government on its own in the next general elections.

In an interview with a private news channel, Zardari emphasised the inevitability of alliances, stating that no party would secure the required 172 seats in the National Assembly independently.

Contrary to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's stance against older politicians, Zardari acknowledged his son's inexperience and "the time it takes to gain political acumen". He noted that Bilawal's call to sideline "old politicians" echoed sentiments of many from the younger generation.

Bilawal has been actively campaigning nationwide, positioning his party as the solution to Pakistan's challenges. He has targeted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-



N) in his campaign and urged older politicians like Nawaz Sharif to step aside and allow the new generation to lead in the upcoming February 8 elections.

Zardari nevertheless supported the PML-N's approach, advocating for a conducive environment where mutual respect prevailed, hinting at potential future alliances.

The former president highlighted the differences in mindset within the PPP leadership, distinguishing between PPP and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP).

As the president of PPPP, Zardari asserted authority in ticket allocation for elections, including his ability to issue tickets for Bilawal.

Accounts, properties of Moonis Elahi seized in money laundering case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has seized the properties and bank accounts of Moonis Elahi, son of imprisoned former chief minister of Punjab and PTI president Parvez Elahi, in the money laundering case.

The action has been taken by the FIA following the court orders.

As many as eight accounts of Moonis Elahi in Lahore have been seized by the FIA in which he had

received more than Rs480 million and the entire amount has been withdrawn.

The documents show the bank accounts used by Moonis Elahi for transactions have been frozen. These accounts, it is alleged, were used for money laundering.

Besides, six properties of Moonis Elahi-five in Kasur and one in Rawalpindi-have also been seized by the FIA.