Barkat Rice Mills

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

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 12, Monday, November 27, 2023







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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



PM Kakar leaves for UAE on bilateral visit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday embarked on a bilateral visit to the United Arab Emir-

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

PM arrives in UAE on two-day bilateral visit

the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Minister for Justice of the UAE Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al

staff received the prime minister

minister will meet President of Nuaimi and Pakistani diplomatic Zayed. The visit will also include tion, and banking and financial signing of MoUs between Paki-

Caretaker Prime Minister on his arrival at the Abu Dhabi's stan and the UAE in a range Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday Al-Bateen Airport, a Prime Minis- of areas including investment arrived here on a two-day visit to ter Office Press Release said. cooperation in the sectors of During his visit, the prime energy, port operations projects, waste water treatment, food the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin security, logistics, mining, avia-

an opportunity to advance bilating political, economic, trade, and people-to-people relations, eral ties in all spheres includinvestment, cultural, defence 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.

Caretaker FM Jilani departs for Belgium visit

👺 City Desk

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 festi-

exchange had been delayed for hours in a heart-stopping development when Hamas accused Israel of breaching its side of the agreement,

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 latenight operation.

Israel in turn freed 39 Palestinian prisoners, officials said.

Red Cross minibuses could be seen ferrying the hostages late at



hostage-for-prisoner 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 struck as part of a four-day ceasefire 21-year-old Maya Regev, kidnapped which is already past its mid-point. 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 interfering in the selection of prispick-up truck in a video posted on social media.

"I am so excited and happy that ern Gaza.

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 oners for release and was not allowing aid to reach civilians in north-

ECP appoints *32 RMCs* for effective 2024 election monitoring

跨 City Desk

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 Elec-

Eight terrorists gunned down in South Waziristan IBO

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Eight terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces in the Sararogha 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 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.



Last week, a wanted terrorist ring leader, Ibrahim alias Musa was killed among four other terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces on the reported presence of terrorists in the general area, Khaisoor of North Waziristan

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which the four terrorists were sent to hell, including a High-Value Target (HVT), Terrorist ring leader Ibrahim alias Musa. who was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies.

Solangi commends staff on PTV's 59th anniversary



跨 🛮 Bureau Report

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.

Gaza ceasefire be extended: Ashrafi

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: LAHORE: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Inter-Religious Harmony Tahir Mehmood Asharfi 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 demand 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."

Ignite launches third edition of its Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2023

Commerce Desk

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 thwart-

ing malicious cyber attempts. In his message at the inaugural

tal 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

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

Nationwide anti-polio drive to begin from Monday during the campaign.

跨 City Desk

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

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

S Asim Tanveer

Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has said that February 8 will be a day of mourning for political parties that are hostile to the elderly, book and pen in the hands the people. In 75 years, I have seen the of every child, orphans. If higher educagovernments of generals and three polittion is available to every girl child, the ical 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 1000 people in sion, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab favor of Palestinians, are these leaders not Muslim and Pakistani? They tary General Soheb Amar Siddiqui, remained silent on the freedom of Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami District Dera Al-Aqsa Mosque, remained neutral in Khazi Khan Professor Rashid Akhtar, the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir, did not say a single word to bring Usman Nazir, NA 184 National Assem-Dr. Aafia back to the country, people should hold such leadership account-

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 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 occa-South Rao Muhammad Zafar, Secre-Qeem District Hafiz Muhammad bly Candidate Naeemullah Khan, PP 285 Provincial Assembly. Candidate able. Today, Jamaat-e-Islami is start- Mazhar Mehmood, Provincial Assem-



bly candidate from Dera Ghazi Khan were also present. Sheikh Usman Farooq, President JI

Sirajul Haq was welcomed by a large Youth Russell Khan Babar and others 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 circumambulate 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 Ghaza, at Shahra-e-Quaid in Provin-



Annual ceremony held in Umma Children Academy Wana

Mazir 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 the chief guest of the program. dren.



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 perfor-Lower South Waziristan, was mance of the Academy chil-

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 Acade-

my is on its way to success. Association (WAWA) Rahmat

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

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

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

Ullah Wazir also addressed the 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 However, the orphans of 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 chil-

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 31 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 MPAs. 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

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.

LG KP rep joint decision

Protest announced on Dec 19 due to non-fulfillment of demands

跨 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

government representatives and people, which is seen to have an impact on the upcoming gener-

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-privide of funds.

Due to which local govern-

growing frustration among local ment representatives are forced Yousafzai, various tehsil chairto 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

men 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 consul-



tation meeting, Chairman and tan City Government Peshawar Member Capital Metropoli- 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

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 Elec-

tion Commission of Pakistan



SERVICES		
Namaz 1	Timings	
Fajr	5:22 am	
Zohr	11:55 am	
Asr	3:23 pm	
Maghrib	5:00 pm	
Isha	6:28 pm	

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindia	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police92	270601-20

Women Police Stations

- 1411111		
Islamabad	9222590	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	
ENGLIEV		

ENQL	JIRY
Edhi Ambulance	11!
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	
Railway Exchange	9270831-
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

	WILITIS	
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment Board	d 9270151-3	
Islamabad Metropolitan		
Corporation	9209224	
Potohar Town	9209224	
Rawal Town	5773343	

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Karachi shopping mall fire: Builders, KE named in 'manslaughter' FIR

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The K-Elecdepartments were named in a first information report (FIR) registered after nearly a dozen people were killed in a massive fire inside RJ Shopping Mall at Karachi's Rashid Minhas Road the previous day.

At least 11 people died while five others sustained burn injuries after a fire erupted inside the RJ Shopping Mall a day earlier because of a suspected short circuit, as per the officials.

The fire began on the fourth floor and later engulfed other floors. The officials claimed that the deaths occurred because the building had no ventilation.

Today, the FIR was registered at Sharae Faisal Police Station by Sub Inspector

Sadaruddin Mirani. It invoked Sections 322 (manslaughter), 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings), 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Pakistan

Penal Code (PPC). The FIR was registered against the shopping mall's builders, those who approved the map of the building, those who issued the no-objection certificate (NOC), the incumbent management of the shopping mall, K-Electric and the relevant fire station for

failing to fulfil their duties. It stated that an inspection of the site revealed the six-storey building did not have an emergency exit or a fire alarm system, and it was suspected that the blaze erupted due to a short

The FIR added that after the fire broke out, people stuck inside the building tried to flee using stairs and lifts, resulting in suffocation.

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

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistance to Prime Minister on human rights and women empowerment has expressed grave concerns over the unceasing human rights violations in Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Addressing a Seminar held to express solidarity with the Muslims of Kashmir, Palestine and around the globe over gross human rights violations, MushaalMullick said that India and Israel are in competition over which country will top the World in the human rights violations. She resonated alarms over the ongoing Israel's atrocities on the Palestinian people. She lamented the fact that Israel, in violation of all UN resolutions and Geneva Convention, had blockaded the Gaza Strip affecting the flow of food and essential medical supplies to the people who are in dire need of them. She demand-



ed that the United Nations and International community play their role in the settlement of the long outstanding land disputes of Kashmir and Palestine as per the aspirations of the people of the two regions.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister also stressed the need for interfaith harmony for establishing durable peace in Pakistan. She highlighted the role of interfaith harmony in the progress and prosperity of the country while lauding the efforts of the organizers of the interfaith harmony seminar. She also invited the audience to join the inter-

faith harmony committees established on district, provincial and national level.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the wife of unjustly jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik pleaded the whole nation to pray and raise their voices in concern for the imprisoned Kashmiri leader. The whole machinery of the Indian government is busy conspiring to sentence the beloved son of Kashmir and the most revered leader of the Kashmiri people to death penalty, she added.

Mushaal also expressed her deep pleasure over the high attendance of women in the seminar saying that as SAPM for human rights and women empowerment it gives her immense pleasure to see women contributing towards a better and prosperous society through their work in every walk of life.

She also commended the students for performing the skit perfectly depicting the unbearable and suffocating lives of Kashmiri and Palestinian people.

Winter

ISLAMABAD: A gypsy family is carrying bundles of dry wood on their heads for domestic use on their way at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Launch of Habitt's newest store in DHA

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: Habitt, your one-stop destination for home essentials has been a pioneer in redefining the landscape of home and interior décor in Pakistan, boasting a diverse collection spanning furniture, decor, serving, textiles, and kitchen, a comprehensive array all under one roof. Embracing innovation and design, Habitt has been committed to delivering exceptional quality and style for every home.

With the launch of Habitt's newest store in DHA, Y-Block, Lahore. The store's design philosophy revolves around the appreciation of minor



aesthetic appeal. This metic- a convenient choice for the ulous approach brings Habitt discerning local audience. closer to the DHA audience. The strategic location with- ly made products and are in DHA minimizes travel for committed to supporting

details, enhancing the overall customers, making Habitt

Habitt takes pride in local-

and promoting Pakistani craftsmanship. Their range reflects the rich heritage and artistry of Pakistan, with a commitment to excellence and authenticity.

Beyond their commitment to quality, Habitt is dedicated to making a positive impact. They are partnering with Baitussalam Welfare Trust to extend support to those affected in Gaza, Palestine. For every purchase made, Habitt is donating a percentage of its sales to Baitussalam for this noble cause. Furthermore, Habitt actively collects donations for Batul Salam, demonstrating a dedication to making a positive impact on a local scale as well.

IoBM hosts Second International Conference on Education

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) recently bought a diverse range of thought leaders together for the Second International Conference on Education (ICE) 2023. Addressing the theme of "The Changing Education Landscape.", this edition of the annual conference focused on the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4) established by the UN which aims to shed light on the subject of Quality Education globally. The esteemed Chief Guest at the occasion was Ms. Rana Hussain, Interim Education Minister of Sindh, who is also a visionary in the field of education. President of IoBM



was the Conference Patron, Mr.

Talib S. Karim for the event. The keynote speakers at the event included Professor Stefan Mary University of London, a conference structure. Professor of Leadership Practice; Deputy Vice-Principal (Education) and Member of the Department of People and Organisations along with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Dean,

Faculty of Education, International Islamic University, Islamabad. This unique assembly of thought leaders signified a Krummaker from the Queen departure from the conventional

> Addressing the conference, Ms. RanaHussain, Interim Minister for Education, Sindh stated: "Effective collaboration with educational institutions is key to achieving our objectives in

ensuring inclusive quality education. Emphasizing the essential elements of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships for sustainable development.

This Second International Conference on Education serves as a crucial platform, uniting representatives from both public and private sector institutes in various insightful sessions, fostering collaborative participation," noted Dr. Tariq Soomro, Acting Rector of IoBM.

ICE 2023 was organized by IoBM's Department of Education. Dr. SarwatNauman, the Head of Department, along with her team played an instrumental role in organizing the Confer-

Jubilee Life Insurance marks 5-year milestone

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, proudly celebrated its 5th consecutive year of collaboration with SEED Ventures on the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan (ECP), the country's premier business challenge for school children with an event held at the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC) Karachi, Pakistan. The keynote address at the event was delivered by British Deputy High Commissioner Her Excellency Ms Sarah Mooney. Other speakers at the event included MD & CEO Jubilee Life Insurance MrJaved Ahmed, and Head of Marketing and Brand Management Jubilee Life Insurance Mr Usman Qaiser, along with CEO SEED Ventures MsShaista Ayesha, ECP Programme Manager MsMaha Salman.

ECP is an initiative of Prince's Trust International executed by SEED Ventures since 2016 across Pakistan. It is a national competition for 14 – 18-year-old students that aims to inspire the entrepreneurial spirit within young people and transform them into the job creators of tomorrow. Jubilee Life's partnership with ECP aligns with its broader vision to alleviate socio-economic challenges by empowering youth and women, focusing on socially including and embracing those historically excluded.

Commenting on the milestone, MD & CEO of Jubilee Life Insurance Mr. Javed Ahmed stated, "Our collaboration with SEED Ventures on the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan is not just about sponsorship; it is about building a foundation for the future.

Expressing their views, the CEO of SEED Ventures MsShaista Ayesha stated, "Partnering with Jubilee Life Insurance on the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan has been a journey fueled by shared passion and commitment.

Looking ahead, Jubilee Life Insurance and SEED Ventures aim to expand the reach of ECP. Over the next five years, the programme is set to extend its impact to 2000 schools, onboarding 30,000 young people from underprivileged schools across Pakistan. This ambitious expansion reflects the commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and positive change among the youth.

Muslim Ummah must unite to solve Palestine problem: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

№ City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Central Association of Traders LiaquatBagh and social personality Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that The Muslim Ummah must unite to solve the Palestine problem. Until the spirit of faith like that of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.) is not created in every Muslim, Until then, the oppression of Muslims will continue. FreeingBetulMuQaddas from the Zionist forces is the duty of every Muslim, not just the Pales-



He said this during a meeting with his circle of friends. Central Association of Traders LiaquatBagh Road and social personality Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that if anyone wants to see the scenes of Karbala with his own eyes, they should go to Palestine and see it. The silence of the Muslim Ummah on the massacres in Palestine is painful. Every Muslim must inculcate in himself the spirit of faith like Hazrat Imam Hussain. It is sad to say that today's Muslims seem indifferent to the cries of the oppressed sisters, daughters, mothers, children, youth and elders of Palestine. Mere rhetoric is not the solution to problems.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that the Holy Quran is the best way for guidance. We should all highlight the issue of Palestine together. This attack was not only done on Palestine, but it was done to sabotage the freedom, rights and spirit of faith of all Muslims. It is the duty of every Muslim not only to liberate Jerusalem from the Zionist forces.

Sabeena Farooq bids heartfelt farewell to Barbeena

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: In a heartfelt farewell post on Instagram, Sabeena Farooq bids farewell to her beloved character, Barbeena, from Green Entertainment' mega hit 'KabliPulao'. Sharing a touching moment with Ehteshamuddin, who portrayed Haji Mushtaq and garnered immense love from the audience, Sabeena expressed that it's not a goodbye but the commencement of more unseen and timeless love stories.

Looking to the future, KabliPulao star assured her audience that this is not the end; there are many more stories to come. 'KabliPulao' serves as the first brick in the artistic journey that promises to unfold in the near future. With a commitment to hard work and delivering the best, Sabeena Farooq bids her final good bye to Barbeena and Haji Sahab and says they are forever. Green Entertainment proudly ventures into narratives that demand attention and have been untapped and 'KabliPulao' has been one of those stories that has made a mark on the future to come.

LESCO terminates 20 workers over electricity theft

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: power distribution company in Lahore has terminated its 20 workers for their alleged involvement in electricity theft. The Lahore Elec-



tric Supply Company (LESCO) spokesperson said in a statement that actions were taken against 87 workers in 78 days. 20 LESCO workers have been terminated after being found guilty of electricity theft, he added.

Additionally, 21 workers of the power firm faced demotion, promotion of six employees was stopped and three employees were given forced retirement.

The spokesperson concluded that the accused employees include the line superintendent, meter reader, lineman and other staffers.

The anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations.

The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

Among the seized connections 20 were commercial, 02 agricultural and 260 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 307,574 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 13.186 million.

During the 68 days of grand anti-theft campaign, the spokesman mentioned, the LESCO detected pilferage on 26,125 power connections and submitted 25,847 FIR applications against electricity thieves in the relevant police stations out of which 24,998 FIRs have been registered, while 12,568 accused have so far been arrested by the police.

The LESCO has so far charged a total of 48,108,264 detection units worth Rs 1,990,830,066 to all the power pilferers.

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Northern Gaza completely destroyed by the deadly Israeli bombardments

ixty-one trucks Saturday hauled aid to northern Gaza, much of which was completely destroyed by the deadly Israeli bombardments, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said on Sunday. The freight — the largest number since 7 October included food, water and emergency medical supplies. Eleven ambulances, 3 coaches and a flatbed were delivered to Al Shifa Hospital to be used to assist with evacuations.

Looking around the vast devastation left behind by Israeli strikes, Namzi Mwafi, a 23-year-old Palestinian man, waiting in a long line to collect much-needed supplies, said, "We went back to the Stone Age," Mwafi told The New York Times that dozens of his extended family members are sheltering together in a two-bedroom apartment in Rafah, a city in southern Gaza near the territory's border with Egypt, he says. The oldest, his grandmother, is 68; the youngest, a cousin, is 6 months old. To keep them alive, Mwafi says he wakes up at 4 a.m., spending hours waiting for water at a crowded filling station. Sometimes, he has to fight to keep his place in line and sometimes there is nothing left when his turn comes. When he is lucky, he pushes his heavy trolley home through the sand and the family rations the haul to about a glass a day each. There is practically no gas or other fuel left in Gaza, according to the United Nations agencies operating there, so some people are building makeshift clay or metal ovens to cook. Firewood and coal have also largely run out, so families are burning stripped-down doors, shutters and window frames, cardboard and grasses. Some simply do not cook, eating raw onions and eggplants instead, the newspapers said. Since Oct. 7, Israel imposed what it called a complete siege — cutting off almost all water, food, electricity and fuel for the more than two million Palestinians living in Gaza. It also launched thousands of airstrikes on the enclave and sent in ground forces to wreak havoc. A brief cease-fire, the first since the war began seven weeks ago, began to take hold on Friday, and as part of a hostage agreement between Israel and Hamas, dozens of trucks with water and other vital humanitarian aid crossed into Gaza. Still, it was far less than what typically came into the territory before the war, and there was no indication that the freer flow of aid would last beyond the four-day agreed truce. Before the cease-fire, little humanitarian aid — far short of what Gazans need — had been trickling in. And so, from the north to the south, in tented camps, apartments, schools and hospitals, residents crammed together in ever-shrinking spaces have been struggling every day to meet their most basic needs. Surviving has become a full-time, erilous undertaking, the report said. "Days start well before dawn. Tasks seem simple: Fetch water. Bake bread.

Trial and retribution of PTI chairman

ing millions, including myself, is the why behind his renunciation of a life of luxury. Why would he relinquish a wife considered one of the wealthiest globally? Why sever ties with his beloved sons, denying himself the joy of witnessing their growth as a caring father? Why dedicate himself to philanthropy, benefitting countless destitute souls? What motivated the establishment of Numl University in an impoverished region? Why delve into founding the Al-Qadir Trust, focusing on the life of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)? Above all, why forsake comfort, family, and free $dom\,to\,step\,into\,the\,perilous, \stackrel{\cdot}{murky}, and$ vicious realm of Pakistani politics, sacrificing everything he held dear? The depth of these choices and the driving force behind his sacrifices is a profound enigma.

In the religious perspective, his steadfastness stems from the belief that he's enduring a trial and retribution sanctioned by the Almighty. His conviction lies in the faith that once this trial concludes, he'll emerge vindicated and triumphant. Anchored in Islamic examples, he may be drawing strength from revered personalities who, facing trials, never wavered in their belief in Allah despite enduring pain, indignity, insults, and banishment. He might have been inspired by their unwavering faith which ultimately led to their victory. Ethically, this viewpoint nurtures resilience, patience, and purpose in facing challenges, fostering fortitude, integrity, kindness, and compassion even

he burning question plagu- religious and ethical, might have shaped steadfastness and resilience in confronthis enduring commitment and resilience throughout his trials.

> His past speeches on a number of occasions referred to inspiration drawn from historical and modern exemplars who faced adversity with unwavering cour-

enduring severe illness, loss of wealth, and family yet remaining resolute in faith, showcasing patience and trust in God's mercy, eventually leading to restoration and healing.

Likewise, he had been referring to the example of Prophet Muhammad

(Peace Be Upon Him) Who (PBUH) faced immense opposition, ridicule, and persecution during his mission. Enduring boycotts, loss of loved ones, and threats on his life, his unwavering faith and perseverance stand even today as a testament to patience and resilience amid trials.

He had been referring to modern day figures like Mother Teresa exemplifying unwavering dedication despite inner struggles, showcasing commitment to faith amid trials. Similarly, Nelson Mandela's steadfast commitment to justice during imprisonment and the struggle against apartheid demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity, viewing challenges as opportunities to showcase faith, dedication, and resilience. These diverse examples may have served as a amidst adversity. This dual perspective, guiding light in his messages, inspiring

ing trials.

Certainly! The PTI Chairman's composed demeanor in challenging times might also stem from worldly reasons beyond religious beliefs. His resilience and calmness could be attributed to a blend of age. He frequently cites the example of emotional intelligence and learned strat-Prophet Ayub (Peace Be Upon Him), egies for handling adversity. Such individ-

uals often possess a deep understanding of their emotions, allowing them to effectively manage their feelings and prioritize problem-solving over emotional reactions. Drawing from past experiences, they cultivate resilience, learning from hardships and

building confidence in their ability to navigate tough situations, which acts as a stabilizing force against panic and anxiety.

Moreover, having a robust support network and practicing intentional techniques like mindfulness or stress management exercises are pivotal. These deliberate practices train the mind to maintain composure, while a solid support system provides reassurance. Additionally, their focus on finding solutions rather than dwelling on problems significantly contributes to their ability to remain calm even amidst substantial adversity. This blend of emotional intelligence, learned resilience, deliberate practices, and a solution-focused mindset contributes to their remarkable composure in challenging situations.

The PTI Chairman has been a success-

ful person throughout his life. Winning the only world cricket cup for Pakistan, received the Hilal-e-Imtiaz and President's Pride of Performance award in 1982. He was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World 2019 and 16th most influential Muslim in their 2020 version. In the 2022 version he is in the top ten, at number 10. His tenure as Pakistan's Prime Minister for three and a half years capped a career defined by excellence both in sports and humanitarian endeavors.

The life of the PTI Chairman is a tapestry woven with threads of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. His journey, marked by triumphs in sports, recognition in humanitarian endeavors, and navigating the tumultuous corridors of politics, mirrors a spirit that remains unbroken in the face of adversity. His steadfast commitment to principles, whether grounded in religious beliefs or ethical values, echoes the courage of historical figures who endured trials with unwavering resolve. Amidst challenges, he draws strength from both faith and worldly wisdom, embodying a rare fusion of emotional intelligence and learned resilience. The choice ahead is stark: to dismantle a man of immense caliber, character, and strength in adversity or to preserve and harness his remarkable capability and resolve for the great-

Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD,



Qamar Bashir

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

Beyond Corridors: Empowering Pakistan

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

akistan's ability to maximize the benefits of the China-Pakistan F.conomic Corridor (CPEC) hinges on the formulation of a practical and inclusive industrial policy. The success of CPEC in fostering Pakistan's industrial development necessitates a strategic approach that actively involves stakeholders, particularly those from medium and small industries. Without a comprehensive policy framework addressing the needs of a diverse industrial landscape, the nation may fall short of fully capitalizing on CPEC's transformative potential.

As Pakistan navigates the transformative corridors of CPEC, the wisdom of inclusive industrial policies becomes paramount. The journey towards sustainable progress echoes the sentiment that a nation's strength lies in empowering every facet of its economy. With this in mind, a pertinent question arises: Can Pakistan

truly harness the full potential of CPEC withthe importance not just of assembling diverse out a well-crafted industrial policy that actively involves stakeholders, especially those from medium and small industries.

A critical examination of the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies becomes imperative. How can the composition of these committees be scrutinized to ensure diverse representation, particularly including stakeholders from medium and small industries, fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making?

In the pursuit of transformative change, there's an inherent risk of bias. How can CPEC strike a balance to ensure that industrialists, benefiting from the current system, do not resist reforms that might disrupt their positions, and how can

diverse stakeholder interests be accommodated? Considerations must extend beyond immediate gains. In the intricate web of CPEC, how might we ensure that the lens through which industrialists view their involvement doesn't solely focus on the gains of their enterprises? Instead, how can it broaden to encompass broader socio-economic considerations—such as ensuring fair resource distribution, prioritizing the welfare of workers, and championing environmental sustainability?

The historical imbalance in Pakistan's industrial landscape is a challenge that CPEC must confront. How can policies be crafted to rectify historical disparities where large industrialists have thrived, leaving smaller enterprises struggling, and how can the inclusion of diverse stakeholders be a driving force in achieving a more equitable distribution of benefits?

A comprehensive analysis of the committees responsible for overseeing the industrial policies within CPEC is of utmost importance. It is essential to scrutinize the intricacies of how these committees are structured and operate

to guarantee a fair and effective decision-making process. In seeking an answer to this question, the wisdom of iconic industrialist Henry Ford reverberates: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." The essence of this quote encapsulates the essence of our inquiry. It underscores

perspectives but of ensuring their continual inclusion and collaboration, fostering a synergy that propels us toward genuine success.

As we envision the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies, we must view them not merely as bureaucratic entities but as dynamic hubs where the collective aspirations of a nation converge. Inclusive decision-making, where the voices of both large and small industries are harmonized, paves the way for a transformative journey. The success of these committees lies not just in their composition but in their commitment to maintaining a vibrant, ever-evolving collaboration that mirrors the diversity and dynamism of Pakistan's industrial terrain.

The journey toward comprehensive and inclusive decision-making within CPEC is a journey toward unlocking the true potential of Pakistan's industries. To echo the sentiments of Nobel laureate AmartyaSen, "Inclusive development is possible only when we foster the capabilities and participation of all individuals." It is in this spirit of fostering capabilities and participation, especially from medium and small industries, that the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies can truly become architects of transformative change. As they navigate the intricacies of decision-making, let them be guided by the understanding that true success lies in a collaborative and inclusive journey toward a more prosperous and harmonious future

This scrutiny is indispensable for fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making, ensuring that the diverse needs and interests of all sectors within the industrial landscape are considered and addressed. This review is essential for ensuring fair growth. It means recognizing and considering the contributions of different industries, no matter their size, when creating the overall industrial plans for CPEC.

As Pakistan confronts challenges in its industrial landscape, there arises a critical necessity for substantial reform, aligning with China's commitment to fostering progress and innovation. How can committees involved in CPEC navigate complexities without being encumbered by the fear of disrupting the status quo, and how can an inclusive policy approach be the cornerstone for meaningful and sustainable change?

Examining global examples from places like Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Korea, Ethiopia, and Colombia sheds light on how committees unafraid to challenge established norms have propelled significant progress, and what lessons Pakistan can glean from these instances to ensure that its current initiatives become a catalyst for genuine and lasting industrial advancement. Reminding again that the success of Pakistan in harnessing the transformative potential of CPEC lies in the formulation of a practical and inclusive industrial policy. As the nation embarks on this crucial journey, the path to progress demands a collaborative approach that actively includes stakeholders from medium and small industries. Only through such an inclusive strategy can CPEC evolve into a catalyst for genuine and sustainable industrial progress in Pakistan.

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

A World with a thousand adversaries

ood Insecurity Many of us are unfamiliar with this term. In our country it is called food crisis. According to the World Food Program, in the year 2022 there were thirty-four million people who were not sure that they would get food in the evening after eating in the morning, and this number has reached sixty-eight million people in just three years, i.e. in 2023. According to this report, 70% of the 68 million people

live in areas where war or civil war is going on. Russia Ukraine in 2022

As soon as the war began, Russia blocked ships from the Black Sea port of Ukraine. For four months, grain and commodities were not delivered to the whole world from Ukrainian ports. In July 2022, through the Russia-Ukraine-Turkey agreement, ships were allowed to pass for the sake of

humanity for one year, and more than 1,000 ships with food items left the world. But due to the four-month standstill, food delivery and shipping charges increased from \$20 per ton to \$70 per ton, resulting in an inflationary storm

all over the world. After the one-year contract expires on July 17, 2023, Russia has closed the Black Sea again. Know how much food is supplied to the total population of the world from Russia-Ukraine ports. Russia and Ukraine export one-third of the world's wheat, 17% of corn and 75% of sunflower oil. According to the report, another storm of inflation is waiting for the whole world in the next few months. If the new war going on in the Middle East is added to this, the situation seems to be getting worse.

To avoid this, China is not exporting a single grain of its grain, but is stabilizing its stock by buying from the whole world.

We live in an agricultural country, although we will not have a severe food crisis, but due to the high cost of fertilizers and seeds, the price of food will increase.

Exporting goods to countries in their bloc

A third factor that is alarming is climate intensification, artificially imperceptibly driving the entire world towards epidemic wars and food past week alone.

Floods in Somalia destroy the Somali food

A magnitude 6.6 earthquake has wreaked havoc in the Philippines.

Burma is once again engulfed in war, with fight spreading across the country.

During the last one week, tens of countries of the world were hit by heavy rains, hurricanes, volcanoes and heat waves.

Our country has been spared from these calamities so far by the grace of Allah and some

> inexplicable reasons. The fourth and biggest factor

is that crazy millipede There are those who are play-

ing with the world by pretending to be God. Changing the entire world's climate under the guise of global warming has not been a harp or some other conspiracy theories that is happening openly in front of everyone. Global warming is nothing but a fraud

In order to fulfill their agenda, the governments or rather the controllers of the governments are spending billions of dollars to prove this propaganda to be true. Recently, Tucker Carlson also did a show on

the mental disorder of the crazy billionaire Bill Gates. He termed the project established to reduce sunlight as a threat to the whole world. Lack of sunlight will have a nuclear winter

effect. Nuclear winter can cause twice as many deaths as a nuclear attack. Calcium carbonate dust will be sprayed into the atmosphere around the world to reflect sunlight.

Here's a question on a side note.

(Can we now say that people able to block sunlight can control the weather on a small scale) If the unspoken reasons due to which Paki-

stan has been spared from global environmental terrorism disappear, how long will we have food reserves? Probably we are not self-sufficient in food even for six months Wheat onion tomato crisis due to floods in 2022

Remember

Kiran Asim

Apart from the trouble of the incompetent rulers, if God's calamity sees our house, only human beings will be available for us to eat, because there are no friends near and far, shortages. Three major events took place in the and the enemies of the neighborhood are also attached to us.

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 MD 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 generation will never forgive the seniors symbolically planted a tree in the PNCA and the two govts, he said. garden, embodying a tangible commitment to environmental stewardship.

During his eloquent address, Mr. Siddiqui commended the talent- tional contributions of talented artists,

ed artists whose works adorned the performers, organizers, and volunteers. 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 Siddique 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

Adding to the ceremony's prestige, Mr. Siddiqui presented special prizes and certificates to honor the excep-

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.

tion 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

There was a full coverage of the event by the press &eMedia 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



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



Asim Jofa's Business Resilience and Crisis Management Strategies Integrated

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 and fashion. study into the curriculum stands as a testament to rate AsimJofa's case study the invaluable insights it provides for future global ulum came from Prem S. business leaders, particu- Menghwar, a distinguished to impart the entrepre-



Guido Carli's Business and

Management department.

Recognizing the exception-

al nature of Jofa's business

journey, Menghwar sought

The invitation to incorpointo the academic curriclarly in the fields of business faculty member of LUISS neur's adaptive strategies

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

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.

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 cultiindustry.

their exceptional field performance, emphasizing research and innovation in are proud of our team as we stan, we are building capac-

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 tists were recognized for cy and high standards in the

"The extraversion of virgin the very important role of olive oil is not safe, but we sector development in Paki- ment to excellence among

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 vation, contributing to the attention to detail in present- in a collective walk, emphaoverall improvement of the ing their products received sizing the global significance olive oil. The recognition of accolades, reinforcing the of olive cultivation and its outstanding farmers, scienimportance of transparen- positive impact on health. agriculture, and the envi-

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 tists, and packaging practices aims to set benchmarks for the industry, fostering a "In order to ensure olive sense of pride and commit-

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

diversity of the heritage of past centuries. Parthia offers a unique opportunity to be at the crossroads of Hellenistic and Islamic cultures. the project was the wellknown contemporary artist BoburIsmailov."Eternal city" also Bukhara, Fergana, Tashkent, Khorezm, Silk Road

visitors to appreciate the full and Surkhandarya, as well as Karakalpakstan, without leaving the Samarkand complex. The central street with the triumphal arch is called Samarkand. Natural The author and curator of Walking along the cobblestone path, guests can visit the National Library or visits to the puppet theatis not only Samarkand, but er, embroidery art, national costumes and acquaintance allows you to walk along as well as Samarkand bread the streets of Kashkadarya or can be a guest with a bag.

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

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 rela-

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 tions with international media case study." The third panel discusinstitutions. This role reflects the sion addressed "ethical respon-

sibility in international media," and kholva. Half of the territory 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 Secretariate 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 manufactories. 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 legandary pilaf, bread 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 gijduvan 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 exhibitionworkshops 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 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

the area of the complex. Its pride is 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. Order a portrait in these places or a professional the serviced of photographers can be used. Workshops and galleries. There are more than 50 workshops in the city of Baqi. Their owners demonstrate the ancient crafts of Samarkand and the

ing, 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 papiermache. 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

whole of Uzbekistan-wood carv-

Monday, November 27, 2023

Incentives for overseas can boost remittances, investment: PIAF

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has suggested the government to announce incentives for oversees Pakistanis to further



boost up foreign remittances, besides enhancing investment in the country by Pakistani expatriates.

The PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that remittances last month came in at \$2.21 billion and this figure, while an improvement from last month's \$2.09 billion, was significantly lower than market expectations of \$2.4-2.5 billion. However, on a month-on-month basis, remittances rose by 5.3% but they declined by 11.24% compared to last year, when remittances stood at \$2.49 billion. The market was expecting remittances to improve following a massive crackdown on exchange rate manipulation in the open market, and the subsequent reduction in the premium between the open and interbank markets.

Faheem Saigol said that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to see a decline during next two years. So, foreign remittance flows are the only hope which can support the current account balance, as the GDP growth is not going to decelerate.

The PIAF Chief said that structural reforms can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for oversees Pakistanis workers. If government assists overseas Pakistanis and provides them incentives, they can play a pivotal role in boosting Pakistan's economy through their remittances and investments for the socio-economic prosperity, he said.

IftikharAliMalik highlights Pakistan's abundant resources, skills for global market contribution

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pakistan possessed a wealth of resources, skills, and industries that could contribute significantly to the global market. Speaking to a delegation of industrialists and traders, he said, "Collaborative efforts from government, private sector, and civil society are essential to bring about a positive change in addition to reviving the economy by plac ing a special emphasis on boosting exports," said a press release issued here.

He said, "Through export capabilities, we can not only generate revenue but also create employment opportunities and strengthen our international standing." Iftikhar stressed the need for initiating result-oriented comprehensive economic reforms that encourage investment, facilitate ease of doing business, and promote entrepreneurship. He said such measures will help rejuvenate various sectors and attract both domestic and foreign investors. He emphasized for establishment of more specialized export zones, offering a basket of incentives to export-oriented industries, and investment in infrastructure that supports efficient production and transportation of goods. Iftikhar Ali Malik said investment in vocational and technical training programs is a prerequisite to empower our workforce with modern skills, making them more competitive in the global market. He said consistent power and gas supply is a lifetime requirement for industries, promoting higher productivity and reduced operational costs. He said we must harness the potential of modern technology to streamline administrative processes, reduce corruption, and enhance transparency, creating a conducive environment for economic growth.

PKR gains 0.39pc versus USD for second straight week

₿ TLTP

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee made gains against the US dollar for the second week in a row and improved by Rs1.13 in the interbank market, while the local unit improved by Rs3 in the open market.

According to details, the rupee opened at 286.50 against the greenback in the interbank market on Monday last and closed at 285.37 on Friday, improving by Rs1.13 (+0.39 percent). The rupee appreciated by 53 paisas (+0.18 percent) in the preceding week. Similarly, the rupee improved by Rs2.92 during the current fiscal year 2023-24. However, the rupee depreciated by Rs54.53 in the current year. The rupee gained Rs6.26 (+2.23 percent) against the greenback in the month of October. The currency surged more than 6 percent in September to become the top performer in the world.

Similarly in the open market, the local unit closed the week in the range of 283-286 against the dollar on Friday after opening the week at 286-289 on Monday.

FPCCI's Presidential Candidate

People's incomes stagnant despite significant inflation

★ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, AtifIkram Sheikh, said on Sunday that millions of people are leaving the country for employment abroad as there are almost no opportuni-

ties in Pakistan due to the economic downturn. He said that workers, scientists, engineers and IT experts are among those leaving the country due to desperation, which has threatened the country's economy.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI, said in a statement today that no one will leave the country if they can get decent jobs in Pakistan.

He informed that jobs can be created by

promoting industrialization, which has received little attention from authorities due to which industrialists are also turning to non-produc-

He said that import restrictions are hurting the economy, commodities are becoming expensive, and the dollar volatility is also preventing the market from stabilizing, which needs to be controlled.

The business leader said that due to the strict measures of the caretaker government, the country had been saved from bankruptcy. However, we are still facing severe problems, and investors are shying away from Pakistan.

AtifIkram Sheikh said that many local and foreign companies need to get raw materials, while there are also difficulties in sending profits



abroad, due to which investment has stopped. The people need sustainable socio-economic development, human security, justice, health, education and other facilities because inflation is increasing continuously, but people's income is not increasing, he said.

People experiencing poverty, the working poor, and the salaried classes are all suffering more than any other class as their incomes have not moved in tandem with inflation nor with devaluation.

The savings of the majority have eroded, and they are forced to see one shock after another, with an unending series of utility price hikes.

Safeguarding people's incomes is as necessary as the process of reforms and the gains of the elites.

Short circuit

KARACHI: Shopkeepers stands outside their burning shops after a fire at a commercial high-rise building at R. J Mall on Rashid Minhas Road in Provincial Capital as at least 10 people were killed and several injured in fire.



ML-1 project: NRA China vows to collaborate closely with Pakistan Railways

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Secretary of Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah said on Sunday that the Main Line-I (ML-1) project would transform the transportation sector in the country and serve as a game-changer, significantly boosting the revenue of Pakistan

Speaking to a high-level delegation of technical experts from the National Railway Administration (NRA), China, he emphasized that the ML-1 project holds immense importance for Pakistan's social and economic progress.

The purpose of the visit by the NRA experts was to evaluate the progress of the ML-1 project and expedite its implementation, the state news agency reported.

Syed Mazhar highlighted the significance of the collaboration with China, considering them a close friend and partner, often referred to as Pakistan's 'Iron Brother.'

The NRA pledged to collaborate closely with Pakistan Railways to kick start ground operations for the ML-I project. The Chinese government has assured

full support for the ML-1 project, and joint efforts will be made to ensure its swift

The ML-1 project is poised to bring about a transformative change in Pakistan's railway system, and both countries



are committed to working together for the ML-1 project. project's speedy realization.

Yesterday, the Pakistan Railways administration urged swift action from China's authorities on the ML-1 (Mainline-1)

Pakistan Railway CEO Amir Baloch made the request during a warm reception of a high-level delegation from China's National Railway Administration.

The 21-member delegation, led by Zhu Mengrui, team leader of the ML-1 project, expressed full support and commitment to

Baloch highlighted the unprecedented cooperation between Pakistan and China in energy and transport sectors, emphasizing ML-1 as a game-changer that will revolutionize Pakistan's transport and boost revenue in the freight sector.

Mengrui assured collaborative efforts in addressing all aspects, including financing schemes and design proposals, marking a significant step towards enhancing economic ties and reducing transportation costs with the establishment of economic

Pak-Korea trade ties be enhanced further as both countries potential markets: envoy



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to Korea Nabeel Munir has said that trade and economic relation between Pakistan and Korea should be enhanced as both countries are potential markets and have the great. ability and resources to fulfill

each other's needs. He was talking to APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, who met with the Ambassador at Pakistan Embassy in Seoul, to discuss important matters related to B2B collaborations, joint ventures, and enhancing bilateral trade between Korea and Pakistan.

On this occasion, Nabeel Munir acknowledged and appreciated APBF efforts and initiatives taken by it for the business community of Pakistan. He observed Pakistan is a very potential market, adding that doing business in country like Pakistan is always very profitable.

Korean companies already operate in Pakistan in diverse sectors. Daewoo, Samsung, Lotte, LG, Hyundai, and Kia are household names in Pakistan. While Korean companies are welcome third-party collaboration.

to invest in any sector, food processing, the automotive industry, I. T., hospitality/tourism, textiles, housing and construction, and logistics are areas in which Korean companies enjoy a competitive advantage.

Syed Maaz Mahmood briefed the Pakistan amba sador about the APBF efforts and initiatives to increase bilateral trade, facilitating business community for ease of doing business and promoting the real and positive perception of Pakistan at every platform.

He said that the 16 designated Special Economic Zones in Pakistan offer lucrative incentives for investors. Korean companies are welcome to start businesses in established SEZs or develop a Korean SEZ anywhere in Pakistan. Benefits include a one-time exemption from customs duties and taxes for all capital goods imported into Pakistan for the development, operations, and maintenance of the SEZ. Similarly, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a game-changing development of the Belt and Road Initiative, is open for

the timely initiation of the transformative zones linked to ML-1. **Commerce Desk** Rs275m tax theft via cooking oil ISLAMABAD: Noman Said, a world-renowned IT

under-invoicing unearthed **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Customs officials caught a massive tax theft worth Rs275 million through under-invoicing of imported cooking oil from a foreign country.

A massive tax theft of Rs275 million has been caught by the Customs officials. Customs officials told the media that a private company was allegedly involved in under-invoicing of cooking oil being imported from Indonesia.

They added that the private firm was also involved in using hawala-hundi network for the imported cooking oil. A case was lodged against the accused and legal action would be taken, they said.

In October, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had unearthed the biggest 'trade-



based' money laundering and under-invoicing scandal in Pakistan.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) lodged a case against two companies in Peshawar after unearthing a massive money laundering worth Rs47 billion following a thorough investigation by the auditors. According to FBR's report, the transfer of

money was declared a 'trade-based money The report stated that the companies

caused a mammoth financial loss to the national exchequer worth Rs25 billion allegedly through under-invoicing. The money laundering and under-invoicing were committed in the name of solar panels.

In the First Information Report (FIR), owners of two companies, Moon Light Traders and Bright Star, were nominated. The FBR report stated that the Bright Star Company was involved in under-invoicing in the GD in 2013, whereas, auditors caught the records of 705 GDs of the Moon Light Traders.

It also revealed that the companies continued laundering money from 2017 to 2022. The trade-based money laundering and under-invoicing report was also forwarded to the Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

FDI remains below 1% of GDP per year during 2013-2023

expert, investor and founder has termed the formation of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) a game-changer vis-a-vis foreign direct investment (FDI) and transformational in nature for the economy of Pakistan.

SIFC will comprise top leadership of both the government and the armed forces-and, will have apex, executive & implementation committees. This is a brilliant, timely move; and, we hail both the civilian & the state institutions for their clarity of thought and coming together for the prosperity of the country, he

Noman Said continued that investors, entrepreneurs

and business groups are not comfortable or encouraged by red tapism; dealing with numerous licensing & regulatory authorities and inconsistency in economic & investment policies. They are accustomed with investment facilitation and incentivization through one-window-operations; and, these are exactly the issues SIFC is mandated to address. It is pertinent to note that

SIFC will focus on defense production; agriculture; mines & minerals, energy sector and IT industry; with a target of \$100 billion in FDI within a short span of three years. The penultimate goal is to reach \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP by FY35. State apparatus will provide full-fledged technical and strategic support to SIFC to pave the way for seamless functioning of the council.

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.

here, they have been in India. They've and Rachin Ravindra. 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 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

both matches in a 2013 series, ended

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

This time, Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel join Ish Sodhi along with "But for the majority of our group two spin all-rounders, Glenn Phillips

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 Zealand ended their 15-year wait to 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 Their next three Tests, including 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 Qualifier. on the points table of the ICC T20 World Cup Africa Region da won the toss and invited seven wickets in their accumu-



During the match, Ugan-

Zimbabwe to bat first, who

scored 136 runs at the loss of

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 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 conced-

ing 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

The top two teams will qualify for the T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in the United States of Amer-28-ball 42, featuring five ica and West Indies in June

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.

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.

Sports Diplomacy in Pakistan

the world is becoming a global village through trade, travel and media, new dimensions of diplomacy are emerging such tennis matchas educational, cultural and most importantly sports diplomacy-sports diplomacy unlike England and other forms of diplomacy. There Germany which 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-

In the same way, es were organized between could improve relations between two countriesthus 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.

Bilal Shafi

Evolution and promotion of sports in Pakistan started formallv 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

the United States and Russia et has become the most popular with the aim of improving rela-sport in Pakistan, and due to its tions between the two countries. growth and development, other

> gained popularity. Currently, various sports are held includcricket, ing 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

n this modern age as ball matches were held between formally started, but later crick- 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 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 of formation of different federations for development of
- different sports. *Policy for Promotion and Availability of Sports Educa-
- *Policy for role of media in sports promotion. * Policy for formation of various sports bodies (like Federal

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, WasimAkram, and ShahidAfridi), Pakistan also has a long list of notable players

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

Sports Board, Pakistan Cricket Cricket World Cups, which strengthen ties with Pakistanis 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 erly neighboring country Iran. has played an important role in bringing together and this is a fact especially in the case of Paki-

stan. Pakistan's national teams

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 broth-

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The Spokesman

Assistance needed

As the weather is getting colder in Gaza, ICRC has been distributing blankets and tarpaulins to nearly 5,000 displaced



PM for improving taxation system to boost economic growth

Spokesman Report

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 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 governmaking and taxing that wealth.

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 foundtion. The Balochistan's major

the cake to celebrate the anniversary along with employees ISLAMABAD: Caretaker 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 interview with PTV news, the 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 ment's focus should be on policy not been exploited yet. He maintained that after the 18th He said the government amendment, the new exploration and exploitation of mineral resources' issue had been settled as these would be divid-

the province and the federa-



be exploited in coming days and the value addition of the to issues of capacity, financial in the country that would yield great benefit to the province after end of caretaker setup, ed at ratio of 50:50 between and the country as a whole. The the exploration was being done particular role for himself. "But ing of PTV where he also cut resource potential particular- at the right time, because in the yes, if I could contribute on the

ly copper and gold is going to past Pakistan as a state was not prepared for exploration due resources would also be done and technical expertise. To a question about his future plan the prime minister pointed out prime minister highlighted that that he had not anticipated any

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 Bhttai, Bullhay Shah, Waris Shah, and we have hundreds of people of that calibre as well,"

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 religious elements was notably prom-ry. He underscored the significant ernment organizations.



out as a nation where the influence of inent with a rich and extensive histo-

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-gov-

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

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

He said that all necessary steps and regulations of PMDC including President of PMDC.

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 soci-

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 will be taken to revise existing rules Shallwani and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj

IESCO recovers Rs 786.12 Mln from 44,687 defaulters

S 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 can be taken.

Rs 381.64 million from 12,999 dead defaulters.

As per the direction of the government the 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

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

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 the humanitarian catastrophe that ple of the two-state solution.



citizens in the Gaza Strip are expe riencing, 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 capithat befell the Strip and the scale of tal, in implementation of the princi-

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.

Sarmast College Nawabshah.

Addressing the seminar, District tance and use of vote. Election Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Majeedano and others said mad Saleem Bhatti, College Principal that the objective of this seminar is to Qazi Jameel, Masroor Memon of the create awareness among youths about Election office, college teachers and the importance of vote as our youths students in large numbers attended would play an important role in the the seminar.

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 cooper-The seminar was held at Sachal ate with the election commission to educate area people about the impor

District Education Officer Muham-

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 doctors and nurses are on strike in no compromise on the provision of PIMS hospital.

medical facilities to patients.

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

He said that all necessary steps are being taken to provide medical facilities in the hospital. He said no

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 overall comfort and ease of perform- pilgrims.

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

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

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 Hujjaj are accommodated is currently blessed with pleasant in tents at Old Mina, as the distance weather conditions, adding to the to New Mina poses challenges for