

فرمان رسول ﷺ
 ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے مروی ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: کانئذ یمنی بختیر ہو یرکب پر گمانی کی باتیں اکثر جھوٹی ہوتی ہیں، لوگوں کے یہوب خاش کرنے کے پیچھے نہ بڑو، آپس میں سسر کر دو، کسی کی پیٹھ پیچھے برائی نہ کرو، انبش نہ کرکو، بلکہ اللہ کے بندے آپس میں بھائی بھائی بن کر رہو۔ (تفسیر صحت نمبر 6064)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Jamaat-e-Islami to observe February 8 as day of mourning for political parties

Amir-e-Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has said that February 8 will be a day of mourning for political parties that are hostile to the people. In 75 years, I have seen the governments of generals and three political parties, none of them improved the condition of the country and the nation. (Details on Page 2)



India, Israel are in competition to top the World in human rights violations. Mushaal

SAPM on human rights and women empowerment has expressed grave concerns over the increasing human rights violations in Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). Addressing a Seminar held to express solidarity with the Muslims of Kashmir, Palestine and around the globe over gross human rights violations, Mushaal Mullick said that India and Israel are in competition... (Details on Page 3)

PM's Visit

ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is being received by the Minister for Justice of the United Arab Emirates H.E. Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi at Al Bateen Airport of Abu Dhabi on Sunday.



Photo: Online

Eight terrorists gunned down in South Waziristan IBO

RAWALPINDI: Eight terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces in the Saroghra area of South Waziristan District, ARY News reported quoting ISPR.

According to ISPR, the security forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in the area on reported presence of terrorists.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the innocent civilians. Arms, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Solangi commends staff on PTV's 59th anniversary

LAHORE: In a celebration hosted by Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) for its 59th anniversary on Sunday, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi lauded the staff for their contributions.

He highlighted the beginning of a renaissance period for PTV, honoring the legacy of its first Managing Director Aslam Azhar. Solangi expressed gratitude to the dedicated PTV team, acknowledging their pivotal role in the television network's successful 59-year journey.

The event concluded with a ceremonial cake cutting, joined by Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

PM Kakar leaves for UAE on bilateral visit

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday embarked on a bilateral visit to the United Arab Emirates. During the visit on Nov 26-28, the prime minister will meet the President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

"This engagement will provide an opportunity to advance bilateral ties in all spheres including political, economic, trade, investment, cultural, defence and people-to-people relations," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in an earlier press statement.

The visit will include the signing of MoUs between Pakistan and the UAE in a range of areas including investment cooperation in the sectors of energy, port operations projects, wastewater treatment, food security, logistics, mining, aviation, and banking and financial services.

"Pakistan and the UAE enjoy warm and long-standing fraternal ties that have stood multiple tests of time," it added.

PM arrives in UAE on two-day bilateral visit

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Minister for Justice of the UAE Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi and Pakistani diplomatic staff received the prime minister on his arrival at the Abu Dhabi's Al-Bateen Airport, a Prime Minister Office Press Release said.

During his visit, the prime minister will meet President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed. The visit will also include signing of MoUs between Pakistan and the UAE in a range of areas including investment cooperation in the sectors of energy, port operations projects, wastewater treatment, food security, logistics, mining, aviation, and banking and financial services.

Caretaker FM Jilani departs for Belgium visit

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jalil Abbas Jilani has departed for Belgium visit where he will attend an international conference on the invitation of European Commissioner for Migration of Home Affairs Ylva Johansson, ARY News reported on Sunday.

Sources told that Caretaker FM Jalil Abbas Jilani departed for Belgium visit to attend the ministerial-level International Conference on a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling being held on November 28, 2023, on the invitation of European Commissioner for Migration of Home Affairs Ylva Johansson.

Hamas frees more hostages after hours-long delay

ISLAMABAD: Hamas on Saturday released a second group of 13 Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, freeing for the first time one of the people snatched during their bloody assault on a music festival.

The hostage-for-prisoner exchange had been delayed for hours in a heart-stopping development when Hamas accused Israel of breaching its side of the agreement, struck as part of a four-day ceasefire which is already past its mid-point.

But after the intervention of Qatari and Egyptian mediators and reassurances from Israel, Hamas agreed to proceed, releasing 13 Israelis and four Thai hostages in a late-night operation.

Israel in turn freed 39 Palestinian prisoners, officials said.

Red Cross minibuses could be seen ferrying the hostages late at night through Gaza's Rafah border crossing with Egypt ahead of their transfer to Israel, AFP photo and video images showed.

Among the freed Israelis was 21-year-old Maya Regev, kidnapped by Hamas in their deadly October 7 assault on the Supernova desert rave, according to a forum of the hostages' families.

Maya Regev and her 18-year-old brother Itay, who was also snatched by Hamas during the festival, were later shown tied up in the back of a pick-up truck in a video posted on social media.

"I am so excited and happy that Maya is on her way to us now. Nonetheless, my heart is split because my son Itay is still in Hamas captivity in Gaza," her mother Mirit said in a statement released by the hostage families' forum.

The family of freed nine-year-old hostage Emily Hand said they were "overjoyed" to embrace her again.

"We can't find the words to describe our emotions after 50 challenging and complicated days," they said in a statement via the forum.

Prison authorities in Israel said they in turn released 39 Palestinian detainees including 38-year-old Israa Jaabis, sentenced to 11 years in jail for detonating a gas cylinder at a checkpoint in 2015.

The handover of Hamas hostages came hours later than expected after the militant group said Israel was interfering in the selection of prisoners for release and was not allowing aid to reach civilians in northern Gaza.

ECP appoints 32 RMCs for effective 2024 election monitoring

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) appointed 32 Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) as Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs) to ensure effective monitoring of the 2024 General Elections.

As stated by the ECP spokesperson, the appointed Regional Coordinators will play a crucial role in guaranteeing comprehensive monitoring at the division level. They are also responsible for guiding and supervising the monitoring teams within their respective districts during the upcoming General Elections.

Ignite launches third edition of its Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2023

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Dr. Umar Saif emphasized the paramount importance of safeguarding the cyber boundaries of the country. He highlighted the ongoing efforts within his Ministry to identify and nurture talent capable of thwarting malicious cyber attempts.

In his message at the inaugural event of the third edition of Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2023, organized by Ignite in Karachi, the minister conveyed the progress in establishing the operational readiness of Pakistan's National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the forthcoming institutionalization of a Cyber Security Authority.

The event was attended by CEO Ignite, Asim Shahryar Husain, along with board members of Ignite, Engr. Prof. Dr. Bilal Ahmed Alvi, Vice Chancellor Nazeer Hussain University Karachi and Prof. Dr. Rabia Enam, Director ORIC SSUET Karachi

besides cybersecurity professionals and guests from the industry and academia, said a news release issued on Sunday.

In his welcome address, Asim Shahryar Husain, CEO Ignite, informed that this year, Ignite had organized a series of five-day hands-on training workshops in ten cities of Pakistan to build the capacity of cybersecurity students and professionals before conducting the hackathons.

He said that originally designed for approximately 100 participants at each location, these workshops accommodated an impressive 1576 trainees which was 57 percent more than the planned trainees.

The comprehensive training covered various topics of cybersecurity including Security Fundamentals, Penetration testing methodologies, Web application security, Network security.

Gaza ceasefire be extended: Ashrafi

LAHORE: LAHORE: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Inter-Religious Harmony Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that Palestine is the problem of entire humanity and people of all religions in Pakistan have talked about peace from day one.

Addressing a press conference at the Lahore Press Club, he demanded that the war be ended and peace be established in Palestine. "The ceasefire should be extended and negotiations be held for lasting peace. In Palestine, Muslims and Christians also have holy places. But Christians do not go there because they do not want to get a visa from Israel," he added.

He said, "Peace, security and stability of Pakistan is dear to all of us. The All Pakistan Minority Alliance aims to raise voice for social justice and humanity in the country and abroad. We have done a lot of work. Rumors spread in the name of religion harm the country. Those who spread terrorism in the name of Islam will have to wage jihad against themselves. The Christian community in Jaranwala has suffered a lot. The government, Army Chief And I am grateful to all who took timely action."

Nationwide anti-polio drive to begin from Monday

ISLAMABAD: A five-day anti-polio campaign will begin across the country from tomorrow to eradicate the crippling disease.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than 7.4 million children up to five years of age will be administered polio drops during the campaign.

Thirty one thousand teams have been constituted to vaccinate the children.

Likewise, in Balochistan, more than eleven thousand teams have been constituted for the door to door vaccination drive to inoculate 2.5 million children up to the age of five years.

Jamaat-e-Islami to observe February 8 as day of mourning for political parties

Asim Tanveer

TAUNSA SHARIF: Amir-e-Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has said that February 8 will be a day of mourning for political parties that are hostile to the people. In 75 years, I have seen the governments of generals and three political parties, none of them improved the condition of the country and the nation. Today, economic crisis, injustice, oppression, inflation, unemployment, destruction of agriculture and industry are due to these governments. Rulers who came to power on the dictates of the US and the IMF increased their properties, bank balances and allowed access to the assemblies of their families, princes and princesses, keeping the doors of their homes closed to ordinary Pakistanis.

Muslim League (N), PPP did not even take out a procession of 10000 people in favor of Palestinians, are these leaders not Muslim and Pakistani? They remained silent on the freedom of Al-Aqsa Mosque, remained neutral in the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir, did not say a single word to bring Dr. Aafia back to the country, people should hold such leadership accountable. Today, Jamaat-e-Islami is start-

ing its election campaign from South Punjab. If the nation wants corruption to be eradicated from the country and honest leadership will come, youth will get employment, old age allowance for the elderly, book and pen in the hands of every child, orphans. If higher education is available to every girl child, the usury system is abolished and the country moves towards a prosperous Islamic welfare state, then the people will support Jamaat-e-Islami.

He expressed these views on the first day of the two-day Khushal Pakistan Road Caravan in South Punjab at a general meeting in Dera Ghazi Khan, Taunsa and in Ritla, Wahwa, Shah Sadr Deen, Tabi Qaisrani, Nadi, Kot Mor, Kalma Chowk Taunsa, Ada Karimwala, while addressing a public reception at Shadan Lund, Dolewala. On this occasion, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab South Rao Muhammad Zafar, Secretary General Soheb Amar Siddiqui, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami District Dera Khazi Khan Professor Rashid Akhtar, Qeem District Hafiz Muhammad Usman Nazir, NA 184 National Assembly Candidate Naemullah Khan, PP 285 Provincial Assembly. Candidate Mazhar Mehmood, Provincial Assem-



bly candidate from Dera Ghazi Khan Sheikh Usman Farooq, President JI Youth Russell Khan Babar and others

were also present. Sirajul Haq was welcomed by a large number of people in traditional dress,

horse riders and people from different walks of life. Siraj-ul-Haq said that if the people

want to end the politics of landlords, vaders, so-called political leaders, land, drug, petrol, flour, sugar mafias, then they should become the arms of Jamaat-e-Islami, because these mafias came to power by changing their disguises and flags. Arriving and securing privileges for themselves, looting the country's treasury brutally, destroying national institutions, handcuffing the country to the torture of the IMF and the World Bank. Today, there is five thousand billion corruption in Pakistan annually, for which these governments are responsible. He said that people sacrifice their lives and taxes for the country.

But here no common man can become a member of the assembly, the doors of national and provincial assemblies are open for princes and princesses. I ask if the work of the public is left to circumbulate the houses of these landlords, elites, establishment patrons. He said that I was the Finance Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly twice, the Minister of Forestry and Planning, but I did not get a personal car and other privileges. Today I present myself for accountability. Nawaz Sharif and Zardari, Shahbaz Sharif and others also present themselves for accountability.

Solidarity

KARACHI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami hold a protest rally against Israeli attacks on Gaza, at Shahr-e-Quaid in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Annual ceremony held in Umma Children Academy Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In South Waziristan district, an annual grand ceremony was held at Umma Children Academy Wana on Sunday, and an educational institution run under the supervision of (WAWA) Wana Welfare Association.

The ceremony was attended in large numbers by tribal elders, political leaders, students and people from different walks of life.

Humayun Sharif, president of Private School Association Lower South Waziristan, was the chief guest of the program.



On this occasion, PT show, tableau, national songs and speeches were performed by school children.

Nasir Javed, principal of Umma Children's Academy Wana, highlighted the performance of the Academy children.

He said, that the children of this school have achieved significant success in Cadet College Wana and "WAWA" Talents Scholarships and which shows that Umma Children's Academy is on its way to success.

President Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) Rahmat

Ullah Wazir also addressed the event and said that the residents of Lower South Waziristan consider Umma Children's Academy Wana as their institution and people stepped forward to play the role.

He paid tribute to Maulana Muhammad Idris and said that thanks to him this institution was established.

However, the orphans of the area are under education, who are provided free transport, uniform, boxes, lunch and dinner.

Chief Guest Principal Humayun Sharif said in his address that we have a heavy

responsibility, but to cope with this responsibility, all professionals have to play their role responsibly, so that the sense of responsibility can be highlighted in the new generation of Lower Waziristan. The guests also distributed prizes among the school children.

It should be noted that regional elders, principals of all schools, local leaders of political parties and all journalists associated with District Press Club Wana participated in the annual event of Umma Children's Academy Wana to encourage innocent and orphaned children.

LG KP rep joint decision

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: strong and stable local government system, local government representatives will start a vigorous movement for the provision of powers and funds, December 19 will be celebrated as a black day for non-provision of powers and funds and there will be a peaceful protest.

Address to the meeting by the Mayor of Mardan, Intakar Khalil Chairman.

Despite the completion of two years since the recent local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local government representatives are still deprived of basic powers and funds and not only that, there is

growing frustration among local government representatives and people, which is seen to have an impact on the upcoming general elections.

Because the non-provision of powers and funds to local government representatives is actually equivalent to abuse of more than 40 million population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Because people turn to the offices of local government representatives to solve basic problems, provide municipal services, repair streets, etc.

But both local government representatives and people are facing disappointment due to non-provide of funds.

Due to which local govern-

ment representatives are forced to start a decisive movement today, the consultative meeting of local government representatives of KP was held under the chairmanship of Mayor Mardan.

Local government representatives, Intizar Ali Khalil, Chairman and Member, Capital Metropolitan City Government Peshawar, Mian Mahfuz Ur Rahman of Bannu, Rafiullah Tehsil Chairman Upper Dir, Saeed Ahmad Bacha Tehsil Chairman, Samar Bagh Lower Dir Chairman, Gulzar Babak Tehsil Bunir Chairman, Syed Nawab Afridi Tehsil Khyber Chairman, Legal Advisor Local government representatives including Babar Khan

Yousafzai, various tehsil chairmen of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Muhammad Alam Shangla, Irfan Durrani Bannu, Maulana Imran Ahmed Kohat, Adil Khan Chota Lahore Swabi, Ehsanullah Central Kuram, as well as village and neighborhood councils chairmen Malik Faisal Haripur, Muhammad Ilyas, haripur, Altaf Ur Rahman, Malik Naseem, Alamgir Afridi, Waqar Khan and others participated.

While having a detailed discussion on the problems faced by the local government representatives, they urged to take measures on an emergency basis in a comprehensive manner to solve the problems.

Expressing the long consultation meeting, Chairman and Member Capital Metropolitan City Government Peshawar Intizar Ali Khalil said that the



existing local government system has been paralyzed after the June 2022 amendments.

Today, most of the Village Neighborhood Councils do not have funds to pay rent for their offices.

Police Station Liaison Committees are not active, PTC School Committees and local municipal representatives are being completely ignored.

After a long consultative meeting, Mayor Mardan issued a statement saying the following plan of action was announced by unanimous opinion that the request will be made in writing by meeting the Chairman Election Commission of Pakistan next week.

Chaudhry to contest from Gujarat Assembly seat in February elections

Arif Chaudhary

LONDON: According to close sources, Chaudhry brothers' close associates, former Chairman of Overseas Commission, Punjab District, Gujarat District, a prominent political figure of Gujarat District and the successor of Sachi Sarkar Sain Raja Sarkar, Chaudhry Adeel Arshad Rahmani, will contest from PP 81 constituency in Gujarat city in the February election. It will be remembered that the father of Chaudhry Adeel Arshad Rehmaniya, Chaudhry Saleem Arshad, was the chairman of the late Union Council Sabowali. K Constituency is under NA 69 K. Earlier, former minister Mian Imran Masood from QL and PML-N, Haji Nasir and Imran Zafar and Salim Joda from Pahar PTI have been MPs. Chaudhary Shujaat's son Chaudhary Shafia is likely to contest the election in the February elections.

Secretary HR&MA meets delegation of Sikh pilgrims

City Desk

LAHORE: Provincial Human Rights & Minority affairs Secretary Dr. Muhammad Shoaib met by a delegation of Sikh pilgrims from America and other countries to participate in the celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak's birthday.

HR&MA and YDF also hosted a dinner in the honour of Sikh Pilgrims. Head of YDF Shahid Rahmat welcomed all the Guests while Director HR Muhammad Yousaf highlighted the initiatives of department for the Sikh Community. In the meeting, the Sikh pilgrims greatly appreciated the services of the Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs in maintaining the religious places and performing religious rituals of the Sikh community in Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Hasan Abdal and Kartarpur. The Sikh pilgrims said that Pakistan is the safest country in the world for us, they especially appreciate the rich hospitality of Lahori people. The Sikh guests said that they thanked the Punjab government, especially Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, for taking care of the Gurdwaras and said that Mohsin Naqvi has won our hearts by announcing special package of visa on arrival and tours to the Sikh pilgrims. That is why we consider Pakistan as our second home. The Sikh pilgrims also appreciated the best security arrangements in Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Baba Guru Nanak, Kartarpur and Lahore. The Human Rights Secretary congratulated the delegation on the birthday of Baba Guru Nanak. He said that without a doubt, this is a great occasion of joy and every year special care is taken for the Sikh community. He said that on the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab, going to start the construction and restoration of old Gurdwaras and ancient havelis so that the Sikh brothers, in real feels like own home. A plan to build a community center for the Sikh community at Nankana Sahib is also under consideration. The Sikh delegation thanked the Secretary Human Rights and others for their hospitality and invited them to participate in the birthday celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak.

In the Delegation Laddie Aulakh, Kanwaljit Kaur Aulakh, Avnet Kaur Aulakh, Karminder Dhaliwal, Sookham Dhaliwal, Nirmal Sidhu, Harjit kaur Sidhu, Dilbagh Singh, Pritam Singh, Gurmeet kaur, Baljit kaur Sidhu, Paramjit Kaur, Kamaljit Kaur Gill, Hardiyal Singh Kang, Kanwaljit kaur Kang, Simran kaur Kang, Raman jit Kaur, Vickram Singh and Harpreet Kaur were included.



HC Bangladesh Announces Dubai Shift at CPCD's Art, Crafts and Techno Exposition

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Center for Public-Cultural Diplomacy (CPCD) marks the culmination of its transformative "Art, Crafts & Techno Exposition" with a grand closing ceremony on November 25, 2023, hosted at the prestigious Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Guided by the visionary leadership of Chairman Ambassador Salahuddin, this week-long event has seamlessly integrated art, culture, and environmental consciousness.

The closing ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of FMD Ruhulalam Siddiqui, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, who served as the Chief Guest, infusing the occasion with added significance and a steadfast commitment to the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage. Mr. Siddiqui symbolically planted a tree in the PNCA garden, embodying a tangible commitment to environmental stewardship.

During his eloquent address, Mr. Siddiqui commended the talent-

ed artists whose works adorned the gallery, as well as the grammar school students who delivered a compelling tableau performance addressing the critical themes of water conservation and climate change. The High Commissioner underscored the robust relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh and announced the Expo's relocation to Dubai, showcasing its growing international impact.

This High Commissioner of Bangladesh MD Ruhulalam Siddiqui as Head of SAARC Diplomatic Missions made a big difference in the ambience & grandeur of the Show. As Chief Guest, he highlighted the perils & threats of climate change both Pakistan & Bangladesh faced today. Unless we deal with environmental degradation right away, our children will suffer and the young generation will never forgive the seniors and the two govts, he said.

Adding to the ceremony's prestige, Mr. Siddiqui presented special prizes and certificates to honor the exceptional contributions of talented artists,

performers, organizers, and volunteers.

A highlight of the closing ceremony was a mesmerizing musical concert, promising an enchanting evening for attendees. Ambassador Salahuddin, the driving force behind CPCD, delivered a closing address expressing profound gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and attendees for their unwavering support, which played a pivotal role in the exposition's resounding success. Mr. Chaudhry declared that the selection CPCD's Exposition of artworks & crafts for COP-28 in Dubai was a matter of pride & satisfaction for having taken the unique initiative which is new and original idea of Amb. Salahuddin Chaudhry.

There was a full coverage of the event by the press & media both of the Inauguration & Closing Ceremonies.

The "Art, Crafts & Techno Exposition" transcended its role as a celebration of artistic expression; it emerged as a potent platform addressing global challenges and mobilizing support for disaster relief.



Protest campaign

Protesters raise a sign condemning French President Emmanuel Macron, US President Joe Biden, and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu during a rally in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza in Amman.



Photo: File/AFP

Pak Olive National Gala 2023 concludes in Federal Capital

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a concerted effort to raise awareness about the quality standards in the Virgin Olive Oil industry, a Virgin Olive Oil Organoleptic Competition recently took center stage, spotlighting excellence and fostering a culture of quality within the sector. The competition served as a platform for producers to showcase their commitment to delivering superior virgin olive oil products.

The conclusion of the competition marked a significant moment as awards were distributed to commend outstanding achievements. The acknowledgment extended to the top 20 progressive olive farmers who demonstrated exemplary practices in olive cultivation, contributing to the overall improvement of the industry.

Additionally, three scientists were recognized for their exceptional field performance, emphasizing the very important role of research and innovation in



advancing the virgin olive oil sector. Their contributions are instrumental in pushing the boundaries of knowledge and driving sustainable practices in olive farming.

A highlight of the awards ceremony was the recognition of excellence in packaging and bottling for quality virgin olive oil. Producers who exhibited meticulous attention to detail in presenting their products received accolades, reinforcing the importance of transparency and high standards in the packaging process.

"The extraversion of virgin olive oil is not safe, but we are proud of our team as we

possess the expertise to judge the quality of oil," stated Dr. Muhammad Tariq, highlighting the public awareness aspect of the gala.

In conjunction with the awards ceremony, a World Olive Day Walk was organized, adding a symbolic and community-oriented dimension to the celebration. Participants engaged in a collective walk, emphasizing the global significance of olive cultivation and its positive impact on health, agriculture, and the environment.

"In order to ensure olive sector development in Pakistan, we are building capac-

ities and providing training through Italian experts," added Dr. Marco Marchetti, Int Project Coordinator, Olive Culture Project, underlining the commitment to the growth and development of the olive industry in the region.

The overarching focus of the event was to underscore the importance of producing and promoting quality virgin olive oil. The recognition of outstanding farmers, scientists, and packaging practices aims to set benchmarks for the industry, fostering a sense of pride and commitment to excellence among stakeholders.

Asim Jofa's Business Resilience and Crisis Management Strategies Integrated

PNP

KARACHI: Renowned Pakistani fashion designer AsimJofa's exemplary business resilience and crisis management recently earned him a unique distinction. His adaptive strategies, honed through years of experience, have become a vital case study at LUISS Guido Carli University, an esteemed university based in Rome, Italy. The integration of Jofa's case study into the curriculum stands as a testament to the invaluable insights it provides for future global business leaders, particularly in the fields of business



and fashion. The invitation to incorporate AsimJofa's case study into the academic curriculum came from Prem S. Menghwar, a distinguished faculty member of LUISS

Guido Carli's Business and Management department. Recognizing the exceptional nature of Jofa's business journey, Menghwar sought to impart the entrepreneur's adaptive strategies

and crisis management techniques to students, aiming to prepare them for the dynamic challenges of the global business landscape.

AsimJofa then took center stage at LUISS Guido Carli University, captivating students and faculty with his insightful discourse on business resilience and crisis management. Jofa shared his transformative journey, weaving a narrative of adaptability and success. His compelling talk left an indelible mark, inspiring the next generation of global business leaders and fashion enthusiasts at the prestigious university.

Pearl of Uzbekistan

Spokesman Report

On the area of 17 hectares, a real ancient city has been restored, where guests of the Silk Road Samarkand complex can get acquainted with the history and traditions of the land and peoples of Uzbekistan. The narrow streets are lined with shops of artists, craftsmen and carpenters. The prototypes of the pavilions in the Immortal City were

the real houses and beautiful grounds described in the old books. Here you will immerse yourself in the atmosphere of a beautiful oriental fairy tale-turquoise domes, mosaics on the walls of the palace and towers up to the sky.

Visitors to the Eternal City can taste national dishes of different periods and regions of the country and see authentic street performances. The Eternal City allows

visitors to appreciate the full diversity of the heritage of past centuries. Parthia offers a unique opportunity to be at the crossroads of Hellenistic and Islamic cultures. The author and curator of the project was the well-known contemporary artist BoburIsmailov. "Eternal city" is not only Samarkand, but also Bukhara, Fergana, Tashkent, Khorezm, Silk Road allows you to walk along the streets of Kashkadarya

and Surkhandarya, as well as Karakalpakstan, without leaving the Samarkand complex. The central street with the triumphal arch is called Samarkand. Natural Walking along the cobblestone path, guests can visit the National Library or visits to the puppet theater, embroidery art, national costumes and acquaintance with the art of minting coins, as well as Samarkand bread or can be a guest with a bag.

MWL gathers int'l news agencies to express solidarity with Palestinians, combat discourses of hatred & violence

News Desk

JEDDAH: The Muslim World League (MWL) gathered the Union of OIC News Agencies, comprising 57 countries, and the most significant international news agencies from Asia, Europe, and the Americas at the International Forum: "The Role of Media in Inciting Hatred and Violence," which kicked off here on Sunday. The event was held under the auspices of Secretary-General of the MWL and the Chairman of the Organization of Muslim Scholars, Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, and with the participation of General Supervisor of Official Media in the State of Palestine, Minister Ahmed Assaf.

Al-Yami sincerely thanked and appreciated the Muslim World League, led by its Secretary-General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, for its keenness to strengthen its relations with international media institutions. This role reflects the

MWL's recognition of the centrality of media in any sincere and serious effort to bridge gaps between peoples and achieve the principles of coexistence and fraternity among different cultures and religions. The opening session featured live interventions from several journalists from Palestinian territories, discussing the reality of journalism in the face of Israeli aggression and the challenges journalists face in fulfilling their professional duties. The session also included a short film presentation on the role of media in shaping public opinion and societal awareness, whether negatively or positively. Following that, the forum continued with panel discussions, with the first session focusing on "the role of religious institutions and leaderships in combating hate speech and violence on media platforms." The second panel discussion reviewed "bias and distortion in international media, the Palestinian as a case study." The third panel discussion addressed "ethical respon-

sibility in international media," while the fourth panel discussion covered "international religious and media alliances to confront hate speech and extremism." On the forum's sidelines, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Assistant Secretary-General for Corporate Communication of the Muslim World League and the Union of OIC News Agencies. The Director-General of the Union, Mohammed bin Abdulrab Al-Yami, signed on behalf of the Union, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Corporate Communication, Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Shehri, signed on behalf of the Muslim World League.

Fergana Street, located along the western border of the city, attracts travelers leads to places famous for their manufactures. This is from China to Europe weaving on the way-carpet and satin, as well as Rishton pottery and of course is the first Uzbek region famous for its local cuisine of the region among the main dishes are legendary pilaf, bread

and kholva. Half of the territory of the ancient city is occupied by Bukhara and Khiva, famous for their architecture. Here, visitors can see hammered items, as well as khanga and gjduban pottery. In addition to the workshops on Khiva Street, you should definitely visit the chess and applied arts schools. A separate building has been allocated for exhibition-workshops of artists who create in different styles and directions, but express a general understanding of the specific features of the visual art of Uzbekistan. The name of the restaurant comes from one of the historical-geographical areas of the city-Siyob and the river of the same name that flows near the market. The word "Siyob" is translated as "black water" from the Persian and Tajik languages. The exterior of the building is inspired by Zoroastrian architecture, with unique patterns and decorations. Siyob is a themed restaurant with national Uzbek cuisine. A la carte restaurant serving national cuisine. The largest in



the area of the complex. Its pride is the majestic 8-meter pillars. The menu focuses on Uzbek cuisine and traditional oriental recipes. Most of the products are imported from Uzbekistan in order to preserve the original taste and cooking technology. The restaurant is suitable for holding national Uzbek banquet events. There are more than 50 workshops in the city of Baqi. Their owners demonstrate the ancient crafts

of Samarkand and the whole of Uzbekistan-wood carving, pottery, paper making, jewelry and carpet making, and talk about this process. Art salons and galleries work in the area of the Eternal City. In these places, you can order a portrait or use the services of professional photographers. There are schools of well-known masters, academicians, and distinguished artists in the Eternal City. Performances of street musicians, as well as various shows, are organized for visitors to the Eternal City. Cultural events are held here 12 months a year. International Festival of Applied Arts, Ceramics Symposium, Festival of National Costumes of World Peoples and International Forum of Artists are the most noteworthy events. In the puppet theater, guests can watch a performance of Uzbek national puppets skillfully made of papier-mache. Their prototypes were the heroes of national fairy tales. There is a souvenir shop in the theater where you can buy your favorite doll as a souvenir of your trip to Uzbekistan.

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New Zealand bank on World Cup 2023 form ahead of Bangladesh Tests

Sports Desk

LAHORE: New Zealand coach Luke Ronchi said Sunday that his side's ICC World Cup 2023 experience in India would help end their barren run in Bangladesh, as they prepare to face the hosts for a two-Test series.

New Zealand has largely played on Asian soil this year, with series in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh in various formats, before they played the ICC World Cup 2023 in India in October and November.

The Kiwis put up a credible show at the tournament, losing to hosts India in the semi-final.

"It's definitely going to help us," Ronchi told reporters ahead of Tuesday's match at Sylhet.

"I think if we'd come straight from green wickets in New Zealand to the Bangladesh wickets, it's a big change," he added.

"But for the majority of our group

here, they have been in India. They've been at the World Cup.

"They have been practising on different surfaces, slower and turning sort of surfaces. So that hopefully helps us for this Test series."

Before travelling to India, New Zealand ended their 15-year wait to win a series in Bangladesh, beating the home side 2-0 in the three-match one-day international series.

The Kiwis have not, however, won a Test in Bangladesh since their three-wicket win in Chittagong in 2008.

Their next three Tests, including both matches in a 2013 series, ended in a draw.

The visitors, who played with just one spinner back in 2013, named a spin-heavy squad for the upcoming series.

This time, Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel join Ish Sodhi along with two spin all-rounders, Glenn Phillips

and Rachin Ravindra.

Ronchi believed spinners from both camps would play a big role.

"The quality of spin and pace in both sides is going to be really high," he said.

Bangladesh will miss regular captain and experienced spinner Shakib Al Hasan for the series, while pacers Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain will be out due to injury.

Veteran batsman Tamim Iqbal and opener Liton Das are also not available for the series due to injury and a family break respectively.

"It's challenging to lose that much of experience from any team, especially for Bangladesh," said coach Chandika Hathurusingha.

He said the absences did, however, offer a chance to test other players.

"I think it's exciting, and it's an opportunity for some of the youngsters to make their name," he said.

The second Test of the series will be held in Dhaka from December 6-10.



Uganda upset Zimbabwe to claim historic win in ICC T20 World Cup 2024 Qualifiers

A Sports

LAHORE: Uganda stunned Zimbabwe to register a historic upset victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifier at United Ground in Windhoek, Namibia.

This was Uganda's first match against a Test-playing nation and they claimed a historic five-wicket victory against a better-ranked Zimbabwe in ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings.

Uganda earned two points and moved up to third place on the points table of the ICC T20 World Cup Africa Region



Qualifier.

During the match, Uganda won the toss and invited

Zimbabwe to bat first, who scored 136 runs at the loss of seven wickets in their accumu-

lated 20 overs.

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza top scored with 48 runs from 39 balls, with the help of two boundaries and four sixes.

Uganda's Dinesh Nakrani returned with impressive bowling figures of 3/14, while Henry Ssenyondo picked two wickets.

In response, Uganda lost two early wickets but they chased the target in the final over after losing five wickets, courtesy of Riazat Ali Shah and Alpesh Ramjani's half-centuries.

Riazat Ali Shah scored 28-ball 42, featuring five boundaries and one six, while

Alpesh Ramjani scored 40 off 26 with the help of four boundaries and two sixes.

Richard Ngarava picked two wickets for Zimbabwe conceding 24 runs from his four overs.

Notably, Namibia is leading the seven-team points table in the ICC T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifiers, followed by Kenya, while Zimbabwe are placed fourth with only two points.

The top two teams will qualify for the T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in the United States of America and West Indies in June next year.

68th National Track Cycling Championship has kicked off

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The highly anticipated 68th National Track Cycling Championship has kicked off in Lahore, marking a pivotal moment for the cycling community. However, this year's edition is marred by the notable absence of key teams, including Pakistan Wapda, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Railway, and the Higher Education Commission, casting a shadow on the event.

This significant move has brought to light the formidable challenges confronting cycling in Pakistan, where political influences are adversely affecting athletes. Despite the commendable efforts of Pakistan Cycling Federation President Azhar Ali Shah to promote the sport, the non-participation of crucial departments raises alarming questions about the current state of cycling in the country.

The recent non-transparent election conducted by the Pakistan Cycling Federation has exacerbated the situation further. This election notably lacked representation from vital entities such as the Pakistan Sports Board, Pakistan Olympic Association, and other relevant departments. The secrecy surrounding the election process has fueled skepticism, prompting concerns about the Federation's commitment to cultivating a healthy environment for the sport.

Pakistan, once a powerhouse in cycling, now grapples with a decline in the sport's prominence, raising concerns about a single family's influence dominating the cycling narrative. The decision of the Pakistan Wapda team, last year's championship honoree, to abstain from participation this year serves as a red flag regarding the Federation's management. The collective refusal of all departments to acknowledge the current state of the Federation highlights a broader issue. Various ministers' call for attention underscores the gravity of the situation. The primary demand resonating across stakeholders is a plea for transparency in the Federation's elections, allowing elected officials to concentrate on the sport's progress and liberate it from the influence of vested interests.

Darren Bravo takes a break from cricket after England series exclusion

A Sports

LAHORE: West Indies batter Darren Bravo has announced to take a break from cricket for an indefinite period of time after not being named in the West Indies squad for the three-match ODI series against England next month.

Bravo, who last represented the West Indies in February 2022, took to Instagram and announced his decision owing to the difficulty of giving his best in current circumstances.

"I've taken some time to ponder and wonder what's my next step moving forward as a cricketer," Darren Bravo wrote on Instagram. "At this point in my career, it's not easy or should I say it takes a lot to continue to find the energy, the passion, commitment, and discipline to be able to perform to the best of my ability and put myself in a position to make my return to international cricket."

He further stated that he was not communicated about his exclusion, from the West Indies main squad as well as the West Indies Academy squad for the series against Ireland and the West Indies A squad for the unofficial Tests against South Africa.

"Without any level [of] communication, I've been left in a very dark place. At the moment, there [are] three teams representing the region in multiple formats/series. That's approximately 40-45 players and if I can't be in any of these teams after competing in our regional tournaments and scoring runs, therefore, they are basically telling me that the writing is on the wall," he added.

Warm up Match

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's Sarfaraz Ahmed plays a shot during two day warm-up match at Pindi Cricket Stadium, ahead of their tour to Australia for the three test match series.



Photo: Online

Sports Diplomacy in Pakistan

In this modern age as the world is becoming a global village through trade, travel and media, new dimensions of diplomacy are emerging such as educational, cultural and most importantly sports diplomacy—sports diplomacy unlike other forms of diplomacy. There is no barrier because sport is an international phenomenon that transcends linguistic, national and cultural boundaries—true sportsmanship, like the objectives of traditional diplomacy, promotes friendship, respect and tolerance, among other universal values. Therefore, using sports as a means of diplomacy is valuable to create opportunities for peaceful coexistence between nations.

The term sports diplomacy was introduced in 1950s when great changes took place in the world after the Second World War and when efforts were being made to improve relations between nations—during this time, foot-

ball matches were held between the United States and Russia with the aim of improving relations between the two countries.

In the same way, tennis matches were organized between England and Germany which could improve the relations between the two countries—thus the term sports diplomacy was coined which made the world realize that sports should now be used as a mean to improve relations between nations.

Evolution and promotion of sports in Pakistan started formally after the establishment of Pakistan. Before that, various sports were played under the management of the British government. In the early period, sports like cricket, hockey, football, tennis, kabaddi and badminton were

formally started, but later cricket has become the most popular sport in Pakistan, and due to its growth and development, other sports have also gained popularity.

Currently, various sports are held including cricket, hockey, football, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, Golf, Swimming and Kabaddi etc.—Cricket is the most popular sport of Pakistan which is less popular than other sports. Pakistan Olympic Association, Pakistan Cricket Board, Pakistan Football Federation, Pakistan Sports Federation, Pakistan Basketball Federation, Pakistan Hockey Federation, Pakistan Boxing Federation, Pakistan Central Committee for Sports Development, Pakistan Sports Trust, Pakistan Sports Video Games Authority, Asian Games

Authority, Association of National Olympic Committees, Association of Pakistani Hockey, Association of Pakistani Sports Development etc. In addition to this many other sports are also regulated in Pakistan and new policies are formulated for different sports.

Sports Development Policies in Pakistan:

- ◆ Policy for development of legal framework regarding sports.
- ◆ Policy for Sports Development Facilities.
- ◆ Policy for organization, training, development and promotion of sports.
- ◆ Policy for Sports Fund.
- ◆ Policy for formation of different federations for development of different sports.
- ◆ Policy for Promotion and Availability of Sports Education.
- ◆ Policy for role of media in sports promotion.
- ◆ Policy for formation of various sports bodies (like Federal

Sports Board, Pakistan Cricket Board).

Sports diplomacy of Pakistan has a rich history of diplomacy, where sports have been used as a tool to influence diplomatic, social and political relations—from cricket to hockey, Pakistan has a strong sports culture and its players have played a key role in promoting the country's image globally. Cricket is by far the most popular sport in Pakistan and Pakistan has a long and proud history in the sport. The national cricket team in 1992 have won several major tournaments, including the World Cup, and produced some of the best players in the world (such as Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, and Shahid Afridi). Pakistan also has a long list of notable players in cricket.

Cricket has played a key role in Pakistan's sports diplomacy efforts—Pakistan hosted several international tournaments, including the 1987 and 1996

Cricket World Cups, which helped promote the country's soft image but also brought higher incomes and tourism were also boosted. Similarly, Pakistan's national sport of hockey has played a key role in efforts for sports diplomacy. In hockey, Pakistan has won the Olympic gold medal three times and the World Cup four times in addition to the 1984 Champions Trophy. It has also hosted many international tournaments including the 1990 World Cup.

Furthermore! sports activities at the international level have also been important for Pakistan. Pakistan Cricket Team has played an important role in reviving international sports in the country and improving Pakistan's cooperation at the international level. Sports have always attracted people and it has played an important role in bringing together and this is a fact especially in the case of Pakistan. Pakistan's national teams

strengthen ties with Pakistanis living around the world and send a message of friendship to other countries through sports.

In recent years, Pakistan has also made significant progress in other sports such as squash and snooker. The country has produced many world-class players in these sports, and they have brought the country's name to the world stage. Pakistan has also hosted several international tournaments, including the 2017 World Squash Championship. Sports diplomacy has played a key role in improving diplomatic relations between Pakistan and other countries—for example, cricket has been used as a tool to improve relations between Pakistan and India. Hockey has also been used to improve relations between Pakistan and its brotherly neighboring country Iran.

Writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at bilalshafi.mi@gmail.com

Analysis



Bilal Shafi

Assistance needed

As the weather is getting colder in Gaza, ICRC has been distributing blankets and tarpaulins to nearly 5,000 displaced people in Khan Younis. (Supplied)



PM for improving taxation system to boost economic growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday stressed the need to improve the taxation system to boost the country's economic growth. In an interview with PTV news, the prime minister said the private sector should take the responsibility of wealth creating and play role of engine of growth for the country, while the government's focus should be on policy making and taxing that wealth.

He said the government spending of the accumulated tax should also be done in a more responsible way. The prime minister visited the PTV headquarters here on the 59th anniversary of the founding of PTV where he also cut

the cake to celebrate the anniversary along with employees of PTV. On the occasion, the prime minister congratulating the PTV said that the Pakistan Television played important role in propagating the Pakistan's soft image and identity across the world. To a question with respect to Balochistan's natural resources, the prime minister said most of the valuable minerals and resources such as gold and copper had not been exploited yet. He maintained that after the 18th amendment, the new exploration and exploitation of mineral resources' issue had been settled as these would be divided at ratio of 50:50 between the province and the federation. The Balochistan's major resource potential particular-



ly copper and gold is going to be exploited in coming days and the value addition of the resources would also be done in the country that would yield great benefit to the province and the country as a whole. The prime minister highlighted that the exploration was being done at the right time, because in the

past Pakistan as a state was not prepared for exploration due to issues of capacity, financial and technical expertise. To a question about his future plan after end of caretaker setup, the prime minister pointed out that he had not anticipated any particular role for himself. "But yes, if I could contribute on the

floor of the parliament, that could be a wonderful opportunity." He said he enjoyed more as a member of parliament as compared to his role as executive. As regards PTV, the prime minister said PTV had played number of amazing dramas, music and other programs besides presenting learning and informative programmes. He suggested the PTV authorities to document and present the old civilization of the region in effective way. "We are one of the oldest civilization, we have got rich culture in terms of poetry, music, dance, and along with that it is a land of Khushahl Khan Khattak, Shah Latif Bhittai, Bullhay Shah, Waris Shah, and we have hundreds of people of that calibre as well," he added.

Pakistani delegation explores Indonesia's religious, political model in diplomatic visit

Diplomatic Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani delegation comprising individuals from diverse backgrounds arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of the Religious Diplomacy Programme aimed at learning from Indonesia's religious and political model on Sunday. Led by the International Religious Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) President Muhammad Israr Madani, the delegation is scheduled to stay in Indonesia for 10 days. Throughout their visit, they will engage with prominent religious scholars and political leaders to facilitate the exchange of exemplary democratic practices. The discussions will also focus on addressing key concerns, including education and social cohesion.

In his communication with the media, Israr emphasized that within the Muslim world, Indonesia stood



out as a nation where the influence of religious elements was notably prom-

inent with a rich and extensive history. He underscored the significant

role played by the religious community in Indonesia, particularly in the realms of politics and education. Israr pointed out that Indonesia served as an exemplary model from which Pakistan could derive valuable insights, especially in terms of integrating religion and politics. He highlighted the steps outlined by the IRCRA as a framework for incorporating the Indonesian model into Pakistani society. Israr recommended leveraging Indonesia's experiences to foster intellectual democracy and promote religious harmony within Pakistan. It is important to note that the recent journey of the Pakistani delegation was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The delegation included religious scholars, politicians, writers, journalists, and other distinguished individuals affiliated with both government and non-government organizations.

Govt to enhance standard of medical education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The quality of medical and dental education will be enhanced at par with international standards, considering local needs and ground realities.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Medical Education and Patient Care and Minister of State Prof. Dr. Aamir Bilal said that while chairing a high-level meeting at Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) head office for the promotion of medical education and quality health care in the country.

He said there will be no compromise on the minimum standards and quality. The minister said that PMDC has a pivotal role in ensuring the quality and standardization of medical and dental education, professional practice, and ethical standards in the country.

He said that all necessary steps will be taken to revise existing rules and regulations of PMDC including

the syllabus for MDCAT, curriculum for undergraduate medical dental education, and accreditation standards for the accreditation of medical and dental institutes. He emphasized that it will be ensured to standardize the MDCAT, NRE and NEB exams to stringent quality assessments, updated curricula, and modern teaching methodologies to produce competent and globally competitive healthcare professionals which are safe for society.

The meeting was attended by PMDC council members, the Federal Special Secretary for Health, President CPSP, members of the task force and sub-committees, nominee of HEC, nominees of the provincial health departments, present and former vice-chancellors, deans, experts in the field, representatives of nursing council from across the country. The meeting was also attended by Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj President of PMDC.

IESCO recovers Rs 786.12 Mln from 44,687 defaulters

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has recovered Rs 786.12 million from 44,687 defaulters besides imposing fine of Rs 286.6 million on power pilferers during the ongoing anti power theft and recovery drive launched on September 7.

IESCO detection teams have checked 312,840 meters, out of which electricity was stealing from 5,182 meters, IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amjad told in a statement issued here Sunday. He said IESCO also imposed fines of Rs 286.6 million by charging 6 million units to the concerned consumers. Some 610 FIRs were also registered against electricity thieves and police arrested 489 people, he said.

The CEO said IESCO's recovery teams recovered Rs 404.47 million from 31,688 running defaulters and

Rs 381.64 million from 12,999 dead defaulters.

As per the direction of the government Ministry of Energy and under the leadership of Chief Executive IESCO Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan, indiscriminate operations against electricity thieves and defaulters were continuing in all the operation circles of IESCO including Islamabad Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal.

The CEO praised the efforts made by IESCO officers and employees and detection teams for making the anti-power theft and recovery campaign successful. He requested the consumers to support IESCO in this national campaign and report the electricity thieves on helpline number 118 or complaint and monitoring cell numbers 0519252933-34 so that timely action can be taken.

Palestinian ministry of foreign affairs condemns escalation in Palestinian incursions in occupied West Bank

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the escalation in violations and crimes of the occupation forces and armed colonialist militias against Palestinian citizens, their lands, homes, properties, crops and sanctities, including the ongoing bloody incursions that continually leave more martyrs and detainees in mass and the demolition of infrastructure, as happened in the city of Jenin and its camp and the city of Al-Bireh and the village of Yatma, south of Nablus, and the settlers continued their attacks on Palestinian farmers, as happened in Khirbet Yanun, south of Nablus. The Ministry also strongly condemns the occupation's razing of more than 100 dunums and uprooting dozens of olive trees east of Qalqilya to expand the colony perched on citizens' lands in that area, in addition to this. To the continued imposition of restrictions on the movement of citizens in the occupied West Bank, the dismemberment of it, and the control of the occupation army and settler militias on the main roads linking the governorates, which forces citizens to search for alternative, difficult, rugged roads that require a longer time to fulfill their needs and reach their homes and places of work. This is at a time when the truce continues in the Gaza Strip, which revealed the unprecedented scale of destruction that befell the Strip and the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe that



citizens in the Gaza Strip are experiencing, which requires the continuation of the regional and international movement to stabilize the truce, transform it into a sustainable ceasefire, and secure the basic needs of Palestinian citizens in Gaza strip.

Here, the Ministry warns of the consequences of wasting the opportunity for a truce and not turning it into a sustainable ceasefire with the aim of stopping the comprehensive Israeli aggression against our people in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Ministry calls for a binding international roadmap to resolve the conflict and stop the cycle of wars and violence, and stresses that a political solution to the conflict in accordance with international peace references, the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions is the correct and only approach to stopping the cycle of wars and violence and achieving security and stability in the region, by ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise His right to self-determination with complete freedom and to embody his independent state on Earth with East Jerusalem as its capital, in implementation of the principle of the two-state solution.

Seminar held to educate youth about significance of vote

Bureau Report

NAWABSHAH: Office of District Election Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad organized an awareness seminar on the importance of vote and its use.

The seminar was held at Sachal Sarmast College Nawabshah.

Addressing the seminar, District Election Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Majeedano and others said that the objective of this seminar is to create awareness among youths about the importance of vote as our youths would play an important role in the

development of the country in the coming days. He said that such seminars are being organized for youths about the importance of vote and the election process.

Speakers appealed young generation to step forward and cooperate with the election commission to educate area people about the importance and use of vote.

District Education Officer Muhammad Saleem Bhatti, College Principal Qazi Jameel, Masroor Memon of the Election office, college teachers and students in large numbers attended the seminar.

PIMS financial issues to be resolved soon

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government will soon address the issue of financial needs and pending salaries of staff of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

According to a spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, there will be no compromise on the provision of

medical facilities to patients.

He said that the doctors and paramedical staff of PIMS hospital are valuable assets of the health sector.

He said that all necessary steps are being taken to provide medical facilities in the hospital. He said no doctors and nurses are on strike in PIMS hospital.

Performing Umrah will be easier for pilgrims in these days, times

News Desk

JADDEH: Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfiq Al Rabiah has advised the best days and times for pilgrims around the world to perform Umrah with less crowd and pleasant weather conditions.

Saudi Minister Dr Tawfiq Al Rabiah recommended that the ideal time for performing Umrah in the morning is between 7:30 am and 10:30 am, while in the evening, it is advisable from 11:00 pm to 2:00 am.

As Umrah performers from around the world converge on the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the minister suggested optimal timeframes can help alleviate crowding and provide a more serene atmosphere for worship.

Dr Al Rabiah also highlighted that among the least crowded days of the week for performing Umrah are Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Pilgrims seeking a more tranquil and focused experience may find these days particularly suitable for their spiritual journey.

He further noted that Mecca is currently blessed with pleasant weather conditions, adding to the overall comfort and ease of perform-

ing the rituals.

This favourable climate not only enhances the physical experience but also contributes to the spiritual ambience, allowing pilgrims to connect with their faith in a tranquil environment, Gulf News reported.

Pakistan announced declared a significant reduction of 0.1 million rupees in government Hajj expenses while ensuring uncompromised facilities.

Notably, the pilgrims will receive a 30kg suitcase each and female pilgrims will receive scarfs (Abaya) featuring the national flag, a first-time provision.

The special mobile app will offer navigation assistance and keep pilgrims in constant contact with relevant officials. Initially available in English and Urdu, the app will later include various regional languages.

Moreover, the government has introduced a 20-day short Hajj package, striving to make Hajj more financially accessible to citizens. Efforts are underway to ensure Pakistani Hajj are accommodated in tents at Old Mina, as the distance to New Mina poses challenges for pilgrims.