

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے شہر بن جانے کی ہرمان کیا کہ ہم سے
ابو اسحاق نے ان سے صلہ بن زفر نے اور ان
سے حدیف نے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے اہل
نجران سے فرمائیں تمہارے پاس ایک لاکھ
دار آوی جو حقیقی لاکھ دار ہو گا کھجوریں لگائی
کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے صحابہ کثیر رہے
(کہ کو ان اس صفت سے موصوف ہے) تو
آپ نے ابوسیدہ رضی اللہ عنہ کو بھیجا۔
(بخاری ص 7254 نمبر 7254)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



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

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... (Details on Page 8)



Japan aims to bolster bilateral ties with Pakistan

The Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro said that Japan and Pakistan celebrated the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties last year and aimed to further develop the relationship this year. He expressed these thoughts while addressing the reception ceremony held in honor of the Journalists at his residence. The core team of the Japanese Embassy Mr. ITO Takeshi Deputy Head of Mission, JICA's Chief Representative... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Called on

RAWALPINDI Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Humaid on Friday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir at the General Headquarters on Friday. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy also present in the meeting.



Photo: ISPR

Imam-e-Kaaba called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed. COAS welcomed the dignitary and highlighted that visit by H. E. Imam-e-Kaaba to Pakistan is a matter of honour for the people of Pakistan. He further mentioned that the Muslims from all across the world have boundless reverence for Harmain Shraifain and profound respect for their custodian.

H. E. Imam-e-Kaaba said Islam is a religion of peace & brotherhood and there is no space for misconstrued interpretations of Islam.

The dignitaries condemned the ongoing atrocities in Gaza Conflict and the oppression of the Muslims in IIOJK and expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine and Kashmir.

COAS remarked that, Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have strong strategic relations based on exemplary historic religious and cultural ties and unique reverence of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the hearts of the Pakistanis apart from the unanimity of views amongst the two brotherly countries.

At the end, H. E. Imam-e-Kaaba prayed for the peace, stability and unity of Ummah.

Pakistan ready to airlift, treat injured Palestinians in Gaza: FM Jilani

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jalil Abbas Jilani on Friday asserted that Pakistan is ready to airlift and treat injured Palestinians in the country, lamenting Israel's hindrance in providing humanitarian assistance.

The foreign minister made these remarks while responding to notice raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the Senate. The notice sought details on what efforts Pakistan was doing related to Gaza escalation and to end Israel's atrocities against Palestinians.

FM Jilani informed the Senate that Pakistan had active-



ly engaged in ending the Gaza crisis and resolution of the Palestine issue.

Highlighting Pakistan's contributions, he said, "Pakistan, along with Saudi Arabia, co-sponsored the OIC extraordinary session of foreign ministers held last month

in Jeddah, and the extraordinary session of OIC was also held in Jeddah due to efforts of Pakistan".

He said Pakistan played a crucial role among the eight foreign ministers who collaborated on a unanimous document during the OIC summit.

"Pakistan played a pivotal role in the passage of the resolution presented by Jordan at the United Nations, garnering support from numerous countries," the foreign minister revealed.

FM Jilani revealed that Pakistan was in contact with Egyptian and Jordanian authorities to provide Palestinian humanitarian assistance. "Unfortunately, Israel is currently hindering the delivery of aid to Gaza," he noted.

He further said that Pakistan had also extended offers of medical assistance, including airlifting Palestinians to Pakistan and establishing a hospital in Gaza, but "Israel had not granted permission for these initiatives". "There is no doubt that Isra-

el has committed aggression against Palestinians. In fact, it amounts to genocide against the innocent people of Palestine. The situation in Gaza is dire, with a severe lack of water, health facilities, and food, leading to a major humanitarian crisis," he pointed out.

Condemning Israel for war crimes in Gaza, he urged, "Israel must be held responsible for these actions, and we call upon the international community to focus on the Palestine issue and play a decisive role in ending the crisis".

The foreign ministers also expressed hope that the pressure exerted by OIC countries on Israel will yield positive outcomes.

Pakistan defeats India to secure UNESCO vice-chair for 2023-2025 term

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a resounding victory over India, Pakistan on Friday was elected as Vice Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris, a Foreign Office press release said.

Of the 58-member Executive Board, Pakistan secured 38 votes as compared to India's 18. "Pakistan is grateful to members of the Executive Board and all member states of UNESCO for their overwhelming support and the trust reposed in its candidature," FO spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that Pakistan would carry out its responsibilities with a deep sense of commitment, credibility, honest dialogue and mutual respect.

Israel, Hamas start first truce in Gaza war

Reuters

GAZA: Israel and Hamas started a four-day ceasefire on Friday with the Palestinian group set to release 13 Israeli women and child hostages later in the day and aid to flow into the besieged Gaza enclave, the first pause in the near seven-week-old war.

The truce began at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), involving a comprehensive ceasefire in north and south Gaza, and was to be followed by the release of some of the more than 200 hostages taken by Hamas during Oct. 7 attack inside Israel, mediators in Qatar said. A number of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons were to be freed in exchange.

Fighting raged on in the hours leading up to the truce, with officials inside the Hamas-ruled enclave saying a hospital in Gaza City was among the targets bombed. Both sides also signalled the pause would be temporary before fighting resumes.

The Indonesian hospital was reeling under relentless bombing, operating without light and filled with bedridden old people and children



too weak to be moved, Gaza health officials said. Al-Jazeera quoted Mounir El Barsh, the Gaza health ministry director, as saying a patient, a wounded woman, was killed and three others injured in assault of Israel.

Additional aid would start flowing into Gaza and the first hostages, including elderly women, would be freed at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), with the total number rising to 50 over the four days, Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said in Doha.

Egypt said 130,000 litres of diesel and four trucks of gas will be delivered daily to Gaza when the truce starts, and that 200 trucks of aid would enter Gaza daily.

Palestinians were expected to be released from jails of Israel, the Qatari spokesperson told reporters. "We all hope that this truce will lead to a chance to start a wider work to achieve a permanent truce."

Hamas confirmed on its Telegram channel that all hostilities from its forces would cease against Israel during the truce.

Former NA speaker Asad Qaiser remanded in judicial custody

Correspondent

MARDAN:--A lower court on Friday sent former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser to jail on a four-day judicial remand in connection with a May 9 riots case.

Police had requested the district and sessions court for Qaiser's physical remand, but the court denied their request, and sent the PTI leader to jail on a four-day judicial remand instead.

The police were also instructed to bring Qaiser to court on November 29 along with all relevant case records.

Initially apprehended on November 3 at his Banigala residence, Qaiser faced allegations of causing financial losses to the state exchequer due to procurement irregularities in the Gajju Khan Medical College.

Pakistan, Kuwait to ink seven MoUs for \$10b investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kuwait will sign seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for investment worth \$10 billion through seven projects in multiple fields including environment, mining and food security.

In this regard, the federal cabinet, in its meeting approved seven MoUs to be signed during the upcoming visit of Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar to Kuwait.

Consequent to the efforts by the Special Investment Facilita-

COAS Munir reaffirms support to govt for durable economic recovery

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Friday reiterated Pakistan Army's full support to the government in durable economic recovery of the country.

The army chief expressed these views during a meeting of the Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) chaired by caretaker Prime Minis-

ter Anwaarul Haq Kakar. The meeting reviewed the steps taken by the council for promoting investment in the country.

The meeting was attended by members of the interim cabinet, caretaker chief ministers, and high government officials.

During the meeting, various ministries briefed the participants

on the measures being taken by them to ensure timely achievement of the set targets. The meeting expressed satisfaction over the progress in this regard.

The participants also reviewed the projects related to investment in oil and gas sectors, and privatisation of public entities running in losses.

tion technology and food security, said a statement.

The caretaker Prime Minister and the cabinet members appreciated the efforts of the SIFC and the relevant ministries. The prime minister, who chaired the meeting, instructed to ensure cooperation with the provinces for early and fair execution of the projects.

The body also endorsed the decisions of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases it had taken in its meeting on November 14, as well as those of the Economic Coordination Committee meeting on November 15, 2023.

tion Council (SIFC), both countries would sign MoUs on multi-

ple projects including the expansion of water reservoirs, mining

facilities, conservation of mangrove forests on coastal areas, informa-

Interior Minister chairs NAP Coordination Committee



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Friday presided over the National Action Plan Coordination Committee meeting at NECTA headquarters in Islamabad to review the implementation of National Action Plan. The meeting was attended by Home Secretary, National Coordinator NECTA, all IGs, Chief Secretaries and top officials of intelligence agencies.

Inspector General of Police of all provinces briefed the meeting on the implementation of the National Action Plan. Expressing satisfaction over the progress of implementation of the National Action Plan, the minister said that terrorists will be eliminated from the country at all costs. He said lasting peace should

be established in the country by the complete elimination of terrorists and effective action will be taken against terrorists and extremist parties. The minister ensured the participants of the meeting that full protection would be provided to investors and traders who expressed their desire to invest in Pakistan.

He said because of the sacrifices of police, army, and law enforcement officers, the country will have peace and prosperity however the sacrifices of the martyrs will not be wasted and unforgettable. He said that strict action is being taken against smugglers which will be continued and the measures to prevent drug trafficking and sale will be made more effective. He said strict action will be taken against drug dealers to discourage drug use among youth.

Muslim Conference chief visits Kotli, Nikyal, Raj Mahal

Abdul Majeed Tahir

KOTLI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan visited Kotli, Sahansa, Nikyal, Kotli and Raj Mahal. During the visit, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan was given a rousing welcome on his arrival at Holar Attique River bank of Jhelum.



President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan attended and addressed the reception given by the central leader of the Muslim Conference in Sahansa. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that today we need to strengthen Tehreek-i-Ilhaq Pakistan, those who deviate from their ideals in the time of trial have no future. Workers should show persistence, remaining above the suspicion of commitment to Pakistan. There is a need to present practical evidence on the existence of Kashmir and the agenda of Pakistan's protection. On this occasion former candidate Assembly Raja Ifthikhar Ahmad Khan, former member of Kashmir Council Syed Ghulam Raza Naqvi, Raja Muhammad Ilyas Khan, Chairman Municipal Committee Raja Shakeel Zia Advocate, Syed Zafar Bukhari, Raja Shahpal Khan, Khan Amin Khan, Chaudhry Nisar Yaqub, Chaudhry Manzoor Advocate, Ilyas Mustafavi Advocate, Sardar Saqib Holarvi, Sardar Qayyum Holar, Sardar

workers of the Muslim Conference welcomed him in large numbers and garlanded him.

President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Ex-Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan also visited Nikyal Muslim Conference workers welcomed the President of Muslim Conference and garlanded him during the visit. President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, senior workers and officials of Muslim Conference met him at PWD rest house. During the meeting, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that Muslim Conference is the founding party of martyrs, ghazis and freedom movement, this party is the guarantor of the identity of Kashmir. The Kashmir movement is going through a critical phase, India could not suppress the movement despite using full force. In such circumstances, a heavy responsibility is imposed on the people of Azad Kashmir and the political parties. The people here have to be associated with the freedom movement and the Muslim Conference is the main front of the movement. The non-state political and electoral strife has hollowed Azad Kashmir from the inside. The current conditions of Azad Kashmir where the enemies have long All the stakeholders are equal participants in this effort. The political process should be restored in Azad Kashmir without delay, the political status of Azad Kashmir is being stopped by stopping the political process. Azad

Kashmir has been paralyzed politically. Practices are being made to introduce apolitical system in Azad Kashmir. Non-state political parties in Azad Kashmir are waiting for their leadership and electoral conditions of Pakistan to lead the way. Government of Pakistan should fulfill its responsibilities in solving public problems. India can take advantage of our internal chaos. Steps must be taken on emergency basis to save Azad Kashmir. Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. They are exposed to both internal and external threats. Transgressive chaos in the region could bring other major powers apart from us. Meanwhile, in Sahansa, the Sadr Muslim Conference participated in the Asrana given by former Assembly candidate Raja Ifthikhar Ahmad Khan and Chairman Municipal Corporation Raja Shakeel Zia Advocate. Met Razak at his residence. Senior leaders in Dhamul condoled the death of former Chairman Union Dhamul Haji Abdul Khaliq Butt with his sons Arifin Butt, Tashfeen Butt, Mubeen Butt and other dear relatives. In PWD rest house, senior leader Raja Sagheer Khan Advocate, Raja Zafar Ghazi and Raja Sajid Khan Muslim Conference leader and president of Anjuman Tajran Kotli Malik Muhammad Yaqub, City President Muslim Conference Raja Ishaq Khan, senior leader Mian Muhammad Akram, senior leader from Khoi Ratta Constituency, Malik Mohammad Sadiq and Ijaz Ahmed Mughal also met President Muslim Conference.

Mercy Corps on a Mission to Prevent TB in Pakistan through Preventive Treatment



Spokesman Report

QUETTA: On a mission for creating nationwide awareness and advocacy for preventing tuberculosis, a one-day seminar was organized by Mercy Corps in Quetta with the title of 'Advocacy and Awareness Seminar on TB Preventive Treatment (TPT)'. The seminar was attended by public health professionals, private as well as public sector officials that are actively engaged in the fight against TB including Dr. Asif Anwer Shahwani, Provincial Coordinator PTP Balochistan, Dr. Maqbool Ahmed, President Pakistan Chest Society Balochistan Chapter, Dr. Attaullah Bazzenjo, President Pakistan Pediatric Association, Balochistan Chapter, Prof. Dr. Shereen Khan, Chief Executive Fatima Jinnah Chest and General Hospital, Quetta, and Mr. Abdullah Khan, Secretary Health, Government of Balochistan.

Dr. Saeedullah Khan, Team Leader (South) Mercy Corps, started the session with a welcome note. He highlighted the achievements of the TB program and praised the efforts of Mercy Corps Pakistan and its partners in rolling out the TPT initiative across the country. After the opening remarks, Dr. Adeel Tahir, Senior Program, Mercy Corps while sharing about the Programmatic Management of TB Preventive Treatment (PMTPT), shared the innovative approaches adopted by Mercy Corps on the basis of latest research and international best practices.

Mr. Abdullah Khan, Secretary Health, Government of Balochistan, emphasized the need for collective effort from all stakeholders to eradicate TB from Pakistan.

Dr. Amin Ullah, Project Manager, Mercy Corps concluded the seminar with the hope to continue collaborating with all key stakeholders to spearhead the fight against TB in Balochistan with the effective use of Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT).

Riaz Malsi appointed as a Station Director Radio Pakistan Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Radio Pakistan Multan's new station director Riaz Malsi took charge of his post on Friday. Earlier he was in charge of FM 101 Multan. Station directors Dr. Khalid Iqbal and Asif Khan Khetran, Ali Tanha, officers and workers of Radio Pakistan Multan have congratulated Riaz Malsi. Talking to the staff after assuming charge, he said that it is an honor for him to head this institution. Director General According to the vision of Radio Pakistan Mr. Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, the broadcasting of Radio Pakistan Multan will be improved. He said that efforts will be made to revive the fields of drama and music.



Deputy Commissioner Multan inaugurated 3 Day National Polio Campaign



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Rizwan Qadir said that the 3-day national polio campaign organized by the district administration will start from November 27.

He expressed these views yesterday while inaugurating the polio campaign in Shahbaz Sharif Hospital. Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadeer administered polio drops to the children with his own hands. Attended the opening ceremony.

Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadir said that more than 1 million children will be vaccinated in the polio campaign, while strict legal action will be taken against the parents who refuse to administer polio vaccinations.

Deputy Commissioner Multan Captain Rtd Rizwan Qadir said that 3989 mobile teams will perform their duty at homes and public places. All the district inspectors and police have been given the task of making the polio campaign successful.

Fifth Police service center inaugurated in Regional Police Office Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: the Fifth Police service center inaugurated in the Regional Police Office Multan, where facilities are provided to the public under one roof, including character certificate, Registration of tenants, driving license learner permit, international driving license, renewal driving license, verification, copy of FIR and other facilities have been delivered to Bham, Regional Police Officer Captain Retired Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry further said that Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has clear instructions.



In order to provide maximum facilities to the people, which is included in the duties of the police, a service center has been established in the RPO office and its scope is being further expanded so that more people should benefit. People should take advantage of this facility from 9 am to 11 pm. The service center has been kept open uninterruptedly in the Regional Police Office where police officers are on duty in two shifts. The first shift is from 9 am to 4 pm. While the second shift will be from 4:00 PM to 4:11 PM, the public should use it.

12 more arrested as crackdown on underage drivers continues

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: As crackdown continues against underage drivers and others having unlicensed vehicles or bikes in the Attock district, 12 more youth were sent behind bars.

The Attock traffic police launched a crackdown against underage drivers continuous following a lethal accident in Lahore, which claimed lives of six members of a family, including two infants and two women. During the crackdown in the past 24 hours, the police arrested 12 drivers and registered cases against them.

Solidarity with Palestine

QUETTA: Workers of JUI(F) hold a protest rally against Israeli aggression in Palestine in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Women's Commission to observe Int'l Human Rights Day to end violence against women

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson and Women's Commission Mrs. Rehana Khan said that like last year, this year also in Azad Kashmir, like all over the world, from November 25 to December i.e. International Human Rights Day, violence against women Struggles 16 days awareness activities are being organized in AJK started today.

During these 16 days, people around the world should do their part to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminato-

ry attitudes and end violence against women. In Azad Kashmir, 15% women face violence. This includes violence through forced marriage, sexual harassment at workplace, domestic violence and honor killings. Harassment of women at workplace is common in our society.

Talking to the journalists in the office chamber, he said that every year from November 25 to 10, Kadan is celebrated internationally. It will also be celebrated in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The purpose of this event is to provide information to the people.

These crimes are everywhere. This has provided protection to women in the society. Women will play a role in all forums to prevent violence. To prevent violence against women, all stakeholders, including policy makers, should play their role. Such cases are more common in low-income areas.

Azad is trying to create a safe environment for women in Kashmir. He said that ending violence against women is the need of the hour. It is one of the most serious violations of human rights. The lives and health and safety of women affected by violence

are threatened.

In Pakistan, 32% of women are facing violence. Half of these women never sought help or informed anyone about the violence they had been subjected to. Statistics cannot cover the suffering and harm women go through, but the stories of women victims reflect it. Gender-based violence ranges from the real world to digital platforms, including physical, sexual, psychological and online violence. Appears in terrifying forms.

All forms of violence affect the physical and mental health of women

JKL cell celebrates farewell ceremony for outgoing Director Media

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: A farewell ceremony was held at Kashmir Center Rawalpindi in honor of outgoing Director Media Wing Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, in which the high ranking Of AJK Government and APHC leaders officers and staff of Media Wing National Coordination Wing participated. Addressing the ceremony Former Secretary Mansoor Qadir Dar said that Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti was an administrator of high caliber, his professionalism was worthy of praise. I stayed in the Liberation Cell, I tried my best to do the right job out of the right. He said that every secretary has worked in this field. The relationship with Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti was excellent. Which used to boost

the morale of the staff. He said that he had an emotional connection with the freedom movement. He said that the role of Kashmir Liberation Cell is very important and it is highlighting the cause of Kashmir in the best way. Former Secretary Khawaja Ijaz Hussain Lon said that we have good memories with Kashmir Liberation Cell, Sarwar Hussain has an old relationship with Gilgiti, wherever he is, his presence is known, wherever a flower is, its fragrance continues to spread. He was a very responsible officer, we did not face any problem in Rawalpindi during his service.

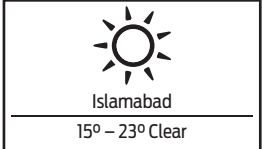
Hurriyat Conference leader Mahmood Ahmed Sagar said that he had a brotherly relationship with Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti, he was related to Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, he had meetings with

him and he has a very sophisticated personality. He said that Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti paid tribute to Director Kashmir Liberation Cell on dignified retirement. Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti said that retirement on completion of service is part of the job. Finish off in style. I have only left the job but my services always be available for the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell.

The social media wing of Liberation Cell is playing an active role in highlighting the issue of Kashmir around the world. Apart from this, the research issues related to various aspects of the Kashmir issue and the Kashmir Freedom Movement are also being coordinated in a good manner. Director Coordination Wing Raja Khan Afsar Khan said that it is a great honor to retire after completing the service period honorably and Sarwar Hussain

Gilgiti is very lucky in this regard. He said that Sarwar Hussain showed his full potential for the development of the institution and aligning it with its goals. We will continue to provide opportunities to utilize our capabilities. On this occasion, Deputy Directors Sardar Sajid Mehmood, Sardar Azim Sarwar, AD Inamul Hasan, Raja Rashid Raza, In-charge Digital Media Sardar Najeeb Al Ghafoor Khan and other officers addressed the ceremony.

Media Coordinator Sardar Ali Shan, Press Secretary Prime Minister Khawaja Imranul Haq, Deputy Director Sardar Sajid Mehmood, Dr. Nawaz addressed the ceremony. Assistant Moderator Sardar Najib Al-Ghafoor gave a prayer for the ceremony. Mr Mansoor Qadir Dar presented a shield to ongoing Officer Muhammad Sarwar Gilgiti.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:20 am
Zohr	11:54 am
Asr	3:23 pm
Maghrib	5:01 pm
Isha	6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5

MoU signed between Gomal varsity & Mianwali varsity

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A memorandum of understanding was signed between Gomal University Dera and University of Mianwali on Friday.

The MoU was signed by the University of Mianwali Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan while Gomal University was signed by Dr. Muhammad Shoaib, Registrar.

Deans of all departments of Gomal University, administrative officers along with Registrar of University of Mianwali Dr. Abdul Majid Rana and Director QEC were also present on this occasion.

This MoU was executed with the support and efforts of the Directorate of Work of Gomal University.

The terms and conditions agreed in this agreement include national and international cooperation between the two universities including promotion of scientific, research and educational cooperation, mutual faculty student exchange and mutual cooperation programs, seminars, symposiums and others in various departments.

On this occasion Vice Chancellor University of Mianwali Professor Dr. Islam Ullah Khan said that this memorandum of understanding is welcome for both educational institutions as the work of universities is to promote knowledge and research.

On this occasion, Registrar Gomal University Dr. Muhammad Shoaib said that is due to the hard work and dedication of the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah, today we have signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Mianwali.

At the end of the MoU, the Registrar of Gomal University, Dr. Muhammad Shoaib, presented an honorary shield to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mianwali, Prof. Dr. Islamullah Khan, on behalf of Gomal University.

Mushal announces 16 days of awareness campaign against gender-based violence

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushal Hussein Mullik, has said that Women Protection and Rehabilitation Centers are working at the Federal, Provincial and district level, providing early response to the victims of violence by extending medical, legal, psychological support and rehabilitation services. She was addressing the launch of 16 days Awareness campaign "Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" including a Transit Advertising Campaign organized by Ministry of Human Rights. The advertising campaign will kick start from November 25 in collaboration with Ministry of Railways and with the support of UN Women.

Highlighting the importance of the promotion and protection of women's rights, The Special Assistant to Prime Minister said that the Ministry of Human

Rights was reviewing laws and policies in regard to Women protection. She informed that Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act, 2020; Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act 2020; The Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021; and The Protection against Harassment of women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022 were some significant legislations aimed to protect women.

Mushal said that the Federal Government had enacted the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 to provide legal, financial and other forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, including women, in criminal cases. Human Rights Relief and Revolving Funds have been established in order to provide financial assistance to the victims of human rights violations, she added. She told the forum that the Ministry of Human Rights has also initiated a National Policy on Ending Violence against Women.



The Special Assistant to Prime Minister stressed the importance of collection

of quantitative and qualitative data on the status of women, building partner-

ships with key line departments and civil society organizations to facilitate women's access to legal and justice systems.

Mushal said that being a strong advocate of Gender Equality she had initiated a 100 days Action Plan to support human rights and women empowerment in Pakistan. The Special Assistant to Prime Minister further added that she was focused on highlighting human rights violation in Indian Occupied Kashmir and Palestine on national and international forums.

Talking about the Transit Advertising Campaign Mushal Hussein Mullik said that the Campaign was a powerful tool to disseminate crucial information on themes such as Zainab Alert, the rights of Transgender Persons, Senior Citizens, and Persons with Disabilities. The campaign would greatly help to connect with diverse audiences, spread awareness and catalyze social and behavioral change.

Landa Bazaar

RAWALPINDI: A large numbers of people are busy is buying woolen clothes in weekly Friday bazaar along a road at Ganjmandi area of the city.



Photo: Online

Marking a Milestone

Two Pakistani Rhodes Scholars selected for Class of 2024

City Desk

KARACHI: Two exceptional students from Lahore, Asmer Safi and Iman Iftikhar, have won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships for Pakistan this year. This year marks the Rhodes Scholarship's 75th anniversary in Pakistan.

The 75th anniversary of Rhodes Scholarship in Pakistan marks a significant milestone for the programme and all future Pakistani candidates. It represents the Rhodes Trust's commitment to continue nurturing talented students from Pakistan and ensuring that Pakistani is represented in the global community.

Rhodes Scholars form a life-long community of people in many fields and careers, united by a commitment to having a positive impact on the world. Scholars from Pakistan have



gone on to pursue careers ranging from entrepreneurship to politics.

This year's winners continue the fantastic legacy of Scholarship and excellence.

Asmer Safi Asmer Asrar Safi, a senior at Harvard University, specializes in the intellectual history of Islamic and Marxist political thought in South Asia. As Co-President of the Signet Society, he actively engages in initiatives like the

Palestine Solidarity Committee and chaired the 2020 Harvard Pakistan Forum.

Iman Iftikhar Iman Iftikhar, a historian and artist from Lahore, completed her undergraduate studies in History and Philosophy at Yale. Focused on the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement and ethics of violence, she is fluent in multiple languages, including English, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, and German. Dr Elizabeth Kiss, CEO of

the Rhodes Trust, said: "We are excited to see the tremendous talents of this year's Rhodes Scholars Elect, who come from countries all around the world.

Babar Sattar, National Secretary for the Rhodes Trust in Pakistan and Chairman of the Selection Committee in Pakistan, said: "I am very proud to see the Rhodes Scholarship awarded to two exceptional Pakistani students this year.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that the world's diversity of background and thought is reflected at Rhodes House, which has expanded the Rhodes Scholarship to include Global Scholarships and new constituencies in recent years, including West Africa, East Africa, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Malaysia, Syria, Jordan Lebanon & Palestine and the United Arab Emirates.

Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus holds event showcasing sustainable fashion talent of its students



City Desk

KARACHI: The Beaconhouse School System, Jubilee Campus in its pursuit to conserve the environment and promote a sustainable lifestyle held an event to showcase the creative fashion accomplishments of its students fully based on recyclable material.

The event held at the Jubilee Campus of the Beaconhouse School System marked the launching of "The Green Raiment" the first-ever sustainable fashion brand launched by any school in Pakistan.

"Our effort is aimed at making our students adopt a socially responsible and sustainable lifestyle as by producing all these products they have learnt that their fashion practices should be caring for the environment," said the Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus Principal, Tabinda Raza on the occasion.

"This activity would go a long way in helping our students learn about the importance of recycling and reuse of material for producing elegant fashion and lifestyle products for everyday use," she said.

The event brought light to the harsh ramifications of fast fashion and helped perpetuate means to counter these hazardous consequences. The prominent guests of the event included Uzma Munaf the CEO of Sana Safinaz, Huma Adnan the CEO of CraftStory FNKAsia, Amneh Sheikh the CEO and founder of Polly and Other Stories, Asiah Seemab the Head of the School of Fashion and Design at the Indus Valley of Arts and Architecture.

This event was greatly successful in bringing attention towards sustainable fashion and in showing the world that sustainable clothes are equally stylish and sophisticated.

AIOU holds int'l seminar on Debt, Credit and Islamic Epistemology



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A one-day international seminar on "Debt, Credit and Islamic Epistemology" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. Professor of Islamic Economics and Islamic Finance, Qassim University Qassim, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prof. Dr. Toseef Aziz was the keynote speaker, while Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Muhyiddin Hashmi presided over the seminar. Prof. Dr. Toseef Aziz emphasized that debt is not only an economic problem but also a serious mental, social, and political issue.

Discussing debt from an Islamic perspective, Dr. Toseef stated that in Islam, only Qarz e Hasna is allowed, and it should be used to fulfill basic needs. He quoted a hadith that emphasizes how one who falls into debt often lies and breaks promises. Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohiuddin Hashmi, introduced the faculty and highlighted that the AIOU is prioritizing Islamic Finance and recently started a BS program in that field. He also announced that the university is launching a research journal next year. He thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, for his support and patronage in organizing the seminar and added that this seminar is a part of the ongoing Golden Jubilee celebrations at the university. The Department of Islamic Thought organized the seminar, and Dr. Abdul Rahman hosted the event.

Pakistan-Sweden bilateral political consultations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 17th round of Pakistan-Sweden Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Stockholm. Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistan delegation, while the Sweden side was co-lead by Director General and Head of Global Department Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt and Acting Head of Department for Asia and the Pacific Oscar Schlyte of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Shafqat Khan also called on State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Jan Knutsson.

The Additional Foreign Secretary congratulated Sweden on successfully completing the term of EU Presidency this year and expressed Pakistan's desire to further enhance cooperation in renewable energy, sustainable technologies, waste management, ICT and R&D.

Message of renowned industrialist on World Children's Day

Correspondent

On World Children's Day, renowned industrialist Chairman SM food Makers and Volka foods International Ch. Zulfiqar Ali Anjum said on his message, I extend my heartfelt commitment to championing the rights and well-being of every child. Let's unite in creating opportunities, fostering education, and nurturing their potential. Together, we can shape a world where every child thrives and contributes to a sustainable and prosperous future.

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as

Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. The theme of the day is "For every child, every right"

It is said that Children are the carriers of our dreams for a happier future and our hopes for a better tomorrow. On World Children's Day, let us collectively invest in the future by ensuring every child has access to quality education and a nurturing environment. Together, we can build a world where their dreams can flourish, paving the way for a brighter and more compassionate tomorrow.



Let our collective efforts create a legacy of hope and prosperity for the children of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

There is very respect of Children in Islam, Always be kind to children and Never Speak in Anger. The Holy Quran and Hadiths warn

against speaking in anger with children. Parents have the responsibility to cherish, raise, and protect the children, as the Prophet Muhammed, peace be upon him, taught.

The industrialist said, we should to protect children by not involving them in armed conflicts or wars. No child

shall exercise any risky work, or work which obstructs his/her education or which is at the expense of his/her health as well as physical or spiritual growth.

Ensuring children's rights in Pakistan is paramount for fostering a just and equitable society. Efforts should focus on universal access to education, protection from exploitation, and healthcare provisions. Collaborative initiatives between government, NGOs, and communities are essential to address challenges and uphold the fundamental rights of every child in Pakistan. By prioritizing their well-being, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for the nation.

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Book Review

Resilient Pakistan by Haya Fatima Sehgal

Haya Fatima Sehgal's recent book titled 'Resilient Pakistan' is a compilation of her articles published in various newspapers in a span of 5 years. Through the course of the book, the author has looked at different issues concerning the state of Pakistan through a socio-cultural lens. According to the author, 'resilient' is the most fitting term to describe the people of the country. As a Pakistani nation is dealing with a number of challenges in the country's 75-year history. And has emerged stronger in the face of adversities.

The ideals for Pakistan as envisioned by the founding father Jinnah are a prominent theme in the author's idea of Pakistan of the future. She derives inspiration from 'Jinnah's Pakistan' and wishes to see his dream become a reality. The author without denying the existing issues present in the Pakistani society, expresses hope for a future where intolerance and extremism are eradicated from the social fabric. She emphasizes the importance of cultural diversity and inclusivity in building a resilient Pakistan. Sehgal also addresses the impact of global events on Pakistan's sociocultural fabric, such as the war on terror and the rise of social media. She argues for the need to protect and promote Pakistan's rich heritage and traditions, while also embracing progress and modernity.

She refers to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's speech from 11th August 1947. In which he envisioned a tolerant Pakistan based on the principle of equality and social justice. "We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination. No distinction between one community and another. no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle

that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State."—Muhammad Ali Jinnah
 In her book, Sehgal provides a comprehensive analysis of various societal challenges, including gender inequality, education, and economic disparities. She offers insightful solutions and recommendations to address these issues, emphasizing the role of individuals, communities, and the government in bringing about positive change.

Women empowerment and gender equality are recurring themes in the book. The author pays tributes to courageous women such as the Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai and Benazir Bhutto and highlights their significant contributions to society. She emphasizes the need to challenge traditional gender roles and promote women's participation in all spheres of life. In her article, "Acknowledging Malala," she writes, "We must create circumstances that accept and honour people like Malala Yousafzai."

On Aurat March and the fight for women's rights in Pakistan, Sehgal contends that "to march for women's human rights is an act of freedom." Although certain legislative steps in the right direction have been taken towards protecting women's rights, there is still a long way to go in terms of achieving true gender equality in Pakistan. She believes that the march embodies the spirit of resilience and represents the collective voice of women demanding equality and justice.

The book also delves into the educational challenges faced by Pakistan and the importance of investing in quality education for all. Sehgal highlights the need for educational reforms that address

issues such as access, quality, and curriculum relevance. She emphasizes the role of education in shaping the future of Pakistan and calls for greater investment in the education sector.

One of the points raised in the book is the impact of climate change on Pakistan's socio-cultural fabric. Sehgal highlights the vulnerability of the country to environmental challenges and calls for sustainable development practices. She stresses the need for collective action to combat climate change and protect the natural resources of Pakistan. Expressing her hope with the youth for their efforts towards impactful climate action to protect the environment, she writes; "With Gen Z very much at the forefront of climate change action, this generation is in top form and knows what it wants."

The author discusses topics such as gender equality, gender-based violence, climate change, extremism, regional geopolitics and the importance of good relations with major powers. She explores the impact of these issues on Pakistan's sociocultural fabric and offers critical analysis and perspectives. Sehgal's writing is thought-provoking, capturing the readers' attention and encouraging them to reflect on the state of the nation.

The book ends with interviews of notable personalities who have contributed towards the betterment of Pakistani society. These include Liaquat Merchant; Managing Trustee of Jinnah Society and grand-nephew of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Sadia Rashid; the President of Hamdard Foundation, Sister Ruth Lewis, a Pakistani born nun from the Catholic community who runs

Dar-ul-Sukun, a home for orphans and special needs persons, Samina Baig; the high-altitude mountaineer who climbed Mount Everest, Sultana Siddiqui; the President of Hum Network; and Lt. General Nigar Johar, the first woman in Pakistan army to attain the rank of Lt. General. Their diverse perspectives shed light on different aspects of the challenges and opportunities faced by Pakistan.

The author stresses on positive image-building of Pakistan in the global arena, showcasing the country's positive aspects and accomplishments to overcome negative stereotypes. She writes, "We must portray the nation as a strong unit-upholding global and humane values; simultaneously upgrading, amending laws and policies to safeguard vulnerable communities living within."

Sehgal presents an optimistic view of the potential of Pakistan if it effectively addresses internal issues and leverages its strengths. She emphasizes the importance of good governance, transparency, and accountability in building a prosperous and resilient nation. She says, "If Pakistan is able to recognize itself as what it truly is with transparency and focus on the millions in the middle of a power struggle, Pakistan can be a force to be reckoned with."

Overall, 'Resilient Pakistan' offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the sociocultural landscape of Pakistan. Through her book, the author aims to inspire a collective effort towards creating a resilient and thriving Pakistan, where every citizen has equal rights and opportunities. 'Resilient Pakistan' is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of Pakistani society and the path towards a brighter future.

The author is a freelance researcher and a graduate in IR from NDU



Analysis

Hafsa Razzak

Pro-Palestine views

Hollywood companies have dropped Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon and another star Melissa Barrera over their pro-Palestine views and for opposing Israel's deadly bombardment of the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, according to US media reports.

The United Talent Agency dropped Ms. Sarandon after she made remarks at a rally in New York last week, said a spokesperson for the firm, who did not elaborate on the decision.

Ms. Sarandon, a prolific political activist known for her left-wing views, received criticism after she said at a pro-Palestinian rally Friday that people who are "afraid of being Jewish at this time" are "getting a taste of what it feels like to be Muslim in this country, so often subjected to violence."

The remarks were recorded in a video published by the New York Post. The tabloid reported that Ms. Sarandon called for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, which has been under siege and bombardment by Israeli forces since Oct. 7.

The comments attracted attention on social media. Aviva Klompas, a former speechwriter for Israel's Mission at the United Nations, tweeted that she believed Ms. Sarandon was "saying that American Jews have it coming — that we don't deserve to live free from harassment and assault."

In other comments at the rally, Ms. Sarandon said criticism of Israel should not be conflated with antisemitism. "There's a terrible thing that's happened where antisemitism has been confused with speaking up against Israel," she said, according to The New York Times.

"I am against antisemitism. I am against Islamophobia," she went on to say.

In a separate development, Spyglass Media Group confirmed that it had dropped Ms. Barrera, an up-and-coming actor, from the "Scream" horror series after a series of Instagram posts reportedly condemned Israel in strong terms.

Writing in one post, she reportedly said, "Western media only shows the [Israeli] side. Why do they do that, I will let you deduce for yourself." (NBC News has not seen the posts; Variety reported on them.)

In a statement posted on social media Wednesday, Ms. Barrera said she would continue to speak out when she felt compelled.

"First and foremost I condemn Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. I condemn hate and prejudice of any kind against any group of people. ... Every person on this earth — regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic status — deserves equal human rights, dignity, and, of course, freedom," she wrote.

In her remarks, Ms. Sarandon, the six-time Primetime Emmy Award nominee, also said, "People are questioning, people are standing up, people are educating themselves, people are stepping away from brainwashing that started when they were kids."

According to the Gaza-based health ministry, more than 14,000 Palestinians, including at least 5,600 children, have been killed and more than 33,000 others injured in the Israeli strikes since October 7.

Tel Aviv has also imposed a "complete siege" on Gaza, cutting off fuel, electricity, food and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

Ms. Sarandon encouraged attendees to "be strong, be patient, be clear and stand with anybody who has the courage to speak out" and thanked "the Jewish community who's come out to have our backs."



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

National Call for the Restoration of Military Courts - III

Additionally, military courts in Pakistan were instituted following a terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014. The tragic incident prompted the establishment of military courts through the 21st Constitutional Amendment, effective from January 6, 2015. These courts were granted jurisdiction for the speedy trial of cases related to specified acts. Since their inception, military courts have handled approximately 717 cases, finalizing 546 of them. Notably, they imposed death sentences on 310 terrorists and various terms of rigorous imprisonment on 234 others. This track record underscores the role of military courts in delivering swift justice.

The government's response to the May 9 attacks, perpetrated by a group of militants and terrorists targeting civil and military installations, involved the use of Military Act and Military Courts. It is crucial to note that decisions made by military courts are subject to appeal in higher civilian courts, mitigating concerns of potential human rights violations.

The Ministry of Defense's intra-court appeal argues that the petitions on which the Supreme Court's five-member bench based its decision were inadmissible. Nullifying the provisions of the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act, as per the appeal, would result in irreparable damage to the country. The Ministry of Defense calls for the annulment of the October 23 decision by the Supreme Court and the restoration of

invalidated provisions of the Official Secrets Act. Additionally, the Ministry seeks the reinstatement of the repealed Section 59(4) of the Army Act and requests an injunction against trials in military courts until a final decision is reached on the appeals.

Subsequently, the Interior Ministry has also contested the verdict against military courts. The Ministry of Interior has filed an initial appeal in the Supreme Court, addressing the issue of trying civilians in military courts. A comprehensive appeal from the Ministry of Interior is anticipated soon. The appeal seeks the annulment of the decision against military courts.

Pakistan's Senate has also passed a resolution, urging the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision that declared the military trials of civilians arrested for violent nationwide protests on May 9 null and void. The resolution emphasizes that the judgment should not be implemented unless it is reviewed by a larger bench of the Supreme Court. The resolution, presented in the upper house of Pakistan's parliament, criticizes the Supreme Court's verdict, stating that it appears to attempt to rewrite the law by encroaching upon the legislative authority of Parliament.

The Senate resolution calls upon the apex court to reassess its decision, advocating alignment with the national security paradigm and recognizing the sacrifices of the martyrs. It emphasizes the need to address concerns about the judgment's potential impact on the security and stability of the nation. The resolution asserts that the mili-

tary trial of those accused of attacking military properties on May 9 under the Army Act is an appropriate and proportional response within Pakistan's existing constitutional framework and statutory regime.

Expressing dismay at the Supreme Court, the resolution criticizes the court for not considering existing procedures that clarify the non-arbitrary nature of military court sentences, which must follow due processes and formalities. It highlights the oversight of the appeal process against Military Court orders, including appeal avenues with the Chief of Army Staff and the President, as well as the option to file writ petitions in High Courts that may eventually reach the Supreme Court.

Regarding the May 9 attacks, the resolution characterizes it as a dark day and condemns the anti-state acts committed against Pakistan's armed forces. It argues that the culprits of May 9, who attacked defense installations and dismantled memorials of martyrs, deserve no empathy or leniency and should be tried in Military Courts, receiving stringent punishments to set an example for internal and external enemies, creating deterrence, and upholding the supremacy of the State. The resolution notes the lack of unanimity in the bench led by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, unlike previous benches that upheld trials of civilians under the Army Act. Consequently, the resolution contends that the decision is legally flawed and should not be implemented unless considered by a larger bench.

Readers, in light of the presented facts, figures, and ground realities, the nation underscores the clear necessity of restoring military courts promptly, echoing its demand to swiftly punish terrorists and anti-state elements.

Consumer Boycotts as Drivers of Corporate Responsibility

The Influence of Geopolitical Movements on Multinational Corporations

Maria Waris

In today's globalized world of consumer activism, multinational corporations (MNCs) often find themselves at the centre of societal movements driven by consumer values. In recent years, there has been a growing trend in global consumer boycotts aimed at enhancing the accountability and ethical responsibility of MNCs.

One important example within this regard is the impact of consumer boycotts on Israeli MNCs. These corporations, operate in diverse sectors such as technology, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture, have not been immune to the effects of consumer-led movements addressing geopolitical concerns.

The dynamics of consumer boycotts impacting Israeli MNCs emphasize the complex convergence of politics, business, and social activism. Such movements often originate from concerns related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the Israeli government's policies. The ardour of these boycotts has led to immense scrutiny and pressure on Israeli-based companies which are operating globally.

Well-known businesses like McDonald's, KFC, Pizza hut, L'Oréal and Coca cola etc. have been facing substantial challenges due to consumer boycotts driven by geopolitical tensions. These boycotts, originating from various parts of the globe, affected these companies' market presence and caused a tangible impact on their reputation and economy. The boycotts are a way to show solidarity to the people of Palestine. The supporters of Palestine accuse these MNCs of being a contributor to the mass atrocities happening in Gaza and West Bank.

The response from MNCs to such boycotts has been diverse. Some companies have intensified efforts to communicate their commitment to ethical practi-

es and social responsibility. Others have reevaluated their supply chains or collaborated with global partners to navigate the complex consumer sentiments. These companies indicate that there lies a distinction among the company's global management and its regional franchises. McDonald's, Israel provided free meals to IDF forces during the Israel Palestine war but the actions of McDonald's Israel do not demonstrate the views of the company as a whole or its other branches.

Saudi outlets of McDonald's and those in Qatar, Oman, the UAE, Malaysia, Pakistan and other states have offered support to the Palestinian people in the form of financial relief and messages of solidarity.

Social Media has also played a great role in this context. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram allows users to reflect their opinions, share information and promote these boycotts and raising awareness about which products the public needs to boycott. These are making an impact because Economic pressure is the most efficient way of protest.

Beyond the financial implications, these boycotts have started discussions on corporate responsibility, international relations, and the delicate balance between consumer activism and business sustainability. They highlight the complex relationship between geopolitical issues and the functioning of multinational corporations in a globalized economy.

Thus in conclusion the consumer boycotts have a real impact on multinational corporations today. When consumers choose to boycott a company, it can affect the company's reputation, sales, and overall success. As people become more aware of social and ethical issues, their purchasing decisions are influenced by their values. This puts pressure on MNCs to align their practices with consumer expectations and prioritize ethical behaviour. Ultimately, consumer boycotts have the power to drive change and hold companies accountable for their actions.

Reception Ceremony

Japan aims to bolster bilateral ties with Pakistan

Naveed Ahmed Khan

The Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro said that Japan and Pakistan celebrated the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties last year and aimed to further develop the relationship this year. He expressed these thoughts while addressing the reception ceremony held in honor of the Journalists at his residence. The core team of the Japanese Embassy Mr. ITO Takeshi Deputy Head of Mission, JICA's Chief Representative, Mr. Yasumitsu Kinoshita, Tadayoshi Hiraki, Commercial Attaché, Kazumasa TAKANEM, Counsellor, Head Culture & Public Information Section, KAWAMURA Kenta, Economic & Development Counsellor, SHINOHARA Nobukuni, First Secretary, Chief Political Affairs and others dignities were also present on the reception and welcomed to participating journalists.

The Ambassador extended warm greetings to journalists and said "I hope tonight will be an opportunity to further deepen your understanding of Japan and Japan-Pakistan relations. My staff from the Political, Economic & Development, and Public Affairs Sections are waiting to talk with you. He thanked JICA's Chief Representative, Mr. Kinoshita, and Mr. Kinoshita for joining the reception party.

He further said that last summer, Pakistan experienced the largest flood in its history. At that testing time, Prime Minister Kishida sent a message to the Pakistani government that "Japan will always be with Pakistan and will spare no effort to provide the necessary support for the earliest possible recovery of the affected areas". He informed that "In January, Japan pledged approximately 77 Million US dollars in assistance for the recovery from the flood damage, more than half of which has already been disbursed. As part of this pledge, a grant aid project was signed last month. This is a project to rebuild 9 schools or 44 classrooms in Sindh Province. JICA and the Government of Sindh are being prepared for implementation".

He said historically, Japan has been providing development assistance to Pakistan since 1954 and would continue its ODA cooperation with Pakistan next year. He said for any information regarding this matter Mr. Kinoshita and the staff of the Economic & Development Section would remain available to address queries. He also mentioned



the Foreign Minister's visit to Japan in July. He said I also attended the meeting between the two Ministers in Tokyo and saw them having an open and frank exchange of views.

The Ambassador said Pakistan is heading toward general elections, and we have a new Foreign Minister, Ms. Yoko Kamikawa. She recently visited Palestine and Israel to discuss the situation especially how to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Between the governments of Japan and Pakistan, we have several high-level consultation frameworks including Foreign Secretary Level Political Dialogue, which was held in June. In the coming year and beyond, we will make use of the frameworks to improve further bilateral relations.

While talking business relations he added that in September, he visited Sialkot with Japanese companies in order to explore further strengthening business ties. He said I learned during the visit that Japan's artificial leather, stainless steel, and other materials make it possible to produce high-quality soccer balls, surgical instruments, and sportswear for export to the rest of the world. He informed that more than 80 Japanese companies are doing business in Pakistan and created over 80,000 job opportunities. They have shared and transferred their knowledge, technologies, and experiences while local partners have facilitated the Japanese business people in all phases of the business cycle as "DareenahDost".

He said businesses are currently facing a difficult time amid the current economic situation in Pakistan. He vowed to make all-out efforts to ensure that the business relationship between the two countries does not suffer any



setbacks.

Japan's ambassador said cultural and people-to-people exchanges are the foundation of the Japan-Pakistan relationship. He said this year, we are holding events such as a Karate session and a Japanese film festival, as well as conducting scholarship programs as in previous years. He added I would like to

mention that the Government of Japan has conferred the Imperial Decorations on Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, former Ambassador to Japan. He trained in Japan to master the Japanese language and contributed to strengthening friendship, cultural and economic relations, and mutual understanding. Following him, Dr. Gazala Irfan, President of the Paki-

stan Japan Cultural Association Lahore, has also been conferred the honor for her contributions to the promotion of cultural relationships for many years.

He expressed hopes that more and more young people of Japan and Pakistan will become interested in each other's culture and people, and will further develop bilateral relations

towards the 80th, 90th, and 100th anniversaries of our relationship. He attended to the participants one-on-one and asked them to enjoy the Japanese cuisine that the Japanese chef had prepared for guests. The event concluded on high notes and participants hailed the Japanese embassy for great hospitality and top class arrangements.

Achievement

H. E. Ms Jane Marriott OBE, British High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan met Pakistan's first female astronaut Ms. Namira Salim. She expressed hopes that Ms. Namira's achievements will inspire others to touch the skies.



The honor

UAE's Dr. Al-Zaabi receives honorary doctorate degree from Punjab Governor

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In a grand ceremony held at the Governor House today in Lahore, the honorable Governor of Punjab Mr. Balligh Ur Rehman awarded the Honorary Doctorate Degree to the Guest of Honour, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan HE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi on behalf of the Institute for Art & Culture (IAC). Mr. Muhammad Faisal Janjua, Chancellor IAC was also present.

The Chancellor IAC Mr. Janjua welcomed the guests and highlighted the salient success stories of the leading Institution IAC over the last few years. The audience lauded the informative IAC Documentary shown before his address.

Another highlight of the event was the presence of Namira Salim, the 1st Pakistani Astronaut to go to space on 6th October



2023. She thanked IAC & other esteemed guests for acknowledging her services to the country.

In his address, HE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi highlighted the UAE's contribution to higher education in Pakistan as UAE recognizes the importance of investing in education and supporting institutions like IAC as they believe in sharing experiences and expertise to strengthen education

systems and empower the youth. He also expressed his gratitude to IAC for conferring the honorary doctorate degree in recognition of his services.

In the concluding session, the Chief Guest, honorable Governor of Punjab Mr. Muhammad Balligh-Ur-Rehman congratulated HE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi on being awarded the Doctorate Degree by IAC. He highlighted the significance of

both Taleem & Tarbeeyat for youth and acknowledged the commendable services being extended by IAC as a leading institution in the Higher Education Sector in Pakistan.

Institute for Arts & Culture (IAC) is a federally chartered degree awarding institute recognized by HEC. IAC envisions a dynamic future where Art & Culture and Technology seamlessly converge fostering creativity, innovation and a deep understanding of the world around us

The IAC Souvenirs along with uniquely crafted shawls by Students of School of Art (IAC) were presented to Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Namira Salim.

The event was well attended by eminent dignitaries and guests from the Academic & Industry fraternity in addition to IAC Management, Officials, Faculty and Students.

Need to Know

ICRC and PRCS Help Reconnect Families

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) facilitated families from across Pakistan to attend the International Families Conference from 22-23 November. The local conference hub at the PRCS national headquarters hosted 13 families with a relative separated or being sought as a result of international migration, mainly towards Europe.

Organized by the ICRC Central Tracing Agency and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around



the world, the conference is a unique global forum that brings together families who have lost contact with their loved ones because of natural disasters, international migration, or other humanitarian emergencies. This

year, 44 conference hubs will be hosted by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement around the globe, with 700 families from 44 contexts around the world expected to join.

In Pakistan, the ICRC and

PRCS work closely with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world under the Restoring Family Links (RFL) program to help people separated from their families or without news of them following natural disasters, international migration, emergencies as well as in other situations of humanitarian need.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Chairman PRCS, said, "Families are often a main actor in the search, and they deserve to be supported and heard. Authorities, communities and society-at-large should acknowledge the families' plight and support them by responding to their multifaceted needs."

Redefining Comfort

Hotel One by Pearl-Continental Debuts in Karachi

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan-In an exciting move to bring premium hospitality within everyone's reach, Hashoo Group's renowned select-service brand, Hotel One by Pearl-Continental, has teamed up with Karachi's esteemed Hotel Galaxy. Together, they proudly introduce the newly rebranded Hotel One, offering an elevated and budget-friendly hospitality experience in Pakistan's bustling business hub, Karachi.

Haseeb A. Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality & Education Division, Hashoo Group, shared his enthusiasm, stating, "We constantly seek like-minded partners who share our vision of providing



high-quality and accessible hospitality services throughout Pakistan.

Ahmed Iqbal Saeed, Vice President Operations at Hotel One by Pearl-Continental, echoed the sentiment, saying, "We are thrilled to work hand in hand with Hotel Galaxy to elevate the standard of affordable comfort for our guests in Karachi and set new benchmarks for hospitality services in Pakistan's

busiest city."

Saleem Akhtar, Chief Executive, Hotel Galaxy Pvt. Ltd., expressed his anticipation, "We are excited to join forces with Hotel One by Pearl-Continental to transform Hotel Galaxy into a beacon of excellence in Karachi's hospitality sector. Asif Raza, Vice President Business Development, stated, "Over the next two years, we are excited to open 14 new Hotel One properties

across Pakistan. Established in 2003, Hotel Galaxy stands as one of Karachi's leading modern hotels, strategically located in the heart of the city at Shahrah-e-Faisal, just a few kilometers away from one of the country's largest airports.

Hashoo Group is Pakistan's premium conglomerate with a diversified business portfolio spanning both national and international markets.

Hotel One by Pearl-Continental, the distinguished select-service hotel chain under the Hashoo Group umbrella has been a trailblazer in the budget-friendly, limited-service hotel industry since 2006. It has consistently delivered value, convenience, and reliability to guests across Pakistan.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
59,086.35	58,899.84
Day's High	Day's Low
59,502.28	58,990.21
Index Value	Change
14,625,160,986	+186.51
Percentage	Time
+0.32%	24 Nov, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,488.20	+4.62
Percentage	Time
+0.062%	24 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
35,340.67	+67.64
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	24 Nov, 12:07 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
33,625.53	+173.70
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	24 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.85	187.35
Bahrain Dinar	751.53	759.53
Canadian Dollar	208.00	208.50
China Yuan	39.80	39.90
Danish Krone	41.79	41.89
Euro	310.71	311.31
Hong Kong Dollar	36.52	36.62
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.89	1.92
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.38	925.38
Malaysian Ringgit	60.38	60.98
New Zealand \$	170.9	172.9
Norwegians Krone	26.25	26.55
Omani Riyal	734.05	742.05
Qatari Riyal	77.63	78.33
Saudi Riyal	75.94	76.09
Singapore Dollar	212.20	212.70
Swedish Korona	27.08	27.18
Swiss Franc	322.39	322.89
Thai Bhat	8.00	8.04
U.A.E Dirham	77.55	77.70
UK Pound Sterling	357.55	358.20
US Dollar	284.87	285.37

SECP revokes registration of "New Hampshire Insurance Company—Pakistan Branch"

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has revoked the registration of M/s New Hampshire Insurance Company—Pakistan Branch as an insurer under sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Insurance Ordinance 2000.

The registration was revoked by SECP pursuant to the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh's approval of the Scheme of Arrangement in its order dated September 13, 2023, in which the entire undertaking of M/s New Hampshire Insurance Company in Pakistan is transferred to TPL Insurance Limited. M/s New Hampshire Insurance Company, Pakistan Branch, is no longer authorized to carry on insurance business in Pakistan, and any business activity carried out by it or any liability incurred by it shall be payable by TPL Insurance Limited.

LESCO Chief reviews progress of anti-power theft campaign

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider chaired a high-level meeting to review progress of the ongoing anti-electricity theft campaign here on Thursday.

LESCO Director (Customer Services) Engineer Rai Mohammad Asghar, Chief Engineer Material Management Ramzan Butt, Chief Engineer T&G Zafraqbal, Chief Engineer Operations Sarwar Mughal, Chief Engineer PMU Tahir Mayo, Chief Engineer P&D Muhammad Imran, Director M&T Muhammad Wasim and Rashid Khan attended.

On this occasion, the CEO instructed all the officers to take more strict measures to prevent electricity theft.

Iranian ambassador visits FPCCI

Iran to enhance business ties with Pakistan through trade, investment: envoy

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that, in a high-profile visit to FPCCI Head Office, H. E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan, has proposed to set up border markets with Pakistan to enhance trade between the two countries.

H. E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan, proposed that Iran is one of the world's top producers of petrochemical and energy sources – and, Pakistan is mostly dependent on imported oil and other energy sources. This phenomenon makes Iran a very important country for Pakistan to bridge its energy deficiencies through reliable and inexpensive supplies from Iran.

Mr. Moghadam also highlighted that Pakistani rice is popular in Iran due to its good taste and Pakistani textiles are world-famous.



The two countries also enjoy cultural and religious bonds. He expressed his desire to

enhance people-to-people; business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber contacts with Pakistan. We need to increase business tourism between the two countries and Iranian embassy is all-willing to facilitate the Pakistani business community in visas and participation into trade exhibitions and fairs in Iran.

Mr. Sheikh said that enhancing trade with Iran can help resolve Pakistan's chronic trade deficit issues as Iran is our next door neighbor and exporting to Iran will be price-competitive due to negligible shipping & logistics costs due to land-based route.

Mr. Shaikat Omerson, VP FPCCI, highlighted that there are a number of products and services that Pakistan can export to Iran in large numbers; and, rice, fruits, vegetables, value-added textiles, sports goods, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals and IT services of Pakistan have great potential in Iran.

NBP's Vision for e-commerce

RIYADH: Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President & CEO, NBP attended the UnionPay International Regional Member Council Meeting in Riyadh, KSA. During the Council Meeting, he also Presented NBP's Vision for e-commerce and online payments. The meeting was also attended by delegates from across the financial sector from the Middle East, Türkiye, China, and Pakistan.



Population

Collapse of health, education sector destroying economy, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the number of children born in Pakistan yearly is more than the total population of many developed countries.

He added that the country's economy and resources cannot bear the burden of an increase in population of six million people per year.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the population growth rate in Pakistan is the highest in the world. In contrast, the growth rate is lower than that of African countries, which shows the deterioration of the situation.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan's population growth rate is 2.55%, India's 0.7%, China's 0.1% and Bangladesh's 1.1%.

Due to the weak economy and growing population, forty percent of children in the country lack adequate nutrition; the maternal and child mortality rate is the



highest in the world, he said.

The business leader said that apart from Afghanistan, only Pakistan has the honor that polio disease has not been eradicated here.

Much of the population lacks clean drinking water, jaundice and tuberculosis are common, and one in four adults has diabetes.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that nearly two and a half million children in Pakistan are deprived of schooling, and a few percent of those who have access

to schools are forced to seek substandard education.

Pakistan is also at the top in terms of environmental pollution, and its cities are often ranked among the most polluted cities in the world.

In these circumstances, the influential groups of the society have devised their systems for managing health, education, security, housing, water employment etc.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that some economic stability has come from the IMF standby agreement, along with the recent successful review of the IMF, investors' confidence has also increased, due to which the stock exchange rose by 58,000 points.

Exports and remittances have also seen an increase in the last month. The value of the rupee has stabilized. Due to SIFC's initiatives, people's confidence in the country's economic future has increased.

More political and economic stability is expected in case of an election. Despite all these positive signs, the country's long-standing problems are still in place, for the solution of which the whole nation will have to unite, and there is no chance for chaos and politics of vandalism.

ICCI for focusing on renewable energy to ensure rapid revival of economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan is relying on thermal energy, which is more expensive making Pakistani businesses uncompetitive and stressed that the government should focus on renewable energy that would significantly reduce the production cost and pave the way for rapid revival of the economy.

He said that due to heavy dependence on thermal power, the stock of circular debt has also surged to over Rs. 2.30 trillion by the end of June 2023 despite massive increase in power tariffs. However, increasing the share of renewable energy will make electricity cheaper for industry, achieve greater energy security, reduce carbon emissions and enable Pakistan to save billions of dollars every year. He said this while talking to Muhammad Ali, Federal Minister for Energy during a meeting with him.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Ali, Federal Minister for Energy assured



that the government is committed to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix to achieve a sustainable energy future. He said that Pakistan is blessed with abundant potential for solar and wind power and the government is working to exploit them with international support and investment. He said that the government's supportive policies and incentives for renewable energy would transition the country towards a cleaner, more sustainable, environment-friendly, affordable and resilient energy landscape. He said that the future of renewable energy in Pakistan holds great promises and the government is working to enhance its share that would also benefit the entrepreneurs.

Zong 4G Ensures Employee Safety with Fire Safety Awareness Month

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, a leading telecommunication company, is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its employees. In observance of Fire Safety Awareness Month this November, Zong 4G, has taken proactive measures to equip its workforce with essential knowledge and skills to respond effectively in the event of a fire emergency.

As part of the Fire Safety Awareness Month activities, Zong 4G conducted a successful fire drill on the 24th of November. The drill was meticulously planned to simulate real-life scenarios and evaluate the effectiveness of emergency response procedures.

The objective was to improve response times and ensure that employees were well-prepared to handle any potential fire-related situations.

'Aspire – Beyond the Ordinary' by Systems Limited sets new benchmarks for emerging tech

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Systems Limited closes this year with unparalleled display of emerging technology with its Aspire Roadshow – in collaboration with Microsoft – in Karachi and Lahore. Attended by senior professionals across industries, the event set the bar high for the new year as it unfolded emerging technologies like Generative AI and Metaverse with practical demonstrations of how they are applied to turn the tide with digital excellence.

The event took place with Sarah Irfan and Rafe Sajid from the marketing team kicking off in grand fashion by welcoming the guests and setting the stage for an exhibition of innovation and technology prowess led by industry experts and thought leaders.

Moving forward, keynote speeches on behalf of Microsoft Pakistan were presented by Jibrin Jamshed – Education Sector Lead & Principal Officer in Karachi and Saira



Asad – Customer Success Account Manager in Lahore, who presented actionable insights and foresights into Microsoft's Copilot technology and how it provides immense value in the customer journey at each touchpoint. Explaining further the goldmine of economic opportunities AI has for businesses,

both confirmed: "AI is the greatest commercial opportunity of today, accounting for up to 14% boost in global GDP."

Up next was Dr Tariq Khan – VP Data Science at Systems Limited, who shared in detail how Large Language Models (LLMs) work and how they build the basis for Generative AI, particularly Microsoft Copilot and other intelligent enterprise solutions. He stated, "While there is an influx of data in the industry at the moment, one thing is for certain that Generative AI is here to stay and for all the right reasons."

Proceeding with the event agenda, Muhammad Naveed – Solution Architect & Presales Lead at Systems Limited, took center stage with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Copilot where he described the AI transformation roadmap Microsoft is taking for its cloud-based platforms to build the world's first AI Copilot integrating both ERP and CRM applications.

Shahbaz Sarwar – Azure Solution Specialist at Microsoft Pakistan addressed the audience on "Building your own Copilot using Azure OpenAI". With live demos, he showcased how organizations can unlock the full potential of their data.

Last but not least was Asif Bilgrami, VP Emerging Technologies at Systems Limited, who explored a rather uncharted territory for many – the Metaverse. He listed why the Metaverse is the new big thing with its boundless, immersive, and economical potential.

Aspire concluded with an interactive networking session where technology experts convened to explore possibilities of collaboration.

Aspire concluded with an interactive networking session where technology experts convened to explore possibilities of collaboration.

Third B-5 training, coaching course on Dec 16th in Karachi: Dr. Farhan Essa

Sport Desk

KARACHI: Sindh Softball Association President Prof. Dr. Farhan Isa Abdullah has said that the third B-5 training and coaching course will be held in Karachi on December 16 in collaboration with the Softball Federation of Pakistan. Moreover, in January, Qualified coaches from Sindh will be sent to the three-day Softball Coaching Seminar sponsored by the World Baseball Softball Confederation in Kuala Lumpur and the four-day Softball Asia Level One and Two Coaching Course in Pattaya, Thailand, through the federation.

He announced while giving details



along with Vice President of the Pakistan Olympic Association and Patron of SSA Fatima Lakhani along with Secretary General of Softball Federation

Asif Azeem and Chairperson of SSA Women's Commission Dr. Huma Bukhari about the B-5 Training and Coaching Course.

Giving further details, Dr. Farhan Isa said that in the course, players, coaches and sports teachers of schools, colleges and universities will be given training and awareness of the new rules of Baseball 5.

A special session will also be arranged on sports injuries and doping tests in this connection.

We aim to strengthen the infrastructure of the Baseball 5 game in Sindh and promote this game at schools, colleges, universities and grassroots levels.

Imad Wasim retires from international cricket

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim on Friday, left his fans stunned as he announced his retirement from international cricket.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Imad Wasim revealed that he was thinking about his future in international cricket before calling time on his eight-year long career.

"In recent days have been doing a lot of thinking about my international career and have come to the conclusion that now is the right time for me to announce my retirement from international cricket.

"I would like to thank the PCB for all their support over the years it has truly been an honour to represent Pakistan. Each of my 121 appearances across the ODI and T20I formats was a dream come true.

Imad Wasim extended his well wishes for Pakistan cricket and also thanked his



fans for their support.

"It's an exciting time for Pakistan cricket going forwards with new coaches and leadership incoming. I wish all involved every success and look forward to watching the team excel.

"Thank you to the Pakistan fans for always supporting me with such passion. A final thank you to my family

and friends who have been so important in helping me achieve at the highest level.

"Now, [I] look forward to focussing on the next stage of my playing career away from the international stage.

Notably, Imad Wasim, who made his international debut in 2015, represented Pakistan in 66 T20Is and

55 ODIs.

He scored 1,472 runs across formats with the help of six half-centuries.

He was part of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017.

His last appearance for Pakistan, however, was in April this year in the home T20I series against New Zealand.

Ronaldo or Messi? England legend Lineker names world's best player

England's legendary former soccer player Gary Lineker termed Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi as the "greatest player of all time".

Lineker made the remarks when he was asked who — in his opinion — is the best player in the world in recent years — Messi or Al-Nasr forward Cristiano Ronaldo, BBC reported. He chooses the side of the Argentine footballer.

"Messi is now certainly considered the greatest player of all time. There are people who compare him to Cristiano Ronaldo in terms of performance. But in my opinion, no one can match Messi in the way they delight us with their performances," Lineker said in an interview.

It is pertinent to mention here that Messi moved to the American club in the summer of 2023 as a free agent, signing an agreement until 2025.

During the last season, the captain of the Argentina national team played 14 matches for Inter Miami, in which he scored 11 goals and provided 5 assists.

Football legends Ronaldo and Messi are set to face each other one more time in Saudi Arabia in February next year. The duo recently faced each other on the football pitch earlier in January this year when Messi's Paris Saint-Germain locked horns with Riyadh All-Stars XI with the former securing a 5-4 victory in the Kingdom.

Chief selector Wahab Riaz visits Pakistan training camp

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Wahab Riaz, the head of the national men's selection committee, visited the Pakistan team's training camp for the upcoming three-match Test series against Australia.

Wahab Riaz overviewed the Pakistan team's preparation for the Australia series and met team manager Naveed Akram Cheema.

He also talked to newly appointed Pakistan Test and T20I captains Shan Masood and Shaheen Afridi, as well as, team Director Mohammad Hafeez.

Pakistan's 18-member squad kicked off training yesterday for the Australian tour scheduled to commence on December 14.

According to the details, 18 players including seven additional players Arshad Iqbal, Kashif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usama Mir, and Usman Qadir, partook in the team's first training session.

Earlier Thursday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) invited three more pacers Sameen Gul, Ali Shafique, and Muhammad Ali to the training camp.



The players participated in several fielding drills and carried out robust batting and bowling sessions.

Pakistan's training camp for the Australia tour will run until November 28.

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Opening batter Imam-ul-Haq and all-rounder Faheem Ashraf will miss the

entirety of the training camp due to their upcoming wedding festivities.

They are expected to join the squad in Lahore on 30th November, just before the team's departure to Australia.

Pakistan's quest for their first Test series victory over Australia in their backyard will commence on December 14.

It will be a tough challenge for

left-handed opener Shan Masood, who became the Test captain after Babar Azam relinquished the role from all formats after his side's dismal show in the recently concluded ICC World Cup 2023.

The Green Shirts will get an opportunity to get used to the testing Australian conditions as they will take on the Prime Minister's XI in the four-day red-ball fixture at Manuka Oval from 6-9 December 2023.

Pakistan squad

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

Schedule of Pakistan's Test tour of Australia

First Test: December 14-18, Perth Stadium

Second Test: December 26-30, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Third Test: January 3-7, Sydney Cricket Ground

Matthew Potts replaces Josh Tongue in England squad for West Indies series

Sports Desk

LAHORE: England have called up Matthew Potts for their ODI series against the West Indies after seamer Josh Tongue was ruled out of the white-ball tour with an injury.

Jos Buttler's team will play three 50-over matches in the Caribbean next month followed by five Twenty20 internationals, just weeks after their bitterly disappointing World Cup campaign.

Josh Tongue, 26, had continued his impressive breakthrough year on the international stage with a maiden white-ball call-up when the squads were announced earlier this month but

he picked up an injury while on a training camp in the United Arab Emirates with the England Lions second-tier team. Matthew Potts has represented England in three ODI matches during the series against Ireland in September.

Josh Tongue's injury will rule him out of the whole tour of the West Indies, with Matthew Potts filling in his shoes in the ODI series, however no replacement for the T20I squad has been finalised yet.

The ODI series is set to begin in Antigua on December 3.

England ODI squad

Jos Buttler (captain), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett,



Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Liam Livingstone, Ollie Pope, Phil Salt, Matthew Potts, John Turner

ODI series

1st ODI: West Indies v England - 3 December, Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua

England - 6 December, Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua

3rd ODI: West Indies v England - 9 December, Kensington Oval, Barbados

T20I series

1st T20I: West Indies v England - 12 December, Kensington Oval, Barbados

2nd T20I: West Indies v England - 14 December, Grenada National Stadium, Grenada

3rd T20I: West Indies v England - 16 December, Grenada National Stadium, Grenada

4th T20I: West Indies v England - 19 December, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad

5th T20I: West Indies v England - 21 December, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad

BISE Lahore wins Inter boards netball championship

Sport Desk

MULTAN: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore won the All Pakistan Inter Boards Girls Netball Championship. The host BISE Multan was the runner up while Faisalabad got the third position and Bannu stood at fourth position.



At the end of the championship played at the Multan Board campus ground, Chairman BISE, Hafiz Muhammad Qasim and Secretary Khurram Shahzad Aslam Qureshi distributed the prizes. Organizing Secretary and Sports Incharge Multan Board Malik Nisar gave a briefing about the competitions and said that the league-based championship continued for two days. He informed that Lahore won three matches whereas runner-up Multan won two and third position holder Faisalabad won one match. In the final ceremony, Peshawar Quetta and Bannu Boards Director Sports Manzar Shah, Muhammad Bakhs and Syed Latif Shah also participated in the ceremony.

ARY to broadcast 2023 Abu Dhabi T10 League in Pakistan

A Sports

LAHORE: ARY has secured media rights in Pakistan for the 2023 Abu Dhabi T10 League as cricket's fastest format brings together a galaxy of international stars for 32 action-packed matches from 28 November to 9 December.



The eight-team competition starting on 28 November in Abu Dhabi will be broadcast on A Sports, one of Pakistan's leading sports TV channels.

The seventh season of the Abu Dhabi T10 League features eight teams - Team Abu Dhabi, New York Strikers, Northern Warriors, Deccan Gladiators, Bangla Tigers, Chennai Braves, Morrisville SAMP ARMY, and Delhi Bulls. The teams will go head-to-head in a round-robin format with the four best performing teams competing in the knockout stages with the final set to take place on 9 December.

This latest content acquisition will ensure continued coverage of top-quality sports content on A Sports. Earlier this month, A Sports and ARY Zap successfully covered the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

ARY's sports offerings in the past two years have included the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, ICC Men's and Women's T20 World Cups, two seasons of the Pakistan Super League, bilateral matches organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, South Africa 20, Major League Cricket, Canada Global T20, FairBreak Invitational T20, Formula 1, and La Liga.

"I am delighted that A Sports will continue to broadcast high quality cricket with the Abu Dhabi T10 2023 starting later this month," said Salman Iqbal, ARY Digital Founder and CEO.

"We have just successfully broadcast the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup with The Pavilion - our wrap-around show - gaining traction across the globe.

"My team and I are very keen to build our sports offerings and to bring the best sports events to viewers in Pakistan."

Speaking on the broadcast in Pakistan, Mr Shaji UJ Mulk, Chairman, T10 Sports Management said, "We are delighted to have ARY as our broadcast partners in Pakistan. A Sports and ARY Zap have already garnered a great reputation among sports viewers thanks to their association with some of the biggest sporting events in the past. Pakistan is an important market for us to extend our reach. We want to provide our broadcasters in the region the best version of the sport there is to offer. We are confident the 7th edition of Abu Dhabi T10 will be unlike others - and will only add to the success story of cricket's shortest and fastest format."

Gautam Gambhir backs Rohit Sharma as captain for T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

LAHORE:

Former Indian opening batter Gautam Gambhir has backed Rohit Sharma to lead Team India in the T20 World Cup 2024, co-hosted by the United States of America and West Indies in June next year.



Rohit Sharma led India during the recently concluded ICC World Cup 2023, where he scored 597 runs at an average of 54.27 and ended as the second-leading run-scorer only behind fellow-batter Virat Kohli.

Virat Kohli 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.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were instrumental to India's dominant performance during the ICC World Cup 2023, where they remained undefeated until the final, losing to champions Australia.

Gambhir stressed the inclusion of both star batters in India's squad for next year's T20 World Cup, with Sharma leading the side.

"They (Rohit and Kohli) both need to get picked, both should be picked and more importantly, I want to see Rohit Sharma as captain in the T20 World Cup," Gambhir said during an interview with an Indian news outlet.

Notably, both batters have not featured in any T20I game for India since their 10-wicket loss against England in the T20 World Cup 2022 semi-finals.

Since then Hardik Pandya has led India in the T20I cricket, while Suryakumar Yadav has taken the responsibility in the ongoing T20I series against Australia with Pandya out with an injury.

Gambhir appreciated Pandya as captain but suggested Rohit Sharma should be leading the Indian side in the T20 World Cup. "Yes, Hardik has been captaining in T20Is but I still want to see Rohit as captain in the World Cup. Don't pick Rohit Sharma just as a batter. Rohit is a phenomenal leader and has proved that with his batting in this ODI World Cup," he added.

Rohit Sharma has led India in 51 T20I matches, guiding them to victory in 39 matches.

Awareness

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing a breast cancer awareness event on Friday.



Photo: PID

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

Naveed Ahmad Khan

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.

Caretaker Information Minister said 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 accepted as 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 follow the dissolution of the National Assembly in August 2023. The February date was announced by Sikandar Sultan Raja, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, on November 2, after consulting President Alvi.

Information Minister said that the support for the Commission was echoed by Asif Ali Zardari, who was President of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013 and is co-chair of the PPP, which emerged as the third-largest party in the 2018 elections.

"The country is heading towards

transparent polls," Zardari said, adding: "I have full confidence in the Electoral Commission." Zardari also commented that it was important for all stakeholders to take part because "the environment in Pakistan is currently favourable for elections and the elections should be held on time."

The Information Minister said that Maryum Aurangzeb, leader of PML-N, the largest party in the previous National Assembly, welcomed Zardari's comments as "encouraging" and called on other political leaders to follow suit. The Information Minister quoted her saying that free and fair elections were the only solution to the challenges facing the country.

The delegation expressed its determination to continue working with the government in efforts to build a consensus in Pakistan. The delegation included IPRI Director (Advocacy and Communication) Siddique Humayun, Hisham, Miss Jawaria, Institute of Strategic Studies Director Khurram Abbas and Naufal, also from the Institute of Policy Studies.

Imam-e-Kaaba leads Friday Prayer at Faisal Mosque



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imam-e-Kaaba, H. E. Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Bin Humaid delivered a Friday sermon at Faisal Mosque and led the prayer where he called upon Muslim countries to be united and prayed for the end of atrocities of Palestinian Muslims.

The Friday prayer at Faisal Mosque was also attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, H. E. Nawaf Said Al-Malki, President of the International Islamic University, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, vice presidents of IUI, Diplomats of various Muslim countries, prominent religious and

political figures, and thousands of faithful from twin cities.

In his Friday sermon, Imam Kaaba emphasized respect for humanity and respect for opinion. He said that a society that adopts the characteristics of respect for humanity and respect for opinion becomes stable and successful. Imam-e-Kaaba emphasized the importance of promoting love, brotherhood, and equality within the communities drawing on the metaphor of Muslims as a unified body.

Imam Kaaba prayed for the stability of the Islamic world, the progress of Pakistan and Muslims of Gaza that May Allah end their hardships

32 RMCs trained for effective election monitoring

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday appointed 32 Regional Election Commissioners as Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs) for the General Elections 2024.

They underwent a one-day online training workshop covering the monitoring framework and setup of monitoring rooms, said ECP spokesman.

The training workshop focused on the monitoring framework of the Election Commission and the setup of monitoring rooms at provincial, divisional and district levels.

Regional Coordinators will oversee divisional monitoring and guide teams in their districts. After this training, they'll train District Monitoring Officers and Teams.

The Election Commission will



establish four-tier monitoring control rooms, with RMCs working under the Central Monitoring Control Center in Islamabad. Any code of conduct violations during elections will lead to legal action.

Following this training, Regional Monitoring Coordinators/Regional Election Commissioners will be responsible for training District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Teams in their respective divisions.

RMCs underwent a two-day training session at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad two months ago.

Palestine -Israel War

Unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe revealed by the truce

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Despite the restrictions and bans imposed by the occupation authorities on journalists and the media to hide the truth about the crimes, massacres and horrific destruction they committed in the Gaza Strip and its north in particular, what has been published so far and in light of the truce reveals, even partially, the extent of the disaster that befell the Strip as a result of the brutal bombing of homes, towers, facilities, and institutions of all kinds.

The picture reflects the unprecedented scale of the disaster and the humanitarian tragedy experienced by the citizens of the Strip, whether those who remained in the north or displaced to the center and south, a condition imposed on them by the occupation, depriving them of seeing



their completely or partially destroyed homes, so you find them searching in its rubble for their martyrs. Or some of their necessary things, without water, food, bread, electricity, medi-

cine, and fuel, and without the necessities of life, even the bare minimum, as if a strong earthquake struck their towns, cities, and camps, striking their lives and stealing their loved ones

from them, and they are steadfast, refusing to leave and clinging to the destruction of their homes and the fragments of their honorable life in the land of their homeland.

The Ministry calls on the international community and all parties to quickly respond to the call for humanity and to side with its principles and the need to protect them. It once again calls on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in building on the truce and to take a decision that imposes a cessation of the war, guarantees the return of the displaced, and guarantees, through the force of international and humanitarian law, the provision of all basic needs of our people in the Gaza Strip in a sustainable manner. All within the framework of a political vision that ensures the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions on the Palestinian issue, and enables our people to exercise their right to self-determination and embody their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

'Relief' in war-shattered Gaza as truce takes effect in Israeli-Palestinian fighting

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Trucks with relief supplies were entering war-torn Gaza through the Rafah crossing from Egypt on Friday after the entry into force of a four-day pause in Israeli bombardments, UN agencies said. They reiterated calls for access to all parts of the ravaged Palestinian enclave where the death toll inched towards 15,000 and many displaced people were sleeping in the streets.

UN humanitarian affairs coordination office (OCHA) spokesperson Jens Laerke told reporters in Geneva that the

hope regarding the agreement between Israel and Hamas announced earlier this week was "that the pause is respected, that it enables us to reach the people who need us and that it will be extended into an actual humanitarian ceasefire in the long run". Besides the 96-hour humanitarian pause in fighting, the agreement, which was facilitated by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, stipulates the release of Israeli hostages taken by Hamas fighters on October 7 as well as of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons. "We hope the agreement... will bring respite to the people of Gaza and Israel



and some relief to the hostages and detainees who will be released, and to their families," Laerke said. The OCHA spokesperson underscored the "volatile, intense situation" unfolding in the first hours of the truce, stressing that "the

pipeline is quite long for relief and parts of it - a lot of it in fact - is beyond our control and has to do with verification of the consignments". Speaking of the urgency to reach people in need "wherever they are", he highlighted the press-

ing need for access to northern Gaza "where the damage and humanitarian needs are the greatest" and which had long been cut off from the south of the enclave and from aid by Israeli military operations. Joining his voice to hopes for the pause to extend into a sustained ceasefire, the World Health Organization (WHO) Spokesperson, Christian Lindmeier, highlighted the plight of patients and health workers trapped in north Gaza's hospitals and said that planning and efforts towards further evacuations, notably from the Indonesia and Al-Ahli hospitals, were under way.

Over 0.4 million Afghan migrants returned to their county so far: Jan Achakzai

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Friday said over 0.4 million Afghan migrants had so far returned to their country. He said the process for the repatriation of illegal migrants to their countries continued and appealed to the Afghan authorities to provide all possible facilities to those returning from Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference here at the Civil Secretariat, Jan Achakzai said that government had decided to take action against terrorists and their facilitators to eliminate the menace from its soil. If any foreigners were found involved in terrorist activities, they would be dealt sternly in accordance with the law,



he added. He said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was working for the betterment of the economy. The minister claimed that development works in the province were facing slowness due to the bureaucracy, which was not cooperating with the caretaker government. Fund million of rupees might be lapsed if the same were not released and consequently the ongoing development projects would remain incomplete, he added.

'Un-Islamic' marriage case against PTI chief, Bushra Bibi quashed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Friday quashed 'un-Islamic' marriage case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

In an application submitted in the court, Muhammad Hanif — the petitioner — said: "For the time being, the applicant wants to withdraw the above said complaint due to technical reasons." "If permission to withdraw the complaint is not accorded, applicant shall suffer irreparable loss," the application stated.

Following the submission of application, Judicial Magistrate Qudrat Ullah granted permission for the withdrawal of the complaint under Section 248 Code of Criminal Proce-

dures (CrPC) and quashed the case.

PTI chief Imran Khan had married Bushra Maneka or Bushra Bibi in February 2018 in Lahore.

The ceremony was attended by only close relatives, including the bride's mother, and friends. Imran Khan's sisters, however, were not in attendance.

Mufti Saeed had performed the nikah in the presence of former PTI leader Awn Chaudhary and Zulfi Bukhari who appeared as witnesses. The PTI chief has been married twice before. His first marriage was with Gemima Goldsmith, daughter of a British billionaire in 1995. The couple divorced in 2004.

Imran Khan's second marriage to Reham Khan dissolved 10 months after a public ceremony had taken place in January 2015.