

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے اس کیلئے بن محمد اللہ نے بیان کیا کہ
مجھ سے ہاں تک نے بیان کیا ان سے عنوان
بن سلیم تاہی اس حدیث کو سارا روایت
کرتے تھے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ
یہ لوگوں اور مسکینوں کے لیے کو شش کرنے
والا اللہ کے راستے میں جہاد کرنے والے کی
طرح سے پاس شخص کی طرح ہے جو دن میں
روزے رکھتا ہے اور رات کو عبادت کرتا ہے۔
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52nd Union Day of United Arab Emirates

Message of the H. E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, Ambassador United Arab Emirates: On December 2 of each year, the UAE commemorates its National Day and the anniversary of the establishment of the Union in 1971. On this day, 1971, the rulers of the Emirates signed an agreement to unify the seven emirates and establish the United Arab Emirates as one united and prosperous country. (Details on Page 3)



Bilawal urges politicians to leave 'politics of hate, division'

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged politicians to leave the politics of hate and division in the country. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while addressing the annual session of the Local Council Association of Balochistan today, said that some other powers will take advantage of the failures of the democratic parties. (Details on Page 3)

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COP-28

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on the sidelines of the high level segment of COP-28.



Photo: APP

PM holds informal interactions with world leaders on COP28 margins

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday held informal interactions with multiple world leaders, on the sidelines of the COP28 summit here. Among those whom the prime minister interacted with informally included British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

The prime minister also held an informal interaction with British King Charles III as they participated in the family photo of High Level Segment of 28th Conference of Parties. At the Summit, the prime minister is accompanied by Caretaker ministers including Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Climate Change Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam and Energy Minister Muhammad Ali.

Meanwhile, France's President Emmanuel Macron underscored the urgency of phasing out fossil fuels as the world's top priority.

"Emerging countries must phase out carbon, which is our biggest fight.

If there's a top priority, it's for emerging countries to phase out carbon," he stated.

Macron also emphasized the need to reduce oil usage and emissions in significant sectors like maritime and aviation.

"France has developed a strategy to phase out fossil fuels and reduce emissions. Europe is fully committed to this strategy. By 2035, a high percentage of cars produced in France and Europe will operate without oil. We are also building a housing strategy to massively reduce maritime and air emissions," Macron explained.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed his country's modest contribution to global climate challenges and its firm strategy for supporting the global cause.

"Our historical responsibility for global greenhouse emissions is less than 1 percent, yet we're taking significant steps on our own," Erdogan noted.

"We aim to reach net-zero emissions by 2053 and have doubled our emission reduction target for 2030. We expect to have mitigated 66.6 million

tons of equivalent carbon dioxide by the end of this year," he added.

"The share of renewables in our power generation capacity has increased to 55 percent. With this rate, Turkiye ranks fifth in Europe and twelfth in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity," Erdogan stated.

Santiago Palacios, president of Paraguay, highlighted his country's success in climate change, noting that they now generate 100 percent clean energy.

Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev affirmed his country's commitment to the global climate agenda, especially in the supply chain sector.

"As a major exporter of uranium, providing 43 percent of the global supply, Kazakhstan plays a crucial role in carbon-free electricity generation worldwide," Tokayev said.

"As the world moves towards decarbonization, critical minerals including rare earth metals will become indispensable. Kazakhstan is poised to become a significant supplier of these transition minerals," he concluded

Pakistan elected as chair of CWC's Conference of States Parties

News desk

ISLAMABAD: Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar has been elected as chairperson of the 28th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. The position will be for a period of one year.

The position of chair is rotated among the five regional groups in the CSP and candidature of Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar had been proposed to the 193-member conference by the Asia Group.

Pakistan asks Afghanistan to take steps against terrorist entities

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday asked Afghanistan authorities to take "immediate and effective steps" against terrorist entities operating from their soil.

Addressing a weekly press briefing Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch voiced concerns over the presence of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan, saying that these terrorists continue to attack Pakistan and cause loss of life.

"Pakistan desires to have peaceful and friendly relations with Afghanistan. We have great sympathies with our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan who have suffered a great deal because of difficult humanitarian and security situation," he noted.

She said Pakistan has advocated internationally that humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan must



continue.

Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November.

A report released by think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies said the first half of 2023 witnessed a steady and alarming rise in terror and suicide attacks, claiming the lives of 389 people across the country.

Last month, the armed forces of Pakistan also expressed "serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to" the banned TTP in Afghanistan.

Senior US official to visit Islamabad on Dec 4-7

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: A senior US State Department official would leave for Islamabad next week to discuss with Pakistani officials a range of issues, the State Department announced Friday. The Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Julieta Valls Noyes, would stay in Islamabad from Dec 4 to 7, the Department said in a statement.

"In Islamabad, Assistant Secretary Noyes will meet with senior government officials, as well as non-governmental and international organization partners, to discuss shared efforts to protect vulnerable individuals and accelerate safe, efficient relocation and resettlement of Afghan refugees in the US immigration pipeline," the statement added.

All type of security force to be provided to ECP for holding free elections: Bugti

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Friday said that all types of security forces would be provided to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), to hold free and fair elections in the country.

ECP would have funds from the concerned finance department to complete the requirement of conducting general elections in Pakistan, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Commenting on security threats to the political leaders, he said political party leaders didn't have any threats including leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf but Fazal ur Rehman had security concerns.

We had provided security to Fazal ur Rehman during his trip to Quetta, he stated. In reply to a question about illegal Afghans, he said nearly 400,000 illegal persons had left Pakistan after the deadline. There is no restriction to visit Pakistan for business or visit purposes but everyone should get a visa before coming to Pakistan, he said.

Israel dismissed advance warning of Hamas attack: NYT

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Israeli officials had intelligence that Palestinian militant group Hamas was preparing a wide-ranging attack before its October 7 assault but dismissed the reports, The New York Times reported Thursday.

The newspaper said a document obtained by Israeli authorities "outlined, point by point, exactly the kind of devastating invasion that led to the deaths of about 1,200 people."

The document, which was reviewed by the newspaper, did not specify when the attack might happen, but provided a blueprint that Hamas appears to have followed: an initial rocket barrage, efforts to knock out surveillance, and waves of gunmen crossing into Israel by land and air.

The Times said the document, which included sensitive security information about Israeli military capacity and locations, circulated widely among the country's military and intelligence leaders, though it was not clear if it was reviewed by senior politicians.

But a military assessment last year determined it was too soon to say the plan had been approved by Hamas, and when an analyst with the country's



signals intelligence warned the group had carried out a training exercise in line with the plan, she was dismissed. She warned it was a "plan designed to start a war," the newspaper said, but a colonel reviewing her assessment suggested: "let's wait patiently."

The warnings did not suggest that Hamas was likely to carry out the plan imminently, and the intelligence community continued to believe that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was not pursuing war with Israel, the Times said, likening the intelligence failure to those in the United States before the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The Hamas attack killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and saw around 240 people taken hostage, according to Israeli officials.

Israel's retaliatory ground and air offensive in Gaza has killed more than 15,000 people, also mostly civilians, according to Hamas authorities.

PTCL GROUP WISHES THE PEOPLE OF UAE A HAPPY 52ND NATIONAL DAY

روح الاّحاد
SPIRIT OF THE UNION
52
NATIONAL DAY
الروح الوطنية
روح الوحدة

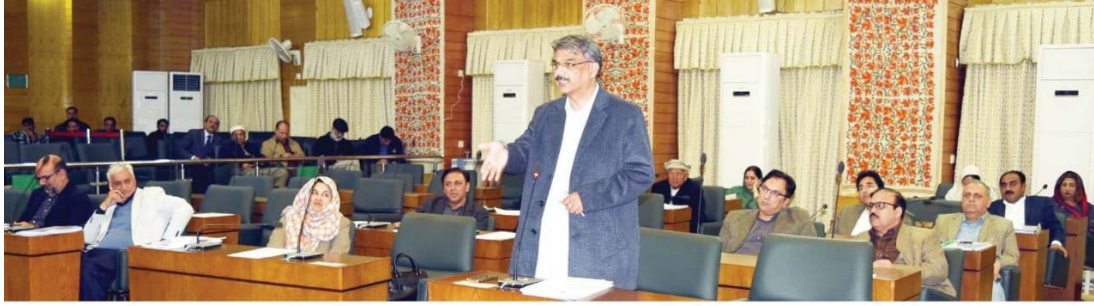
NTS system was still in force and will continue in future as well: PM AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while refuting the social media reports about the abolishment of the NTS system, has said that the NTS system was still in force and will continue in future as well.

The Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq made these assertions while addressing the AJK legislative assembly session here today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Haq regrettably noted that on the basis of social media information it was propagated that the government was scrapping the Recruitment Amendment Act. He said that nobody even bothered to fact check the source of information to ascertain whether it was real or fake.

Referring to fake news on social media and its impact on society, he said that the government will not allow those spreading lies on social media to hold the society hostage. "Society has to stop the trend of being held hostage by lies peddled through the social media



platforms", he said.

He said that today favouritism, cronyism and nepotism has been completely eradicated through the legislation. "Now, those who are qualified and capable will be eligible to get government jobs", the PM said adding educated youth could not get jobs due to a litigation that has been pending in the court of law for the past two and a half years.

He said that merit would be ensured by all means no matter whether recruitments were made through the Public Service Commission or NTS.

He said that the government had spend 21 billion rupees during the last six months. He said that no one can raise a finger on the government. He said that the government didn't commit a single penny of corruption in it.

Terming establishment of merit as his government's priority, he said that 26 secretaries were appointed by the government recently. "Not a single appointment was made against the merit", he said. The PM said that he had the privilege of not taking pension. "I am the second person after late Sard-

ar Khalid Ibrahim Khan who refused to take pension". He said that the assembly session was not being postponed for an indefinite period of time. "We are present in the House so long as the opposition wants to run its proceedings", the PM said, adding that being a two-time speaker of the Assembly he cannot even think of bulldozing the proceedings of the Assembly.

The PM said that he was ready to present himself for accountability. "I don't use government vehicles after 2 pm, I use my own vehicle for private functions", he said.

Women's University Convocation will be held on 4th November: Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Preparations for the sixth convocation of Women's University Multan have been finalized, according to the spokesperson, the sixth convocation of Women's University Multan is going to be held on December 4, the preparations for which have been finalized, the ceremony will be held in the hall of Matital Campus. Chief guest will be chancellor engineer Balighur Rehman in this regard, the important meeting was held under the chairmanship of vice chancellor professor Dr. Kulsoom Pracha in which registrar Dr. Maimona Khan presented the report and the participants said that invitations were sent to all the guests to participate in the event. Officials of the department and district administration will also be a part of the function, the reception committee has completed preparations to welcome the Chancellor.



All the faculty members and staff will be present on duty on December 4. The Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Kalsoom Pracha expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements, saying that convocation is a hallmark of any university and a memorable event for the students, so no shortage should be left in the arrangements. All the departments should play their role well so that the guests leave this university with a good impression. On this occasion, Registrar Dr. Maimona Khan, Chairpersons, Rehan Qadir, Mohammad Azam were also present.

15 Kashmiris martyred by Indian soldiers in November

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Indian troops martyred 15 Kashmiris in November last month in their continued acts of state terrorism in India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data released today by the research department of Kashmir Media Service, 5 Kashmiris were martyred in various fake encounters and brutally tortured during detention. As a result of these testimonies, 3 women became widows and 17 children became orphans.

Indian soldiers, paramilitary police personnel, notorious Indian investigative agencies National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted 218 raids and searches in November, arresting 368 people under the PSA and Black Acts. Arrested under UAPA, most of them were students and youths.

Occupying Indian troops also destroyed five residential houses during search operations last month.

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir: Snowfall in hilly areas, rains in plains

Spokesman Report

SRINAGAR: There has been snowfall in the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation of India, while there have been rains in the plains, as a result of which the cold wave has increased in the Kashmir Valley.

According to Kashmir Media Service, it snowed throughout the day in the upper areas on Thursday, while rain continued in the plains. As a result of fresh snowfall, the Karnal-Kupwara highway has been closed for vehicular traffic. As of the last report, one foot of snow had accumulated on the highway. The historic Mughal Road connecting the south Shopian district of the occupied valley with the Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu region has been closed due to snowfall, but the Kashmir valley has been closed from outside the world. The traffic flow continues on the only connecting Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Complete strike today in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: A complete strike in the area today against the heinous act of posting a blasphemous video in the glory of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by a Hindu student from India studying in an institute in Srinagar in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir of India. Is.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the call for the strike was given by the All-Party Hurriyat Conference, while all freedom-loving organizations supported it. The aim of the strike is also to protest against illegal arrests, imposition of black laws on students, dismissal of government employees and confiscation of people's properties in Occupied Kashmir.

After a Hindu student studying at the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, posted an insulting video clip on social media about the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Occupied Territory has been engulfed in outrage since Tuesday.

Ulemas and imams also appealed to the people to hold protests outside the mosques after the Friday prayers today against the heinous crime of the Hindu student.

The All-Party Hurriyat Conference has said in a statement that Kashmiri Muslims will never allow anyone to make fun of their religion. He said that such blasphemous acts to provoke Muslims are unacceptable.

UN and Islamic world should immediately play their role for this Ceasefire: Gillani



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former President of Multan High Court Bar Association, Syed Riazul Hasan Gilani, Nasheed Arif Gondal, President of PP South Punjab, led a protest demonstration by the lawyers community to express solidarity with Palestine. They were carrying pictures of the martyrs of Palestine and were chanting slogans of death to Israel. On this occasion, former President Syed Riazul Hasan Gilani, Nasheed Arif Gondal, President of PP South Punjab, said that the Muslim community should buy Israeli products. Boycott and support and aid the Palestinian brothers by resisting Israeli propaganda, we demand that the United Nations and all the forums of the Islamic world should immediately play their role for this ceasefire.

Drug addicts

KARACHI: Drug addicts smoke heroin at a slum area in Provincial Capital, as World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who've died of the disease.



Photo: Online

Muslim Conference demands end of Indian rule in occupied Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that he strongly condemned the ongoing arrests on a large scale under the guise of siege and search operations by the Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir and said that such repressive policies The aim is to weaken the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris, which has been the long-standing dream of the Indo-fascist government since the illegal occupation of this area in 1947. These views were expressed by attending a dinner



at Sardar Aftab Abbasi's residence in Rawalpindi. Sardar Abid Razzak, Sardar Idris Abbasi, Sardar Anwar Khan, Raja

Abdul Jabbar Khan, Aqeel Abbasi, Muhammad Ali and others were also present on this occasion. While talking to media persons he sides that Chairman Musrat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Dr. Hameed Fayaz, Asia Andrabi, Naeem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Raja Mera-juddin Kalwal, Shahidul Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Shahid Yousuf, Shakeel Yousaf, Mushtaq, Islam, Nahida Nasreen, Fahmida Sufi, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Butt, Ameer Hamza, Muhammad Yusuf Falahi, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Faheem Ramadan, Hayat Ahmad Butt, Rafiq

Ahmad Shah, Advocate Zahid Ali, Maulvi Bashir Irfani, Bilal Siddiqui, Umar Adil Dar, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Fakto, Dr. Muhammad Shafi Shariati, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Rafiq Ahmad Ganai, Zafar Akbar Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Dar, Jahangir Ghani Butt, Firdous Ahmad Shah, Sarjan Barkati, human rights leader Khurram Parvez, Kashmiri journalist Asif Sultan, and Engineer Rasheed who is being subjected to the worst political revenge is included. He stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the United Nations resolutions so as to ensure regional and global peace.

Stage Play on the Life of Rooplo Kolhi Presented in Hyderabad

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

HYDERABAD: Stage play revolving around the life of and contributions of legendary warrior Rooplo Kohli was presented in Mumtaz Mirza Auditorium of Hyderabad on Thursday night.

Students, social activists, artists and members of the civil society gathered to watch historical stage play and eulogised the performance of veteran as well as young actors.

The actors through their remarkable performance took the audience in the 19th century when Rooplo Kohli of Tharparkar fought bravely against British invaders to protect his motherland.

He laid the forces of his Kolhi tribe who were rebellions and had revolted against British rulers who had invaded South Asia. The brave forces under the leadership of Roplo fought audios-

ly against British forces in Karoonjhar Mountains and inflicted defeat upon the British Army thrice. Led by Col George Tyrwhitt.

The stage was decorated in a way as it gave a look of the 19th century village of Nagarparkar and Tharparkar where the eminent warrior of Sindh, s history was born and brought up.

After Kolhi was arrested by the British Army near Parkar region of Sindh the put him in prison where he was constantly subjected to brutal torture. The British government demanded him to extend an apology along with his tribesmen and disclose the hideouts of his companions, mainly Karan Singh.

The true son of soil kept braving all agonies instead of surrendering to the intruders and was hanged to death by the British Government near Nagarparkar on 22 August 1858. Raffique



Essani, a noted stage and television

actor, directed the play that was sponsored by Bhattai Arts Council.

Ayaz Latif Palijo, prominent socio-political figure who watched the play as chief guest during his speech extolled the efforts of Raffique Essani who had taken the initiative of presenting plays related to Sindh, s history, culture and heritage. He said that the trend of stage plays was facing downfall owing to the inclination of masses towards social media but Essani and other noted figures of the entertainment industry played a vital role in reviving theatre across Sindh.

Talib Hussain Mughal played the role of Ruplo Kolhi and earned unparalleled accolades. Besides him Hajani Premi, Khalid Kaliyar, Aesha Mahek, Samreen Phalasteeni, Rasool Bux Chandio and Tariq Akash were seen in main roles. The play was written by seasoned writer Ayoub Gul.

52nd Union Day of United Arab Emirates

Message of the H. E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, Ambassador United Arab Emirates

On December 2 of each year, the UAE commemorates National Day and the anniversary of the establishment of the Union in 1971. On this day, 1971, the rulers of the Emirates signed an agreement to unify the seven emirates and establish the United Arab Emirates as one united and prosperous country.

The celebration in UAE comes this year with the visionary leadership of the president His Highness Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum the Vice President/Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai and the trust-worthy members of the Supreme Council, whom declared this year 2023 the "Year of Sustainability" under the slogan "Today for Tomorrow" to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and address the challenges associated with climate change.

The UAE is currently hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) at Expo Dubai until December 12. The conference brings together world leaders and experts in an effort to mitigate the risks facing our planet. Through this global conference, the UAE prioritizes accelerating sustainable development goals and expanding the scope of energy transformations.

The focus is on ensuring that the outcome of this global event consists of actionable mechanisms, not just promises, by translating agreements into tangible realities and achievements. In the face of today's

global challenges, climate change stands as one of the most significant. The UAE remains a global leader in adopting effective policies to address these challenges. The country has undertaken a significant set of policies as part of these efforts, including economic diversification with a focus on a green economy, diversifying energy sources with an emphasis on clean and renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and sustainable urban planning, among others.

The UAE has always viewed climate action as an opportunity to contribute practical solutions to a global issue that affects all countries. This is especially true given its economic diversification efforts and its commitment to creating knowledge, skills, and jobs for future generations. In alignment with the visionary leadership of the UAE, the COP28 presidency aims through its plan based on four pillars: accelerating the transition to a more organized, responsible, and equitable energy sector, developing climate financing mechanisms, improving quality of life and livelihoods, and supporting the previous pillars by fully involving everyone in the conference's work system.

The goal is to achieve significant reductions in emissions and build a sustainable future energy system. The COP28 presidency will support the increase of energy efficiency by 2030 through tripling the production capacity of renewable energy sources, doubling low-carbon hydrogen production, and providing sustainable cooling systems accessible to everyone.



The UAE reaffirms its commitment to climate and sustainability issues, not only at the local level but also on the international stage. This commitment is aimed at preserving the environment and ensuring a better future for

generations to come.

The UAE actively seeks to lend a helping hand to countries and communities worldwide in facing the challenges associated with climate change. The UAE has solidified its commitment

to space exploration, celebrating astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi's significant space mission as the first Arab astronaut to conduct a lengthy stay and spacewalk on the International Space Station. These space endeavors follow the

landmark achievements of Hazza Al Mansoori, the first Emirati in space, and the successful deployment of the Hope Probe in 2021, showcasing the UAE's resolute advancement in the space sector. The United Arab Emirates demonstrates the highest levels of determination and resolve in realizing its vision to be among the leading countries in the field of space, advancing science, technology, innovation, and building a sustainable space sector.

The upcoming 2024 launch of the "Mohammed bin Zayed SAT" (MBZSAT) satellite, set to be a paramount addition to the nation's space exploration efforts, will enhance the UAE's contributions to global space science. As part of its ongoing pursuit of sustainable development, the UAE places significant importance on supporting climate change mitigation programs. This enables communities to continue their economic and social progress without being adversely affected by climate challenges. To ensure the success of these efforts, the UAE shares its expertise and experiences with other countries, in addition to providing technical assistance to ensure the best outcomes.

The United Arab Emirates has emerged as a leading model in the field of sustainable economic development on the global stage. It adopts ambitious strategies aimed at achieving a balance among economic growth, prosperity, and environmental preservation. The nation has achieved an unprecedented milestone in its foreign trade during the first half of 2023, hitting over AED 1.239 trillion and marking an increase of 14.4% this year. The UAE is

actively pursuing the establishment of a knowledge-driven and diversified economy, buttressed by scientific and technological advancements.

It is committed to bolstering the economy's resilience and sustainability while seeking novel opportunities, based on the conviction that robust partnerships are instrumental in fostering regional prosperity and unlocking extensive economic possibilities. To realize this forward-looking vision and ambitious goals, the UAE has formalized comprehensive economic partnerships with several active global economies, and is in the process of negotiating additional partnerships with a number of countries to be finalized by the year's end.

On this occasion, we recall the dedicated efforts of the Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, "May Allah bless his soul with peace" in consolidating the excellent relations and unique friendship between the two brotherly countries that withstood various tests and the scope of our cooperation kept expanding with the passage of time and now covers various fields. Finally, I would like to express best wishes and congratulations on this occasion to the wise leadership of UAE and thanks and gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their kind emotions towards the United Arab Emirates as they are celebrating here with us the occasion, and pray that the relationship of two countries may succeed the wider horizons of greater achievements for the betterment of the two countries and its peoples.

Pak-UAE Dosti, Zinda Baad

UAE National Day 2023: 52 facts, milestones to know about the nation

The UAE National Day is celebrated annually on December 2

The UAE National Day holds great importance as it celebrates the day in 1971 when the emirates came together at Union House, now known as the Etihad Museum, to form the United Arab Emirates.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the country's first president, played a pivotal role in leading the federation. **52 interesting facts to know about the UAE**

1. The UAE's National Day is celebrated on December 2 each year, marking the unification of the seven emirates into a federation.
2. The UAE consists of seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, and Fujairah.
3. Ras Al Khaimah joined the federation on February 10, 1972, a few months after the initial six emirates united.
4. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, known as the Founding Father, played a pivotal role in the establishment of the UAE.
5. The UAE's iconic flag, designed by Abdullah Mohammed Al Maainah, holds a special place in the nation's heart. Over a thousand entries were submitted in a national competition to design the flag, and Al Maainah's design emerged as the winning entry. The flag was proudly hoisted above Mushrif Palace in 1971, symbolising the unity and aspirations of the UAE.
6. The UAE's national anthem is 'Isby Bilady', meaning 'Long Live My Country'.
7. Falconry, deeply rooted in Emirati culture, holds significance as the falcon is the UAE's national bird.
8. In 2019, the world's oldest known pearl, dating back approximately 8,000 years, was discovered on Marawah Island, off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
9. The UAE was formerly known as the Trucial States, owing to treaty relations with Britain during the 19th century.
10. Abu Dhabi is the capital of the UAE.
11. The name Abu Dhabi translates to 'Father of the Gazelle' in Arabic.
12. The UAE holds memberships in various international organisations, including the UN, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, OPEC, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
13. The UAE shares borders with two countries: Saudi Arabia and Oman.
14. Among the emirates, Abu Dhabi is the largest in terms of size, spanning 67,340 square kilometers, while Ajman is the smallest at 259 square kilometers.
15. The UAE possesses the sixth-largest oil reserves globally.
16. In terms of land area, the UAE is slightly larger than the US state of South Carolina.
17. Sharjah was named the Cultural Capital of the Arab World by UNESCO in 1998.



Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE, played a pivotal role in leading the federation

18. The Burj Khalifa in Dubai stands as the world's tallest building, reaching a height of 829.8 meters, including its antenna.
19. Dubai is home to the world's first-ever seven-star hotel, the Burj Al Arab.
20. Ajman's archaeological sites provide evidence of human habitation dating back to approximately 3,000 BC.
21. In Arabic, 'Ras Al Khaimah' means 'top of the tent', reflecting its location in the northernmost part of the UAE.
22. Sir Bani Yas Island, situated off the UAE's western region, is home to a wildlife reserve where endangered species such as Arabian oryx and sand gazelles roam freely.
23. The UAE has a diverse population, with Emiratis constituting a minority due to the large number of expat residents from around the world.
24. Dubai's economy has diversified beyond oil and gas, with sectors such as tourism, real estate, finance, and aviation playing a significant role.
25. The UAE has a desert climate, characterised by hot summers and mild winters.
26. The traditional Emirati dish, 'Machboos', is a spiced rice dish typically prepared with meat or fish and flavoured with various aromatic spices.
27. Dubai hosts the annual Dubai Shopping Festival, attracting visitors from around the globe with its incredible discounts, entertainment, and events.



Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

28. The UAE launched its first astronaut into space in September 2019. Hazza Al Mansoori became the first Emirati in space, spending eight days aboard the International Space Station (ISS). In 2023, Sultan Al Neyadi became the first Arab to serve on the ISS for a 6-month mission, as part of

- Expedition 69 and the first Arab astronaut to perform a spacewalk.
29. The UAE has a strong focus on renewable energy and aims to generate 50 percent of its energy from clean sources by 2050.
30. Dubai's Palm Jumeirah is an artificial archipelago shaped like a palm

- tree and is visible from space.
31. The UAE has a rich maritime heritage and was a center for pearl diving and trading in the past.
32. Arabic is the official language of the UAE, but English is widely spoken and used for business and communication.
33. The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

- in Abu Dhabi is one of the largest mosques in the world and can accommodate over 40,000 worshippers.
34. The UAE has a high standard of living, boasting modern infrastructure, world-class healthcare facilities, and excellent educational institutions.
35. The UAE is known for its impressive skyline, featuring architectural marvels such as the Burj Khalifa, Burj Al Arab, and Emirates Towers.
36. The UAE is home to two of the world's largest airlines, Emirates and Etihad Airways, providing extensive global connectivity.
37. The traditional Emirati dance, known as 'Al Ayala', is performed during celebrations and special occasions.
38. Dubai's Miracle Garden is the world's largest natural flower garden, displaying a breathtaking array of colorful blooms.
39. The UAE has a strong commitment to space exploration and sent a mission to Mars in 2021, coinciding with the country's 50th anniversary.
40. The UAE has made significant advancements in healthcare, including the establishment of specialised medical cities and centers of excellence.
41. The Dubai Mall is one of the largest shopping malls globally, featuring an extensive range of retail outlets, entertainment facilities, and dining options.
42. Emirati women play an active role in society and hold positions in government, business, and various professions.
43. The UAE has a low crime rate, making it one of the safest countries in the world.
44. The Dubai Metro is a modern and efficient mode of transportation, connecting various parts of the city and reducing traffic congestion.
45. Dubai's Global Village is a popular tourist attraction that showcases cultures from around the world through pavilions, entertainment, and food.
46. The UAE has hosted several international sporting events, including the Dubai World Cup, Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, SailGP and the Dubai Tennis Championships.
47. The UAE's traditional art forms include calligraphy, henna painting, and weaving.
48. The UAE is home to the Jebel Jais Mountain, the highest peak in the country, offering breathtaking views and outdoor recreational activities.
49. The UAE is known for its hospitality and warm welcome extended to visitors from around the world.
50. The UAE has a diverse culinary scene, with restaurants offering cuisines from around the world, as well as local Emirati dishes.
51. The UAE is home to some of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts, offering unparalleled hospitality and amenities.
52. The UAE is known for its hospitality and warm welcome extended to visitors from around the world.

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

Caring disables a national obligation

Mahtab Abbasi

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are among the most marginalized sections of society in Pakistan, unheard and unseen, while the efforts on part of successive government towards mainstreaming and integrating them are equally insufficient and inconspicuous. Despite the much trumpeted slogans of transfiguring their fate, the political leadership in the country has miserably failed to address their issues and redress their grievances. Their miseries continue; only in their routine lives they are facing a mountain of challenges, which may remain insurmountable if the society, community and government do not come forward and extend a willing helping hand. Promises have been made in the past to safeguard the rights of the unlucky, but unfortunately these promises have never been met.

Likewise, the third world countries vow to extend all kind of moral and material support to safeguard the dignity, wellbeing and rights of the disabled in Pakistan but these remains to be inadequate, and therefore ineffective. The 2.54 percent of the total population comprises of vulnerable persons, who are leading a miserable life in the absence of basic necessities of life. They are deprived of their basic right of education, healthcare, job opportunities, and what not. It is difficult rather impossible to get jobs especially in the government sector; the prevalent injustices plaguing the society affect the disabled the most, hence their sense of deprivation grows up with every passing day.

The number of the handicapped in the entire region has raised manifold particularly within the last many years. Its ratio in Pakistan is even more than the other regional countries, primarily due to frequent occurrences of natural and manmade disasters like earth-

quakes, floods, terrorism and extremism. The 8th October 2005 earthquake alone, for example, left thousands of people, including women and children physically disabled. In addition the ongoing war against terrorism in the region has also left behind thousands of such episodes. Especially the people of FATA and KPK have fallen prey to this menace during this warfare. A large number of children, women and elders have been deprived of their significant body components like limbs and arms inflicted by routine terror incidents. The incident of Army Public school Peshwar, (APS) which took place in 16Dec 2014 is an eye opener for our helm of affairs in this repute. In this barbaric incident, where the many toddlers sacrificed their lives numerous fell pray of physical disability.

Under the circumstances, the people at the helm of affairs did not bother to formulate any comprehensive strategy to cope with the challenge that has caused despondency amongst them of a greater magnitude. Most of the disabled in Pakistan lack basic facilities of living a better life. According to the latest statistics 1.4 million persons are with disabilities in Pakistan, most of them comprise of children without an access to schools. Existing facilities in limited capacity, quantity and quality add to the dilemma.

Meanwhile the society's behavior is generally and regrettably indifferent towards them. People often use derogatory remarks, call them Lula, Langra Apahaj, Mazoor, etc. In the absence of fundamental amenities and basic facilities of life, the disabled are often compelled to go for begging at bus stops, shopping malls, business centers, outside the mosques and pathways to earn their bread. Parents forcibly send them for begging at picnic points. Another is the business of children's smuggling; the handlers train them for begging purposes. Most unfortunately many of the poor parents sell their toddlers to the child-lift-

ers and get money in return. This was they get rid of them, apparently unable to bear their burden. So much so the kidnappers kidnap the completely able children and make them disabled after amputating their limbs or other parts of body. The darbar of Shah Daula in Gujrat city of central Punjab used to be the hub of such activities. Poor parents who could not afford bread for the disabled children, especially with lesser grown head skull, used to devote them for the darbar. There they are given to the beggars for using them for begging wearing long green rags. Most of the child lifters used to wear the kidnapped children steel hats in order to stop their head-growth, dubbed them as Shahdaula k Choohay and launch them for begging.

The government had enacted the Disabled Persons Employment and Rehabilitation Ordinance 1981 for the benefit of the disabled people, which applied to both government and private enterprise. The governments have however failed to implement it in its true letter and spirit, especially denying them the jobs quota. This Ordinance was passed during President Ziaul Haq's time as his own daughter, Zain Zia, was herself impaired. Pakistan ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on July 5, 2011. Pakistan was among the 145 countries which ratified this Convention and thus its implementation was responsibility of the state and development organizations including the disabled people's organizations. Being a signatory of this Convention the state is bound to ensure them their rights but the dilemma is that all existing and previous regulations pertaining to giving basic rights to the disabled have not been implemented. In other words these laws only exist in papers.

As far as the nongovernmental organizations' role in this regard is concerned, a few NGOs are in the country engaged in working for the betterment and welfare

of these people. These organizations seem active on world disabled day and merely chant slogans for their rights and then disperse. They look helpless to play their respective role, whether they have financial constraints or they are not sincere enough.

In this respect only a Lahore based organization, LABARD, (Lahore Businessmen Association for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled), seems to be of stature. Its performance has been commendable for reintegration of the specials, but there scope of work is limited. The organization only accommodates local people and from the near neighborhoods. Keeping in view the miseries of special people, the executives of LABARD must consider expanding their network nationwide. Other organizations in the metropolitan cities should follow the steps of LABARD to facilitate the special people.

The disabled are part of the society and it is national obligation for all of us to take care of them by mainstreaming them through inclusive opportunities. The Government should be mindful of the troubles confronting the disabled persons in all spheres of life, and initiate positive steps to bring them into national mainstream. The job quota allocated under Disabled Persons Employment and Rehabilitation Ordinance must be increased by 5 percent. It is also binding on the government to introduce accountability law for the organizations in order to implement the job quota. The special people in Pakistan need employment opportunities, educational independence and health facilities. Though the Punjab government has enhanced job quota for job for disables from two to three percent, it's a good sign, but this should be theoretical in full letter and spirit. Disables are hapless angels of the society who should not be considered as a burden.

The Writer is an Islamabad based journalist. He can be reached onmehtab.abbasi847@gmail.com

Dominica, Blue Carbon unite for sustainable climate solutions

Dominica and UAE-based Blue Carbon have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate on carbon trading aligning with Paris Agreement Article 6 objectives, focusing on climate change initiatives for carbon mitigation and removal across diverse sectors. The MoU signing marks a substantial stride in cultivating collaborative efforts to achieve climate targets, enabling increased ambition in mitigation actions while championing sustainable development and environmental integrity.

The signing ceremony took place in Dubai on Thursday, featuring the presence of Roosevelt Skerit, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Sheikh Ahmed Dalmouk Al Maktoum, Chairman of Blue Carbon. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement details the mechanisms for worldwide cooperation, involving the identification and assessment of prospects to generate tradable mitigation outcomes (MOs) known as International Transfer Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). The agreement also paves the way for initiating bilateral negotiations on binding agreements, establishing the framework for the authorization of ITMOs and their transfers based on the provisions of Article 6.2 and pre-approved methodologies of 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the strategic alliance between the Commonwealth Government of Dominica and Blue Carbon carries special importance considering the distinctive challenges encountered by small island nations, like Dominica, amidst the impacts of climate change. Small islands, like Dominica, face outsized impacts from rising sea levels and extreme weather. The MoU initiatives not only contribute to global climate goals but are vital for fostering adaptation and resilience in Dominica. By prioritizing sustainable development and comprehensive climate initiatives, the collaboration aims to mitigate the catastrophic consequences of climate change, ensuring a more secure and resilient future for the people of Dominica. This added dimension reinforces the commitment of both parties to address the specific needs of vulnerable nations and build a foundation for sustainable development that withstands the challenges posed by a changing climate. Recognizing the strategic importance of their cooperation, Blue Carbon and the Government of Dominica are poised to merge their expertise and resources. Their goal is to formulate shared strategies that advance sustainable development, generate financial returns, create jobs, and facilitate carbon credit transfers. Blue Carbon is a leading one in the space of environmental asset creation and nature-based solutions, specializing in the development of projects for carbon credit origination focusing on bilateral agreements and compliance markets. At the core of the Caribbean, Dominica is committed to championing sustainability and environmental integrity.

Working to enhance climate resilience, the nation is addressing vulnerabilities for a resilient future.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

Why Missing Persons are missing? - III

The persistent violence instigated by the BLA has severe implications for the development and stability of Balochistan, hindering economic progress and raising security concerns, especially regarding infrastructure projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Pakistani government has responded to the insurgency through a combination of military operations and attempts at political reconciliation. However, finding a sustainable solution remains a formidable challenge.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

Shifting focus to the global handling of terrorism, numerous countries have implemented stringent measures in response to the escalating threat it poses to national and international security. Terrorism, characterized by its indiscriminate violence and ideology-driven attacks, has compelled nations to develop comprehensive strategies to safeguard their citizens and preserve societal integrity.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the United States has been a leader in the global war on terror. Responding to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. initiated the War on Terror, involving military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. The establishment of the Department of Homeland Security and the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act underscored the nation's

commitment to combating terrorism through a combination of domestic and international measures.

The United Kingdom has confronted its share of terrorist threats, notably from groups like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and extremists. In response, the UK has enacted robust counter-terrorism legislation, including the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent amendments. The Prevent strategy aims to identify and address the root causes of radicalization, while security agencies such as MI5 work diligently to thwart potential attacks.

France has faced a series of terrorist attacks in recent years, prompting the government to implement strict measures to ensure public safety. In the aftermath of the 2015 Paris attacks, the country declared a state of emergency, granting law enforcement increased powers to combat terrorism. France has also played a pivotal role in international efforts, participating in military operations against terrorist groups in the Sahel region and the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia has actively taken measures to combat terrorism, recognizing its threat to regional stability. The kingdom has implemented comprehensive strategies, including intelligence sharing, financial regulations to prevent funding to terrorist organizations, and educational reforms to counter radicalization. Saudi Arabia

has also been a crucial partner in the global coalition against ISIS, participating in military operations to eliminate the terrorist group.

While many countries globally have adopted stringent laws to counter terrorism, it's essential to note that the specific details and enforcement mechanisms can vary widely. Various nations have strict regulations to address terrorism and its elements.

In the United States, a range of anti-terrorism laws and measures, such as the USA PATRIOT Act, provides the government with broader surveillance and intelligence-gathering powers. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allows for the indefinite detention of individuals, including U.S. citizens, suspected of involvement in terrorism without trial. In the United Kingdom, counter-terrorism laws, including the Terrorism Act 2000, grant authorities the power to detain individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 provides measures to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, including powers to seize passports and impose travel restrictions.

Russia has a history of implementing strict counter-terrorism measures, particularly in response to incidents like the Beslan school siege and the Moscow theater hostage crisis. The Russian government has employed strong measures, including targeted military operations and the enactment of laws granting extensive powers to security forces.

To be continued

Dr. Shamshad's many ifs and buts - I

If we enhance the fiscal account, ensure sustainability of external accounts, achieve growth, rebase our GDP, initiate domestic debt profiling, gain favorable decisions in reducing debt burdens from the IMF-led roundtable conference of debt and creditors, receive support from developing countries and multinational institutions for aiding debt-stressed nations, witness bilateral creditors rolling over their deposits, and successfully transform loss-making SEOs into profit-making entities, we will gradually meet our debt repayment obligations.

During a recent prime time TV interview, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar skillfully addressed Pakistan's challenging financial and economic circumstances with a composed and professional demeanor. She adeptly covered various facets of the country's financial challenges, aiming to conclude each aspect on a positive and optimistic note. However, her emphasis on numerous conditions for improving the country's financial outlook might lead one to believe that success could only be achieved with divine intervention.

She said that we are facing a formidable challenge of debt repayment which has become almost unmanageable but at the same time said that since most of our loans are multilateral, bilateral and domestic, given that we practice prudent, creative and intelligent financial and economic management, we will end up fulfilling all our commitments.

While discussing multilateral loans, she highlighted that 45% of our debt is owed to multinationals. She mentioned the possibility of these loans being written off, suspended, or rescheduled by the G-20, offering much-needed relief. However, she noted that currently, multilateral entities are not inclined to provide further debt relief, suspension, or waivers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, G-20 nations suspended the debts of approximately 60 debt-stressed countries, and Pakistan was the primary beneficiary. She expressed regret that the funds allocated for debt repayment were utilized for non-development expenditures.

She highlighted bilateral sources as the second debt category, noting its relatively smaller volume. Pakistan is currently engaged in negotiations with bilateral donors and creditors to renegotiate deposits and loans based on the nation's commendable track record of adhering to terms and conditions. Addressing criticism of China for creating debt traps,

she defended China's assistance to Pakistan. She emphasized that Chinese loans, compared to those from other nations, are minimal. Additionally, China extended the maturity period of its \$2.4 billion loans and adjusted payment schedules to more favorable terms agreed upon later. Regarding the maturation of the euro bond in April 2024, preparations are underway to secure financing and offset this debt.

As a consequence, she highlighted the alarming situation where our debt repayment has become unmanageable, leading to a breach of the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management Act. Expressing concern, she revealed that our debt, in terms of government revenue, has surpassed 700%. This alarming ratio indicates that three-quarters of the government's total income is allocated solely to debt repayment, leaving only one-third of the income to cover the country's operational expenses. Despite this grim scenario, she asserted that the government is collaborating with creditors to extend the maturity of debts, lower borrowing costs, and most importantly, intends to introduce debt trading on the stock exchange. This move aims to widen and deepen the market for debts, ultimately alleviating the burden on the government caused by the debt.

On another note, she mentioned that due to the government's concentrated efforts, the exchange rate is showing a downward trend, indicating the potential for economic growth in the upcoming years. This optimistic outlook suggests a potential reduction in the debt burden, an expansion in our financial reserves, and an increased capability to honor our debts. Concurrently, reforms within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) are anticipated to enhance tax collection, providing us with increased flexibility to address local liquidity needs and bolster our capacity to repay loans.

She emphasized Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a crucial avenue for rapidly enhancing liquidity within the country and while acknowledging the efforts of the SIFC in attracting FDIs, she cautioned that significant domestic efforts were necessary to complement these endeavors pointing that hindrances such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, outdated policies, regulatory complexities, legal gaps, a prevalent culture of corruption, and obsolete work practices were the primary obstacles to attracting FDIs.

To be continued

Mushaal Mullick briefs UK Parliamentarians on human right violations in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Friday attended a meeting of cross-party British Parliamentarians, convened by Member Parliament, Chairperson APPG on Jammu & Kashmir, Debbie Abrahams at a virtual platform from London.

Besides British Parliamentarians, members of the civil society and human rights organisations also participated in the virtual debate, which circled around the state of human rights affairs in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal Mullick briefed the parliamentarians about human rights abuses by the Indian government in the occu-

ped valley.

She particularly raised the issue of gross violations of human rights against women and children in IIOJK.

The special assistant urged the international community to take notice of the treatment of minorities, particularly the forced conversions of the Christian and other minorities under the RSS ideology, inside India.

Mushaal said that Kashmiris were deeply concerned over attempts to alter the demographics of IIOJK.

She urged the world for making suitable efforts to resolve longstanding issues of Kashmir according to UN resolutions and aspiration of people of the held valley.

She called upon the international community to uphold international human rights obligations and help



implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir.

She strongly urged the British Parliamentarians to play their role more actively in halting human rights violations and repealing draconian laws including demographic engineering in IIOJK.

Mushaal said that her husband Chair-

man of Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Yasin Malik was a political prisoner and had been languishing in the Tihar Jail, India for years.

"Their young daughter has been deprived of meeting her own father and she was seriously concerned about the health and well-being of Yasin Malik", she added.

She expressed reservations that Yasin Malik would be awarded a death sentence against his appeal scheduled for hearing early next month.

She appealed to the UK Parliamentarians to raise their concerns over this injustice.

Mushaal thanked the participants for inviting her to speak to the British Parliamentarians and human rights activists through APPG-Kashmir forum.

Director of Workers Education holds awareness program on World Aids Day



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Workers Education organized an awareness program regarding World Aids Day with the support of Islamabad Goods Union at Truck Adah Sabzi Mandi Islamabad. Rai Akbar, Director of Workers Education informed about the dangers of AIDS and told how this deadly disease can be avoided by adopting a clean lifestyle and responsible attitude. Rai Akbar said that drivers are a very important part of our economy. Their health and safety is the first priority of the government while speaking on the occasion, Goods Union President Qadir Tanzali thanked the workers for education and asked for more health programs.

Director of Workers Education Naqi Khan and Deputy Director Hafiz Sami also informed about the dangers of AIDS.

Directorate of Workers Education is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development whose primary objective is to train workers for better productivity and further educate them on health and safety measures.

Implications and Way Forward

NIMA holds focused talk on Indian Kashmir Policy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) organized a focused talk on the 'Indian Kashmir Policy - Implications and Way Forward' at NIMA Islamabad on 01 Dec 23. Former Chief of the Naval Staff & Chairman NIMA BoA, Admiral (Retd) Muhammad Zakaulah graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He said that Kashmir issue is unfinished agenda of partition of 1947 whereas India has continuously disregarded its own commitments to international community for plebiscite under UN arrangements. He further reiterated that Kashmir is an inalienable part of our body and soul.

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights & Women Empowerment Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick was guest of honor. She elucidated that the plebiscite in accordance with UN resolutions is the only way forward. She also highlighted that Pakistan needs to unveil human right atrocities and international laws violations being committed by India. Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed, DG NIMA in his welcome remarks stated that Kashmir is the core issue between India and Pakistan. Post 2019 annulment of Article-370 & 35-A, Indian Government is systemically destroying Kashmiri identity and culture.

During the discussions, prominent speakers shed light on the current situation of Kashmir. Dr. Adam Saud, Mr. Syed Muhammad Ali and Ambassador (Retd) Nadeem Riyaz underscored the need of developing a strong narrative unveiling the true face of BJP Government and Hindutva ideology. They emphasized effective diplomatic & media campaigns to mobilize the international community on Kashmir crisis.

The focused talk was attended by ambassadors, analysts, academia, media representatives, think tanks, students and faculty of universities.

AIOU to hold Int'l moot on Arabic

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A two-day international conference on "Modern Trends in The Arabic Novel in the 2nd Half of the 20th Century" is being held in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). The conference will take place on December 13 and 14, and more than 50 international scholars have submitted their papers to participate. Out of these, 13 papers have been selected for presentation. The opening session of the conference will commence at 10 am on December 13, and it will be presided over by the Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi, will explain the aims and objectives of the conference. There will be two parallel sessions held simultaneously on both days. Dr. Hashmi believes that this conference will be a milestone in the promotion of Arabic. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has emphasized that Arabic is the language of the Holy Quran and it is very broad and sweet. Therefore, every Pakistani should learn it.

PPI organized a two-day security training workshop

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Press International (PPI) organized a two-day security training workshop on Election Reporting Fellowship under the supervision of law enforcement expert Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam, former Federal Secretary and Inspector General of Police. In the ongoing series of workshops across the country, Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore and then the final workshop was held in Quetta. Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam also invited first aid experts to the workshop who also gave practical first aid training to the participants.

Relevant Presentations were given by DIG Special Branch Abdul Ghaffar Qaisrani, DIG Crimes Ayaz Ahmad Baloch, DIG Telecommunications Ali Sher Jakhriani, DIG CTD Aetaz Ahmed Goraya, SSP Operations Quetta Muhammad Jawad Tariq, AIG Legal Sajjad Tareen and the representatives from Civil Defense & Federal Investigation Agency. Additional Inspector General of Police Administration Balochistan Jawad Ahmad Dogar expressed his views and appreciated the important workshop and thanked all the participants. Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaq Sheikh was the chief guest of the concluding workshop. Who discussed the measures to provide security to journalists. In his address, he said that journalism is a great field that can play an important role in the development and prosperity of the country. IG Police Balochistan appreciated the efforts of Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam in the workshop organized by Pakistan Press International.

World Aid Day

LAHORE: A view of WAPDA House building decorating with red lights in connection with World Aids Day, in Provincial Capital, World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who've died of the disease.



Photo: Online

Instructions to ensure implementation of SOPs issued regarding General Elections



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division Zafarul Islam Khattak has said on Friday.

That the full implementation of all the SOPs issued regarding the General Elections will be ensured in any case

He said, therefore, all political parties should implement these SOPs, otherwise action will be taken against them.

On this occasion Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division Zafarul Islam said that the purpose of today's meeting is to provide awareness about the Election SOPs to ensure its full implementation.

The SOPs issued by the provincial government are being shared with all the parties and to ensure good environment and transparency throughout the election process.

Speaking on the occasion, Regional Police Officer said that one party should not take down the banners of another party, otherwise action will be taken against them, also share release timings and routes, so as not only to provide security but also to prevent release conflicts.

The Regional Election Commissioner said that the banner should not be bigger than 18x23 inches, the pamphlet should not be bigger than 9x6 inches, while adhering to size limits for all promotional materials. Do not advertise on a private building either and rather, get permission from the building owner first.

He said, neither will they inaugurate any development projects nor make any announcements after the election schedule, the use of pin-flake material for advertising has also been banned.

NUTECH celebrates second convocation ceremony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National University of Technology (NUTECH) held its second Convocation Ceremony, at the University Campus Islamabad. The event was graced by the Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed SI, as the Chief Guest, along other distinguished guests including parents of graduating students.

The convocation ceremony marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of NUTECH's graduates, as they received their well-deserved degrees and embarked on the next phase of their professional careers. A total of 135 students from the diverse fields of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering received their degrees.

High achievers of these degrees program were awarded with Gold and Silver Medals. The event served as a platform to acknowledge their hard work, dedication, and achievements throughout their academic pursuits at



NUTECH.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, a prominent figure in the field of higher education, delivered the keynote address as the Chief Guest. With his vast experience and strong leadership in shaping the educational landscape of Pakistan, his insights and words of wisdom inspired the graduating students towards a successful future.

The convocation ceremony also featured speech by the Rector Lt Gen (R)

Moazzam Ejaz, HI (M), who expressed his pride in the accomplishments of the graduating students of Batch 19 and offered valuable pieces of advice for their future endeavors.

NUTECH takes immense pride in the achievements of its graduates and is committed to produce well-rounded professionals, equipped with knowledge, skills, and ethical values necessary to make positive contributions to the society.

Pakistan needs efficient policy framework to exploit carbon market potential

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a session underscored the need for exploiting potential of carbon market in Pakistan to strengthen the ongoing efforts for environmental protection and sought a policy framework to harness carbon market potential.

These were the key takeaways of the session 'Effective Implementation of Carbon Markets in Pakistan' at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference organized by the Sustainable Policy Development Institute (SDPI).

Dr Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director, National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Authority said that a framework for the carbon market is under consideration. He stressed the need to focus on mitigating sides of climate change as compared to adop-



tion sides. He added that the carbon markets of different countries have different mechanisms and implementation requirements.

Owing to gap in demand and supply, power sector in Pakistan is facing challenges, he said, adding that in winter season demand of electricity shrank to 8000 MW, whereas it jumped to

27,000 MW in summer seasons, he said. He said that to bridge the gap, the energy deficiency was covered by different means and coal-fired power plants are among them.

He said that according to a study, over 800 MW of electricity could be conserved by shifting 140 million existing fans to energy saving fans. Mr Khurram Lalani from Resources Future reiterated the need for a robust policy framework for effective implementation of carbon market.

Mr Bilal Anwar, the CEO of National Disaster Risk Management Fund, said that a lot of potential exists for the carbon market in Pakistan. Stressing the need for developing required infrastructure to get its benefits like other countries. Dr Khalid Waleed, SDPI Research Fellow, underscored the critical nexus between the carbon

market in Pakistan and equitable development. He emphasized the imperative of incorporating principles of economic justice, climate justice, and a just energy transition for a holistic and sustainable approach.

Joint Secretary for the Ministry of Climate Change, Sameera Shaikh said that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries, which were the most affected due to extreme climate events. "The share of Pakistan in greenhouse gas emission was merely 1 per cent, she said, adding that in 2021 during the Paris agreement in 2021, it was agreed to reduce the GHG emissions by 50 per cent by the end of 2030."

She maintained that the government is finalizing the policy guidelines and regulatory framework for volunteer carbon market to meet the climate goals.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
61,691.25	60,531.27
Day's High	Day's Low
61,779.72	60,576.41
Index Value	Change
15,926,722,511	+ 1159.98
Percentage	Time
+ 1.92%	1 Dec, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,529.35	+ 75.60
Percentage	Time
+ 1.01%	1 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
36,194.56	+ 243.67
Percentage	Time
+ 0.68%	1 Dec, 1:13 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,431.51	- 55.38
Percentage	Time
- 0.17%	1 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.72	188.22
Bahrain Dinar	759.94	767.94
Canadian Dollar	209.99	210.49
China Yuan	39.78	39.88
Danish Krone	41.95	42.05
Euro	309.90	310.50
Hong Kong Dollar	36.38	36.48
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.49	1.56
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.39	935.39
Malaysian Ringgit	60.38	60.98
New Zealand \$	173.44	175.44
Norwegians Krone	26.25	26.55
Omani Riyal	742.16	750.18
Qatari Riyal	78.5	79.2
Saudi Riyal	75.82	75.97
Singapore Dollar	212.45	212.95
Swedish Korona	27.09	27.19
Swiss Franc	325.38	325.88
Thai Bhat	8.05	8.09
U.A.E Dirham	77.45	77.60
UK Pound Sterling	359.40	360.05
US Dollar	284.47	284.97

Valuable projects are being started under SIFC: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the country's economy is improving after the downturn.

Presently, the IMF is satisfied, inflation is slowing down after peaking, deficits and the dollar are under control, and the foreign exchange reserves situation is no longer worrying, he said.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that under SIFC, massive investment agreements are being finalized with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. At the same time, more game-changing measures are expected after the elections.

All these promising measures will boost industrialization, agriculture, and exports, which will help the country generate employment opportunities and get rid of problems.

The business leader said that there are positive signs that will help the authorities reduce the interest rates and provide some relief to the masses.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the most significant credit for saving the sinking ship of the economy goes to the Shahbaz Sharif government because if they had failed to get loans from friendly countries and sign a stand-by loan agreement with the IMF, the country would have gone bankrupt.

After the loan, the current caretaker government and military leadership demonstrated responsibility. They took tough decisions that resulted in the satisfaction of the IMF, sending a positive message to investors and credi-



tors worldwide. Now, timely and transparent elections and

another IMF program will be a test for our leaders, in which their complete success is necessary and very important for political and economic stability.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the current program of the IMF is to save the country from bankruptcy, and more is needed to correct the economy's direction and pave the way for economic development.

Pakistan's economy has been so mismanaged in the past that another IMF program can reduce but not eliminate its problems. If responsible policies are continued, failed state-owned enterprises are privatized, and the losses in the energy sector are reduced, the situation will change.

He warned that the old situation will return if economic decisions are taken on political considerations and resources are squandered for cheap fame.

Hardwork

LAHORE: A worker is busy in preparing geyser in his shop at Allama Iqbal Road, as demand increased during winter season, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

IG Police assures to improve security in markets to promote trade activities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Inspector General Islamabad Police said that cameras being installed in the commercial centers and markets will be connected to the Safe City Project in order to provide a peaceful and safe environment to the business community for business promotion. He said this while inaugurating the installation of security cameras in I-8 Markaz along with Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said thanked the traders of I-8 Markaz for installing security cameras in their market on a self-finance basis that would strengthen the hands of police in controlling crimes. He said that efforts would be made to further improve the security in markets and industrial areas in cooperation with the police.

President Raja Fayyaz Gul and Secretary General Zahid Qureshi, Traders Welfare Association I-8 Markaz said that the Association has installed security



cameras in the market with the support of traders to help the police in controlling crimes.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the business community and the police have an important role in making Islamabad a safe and conducive city for

business and investment and hoped that both institutions will continue to cooperate to fulfill this national responsibility. He appreciated the efforts of the I-8 Markaz Association and traders to install security cameras because it will reduce crimes in this market and facilitate the better growth of trade activities.

COMSTECH Organizes CCoE Annual Progress Review Meeting

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized its Consortium of Excellence 1st annual progress review meeting on Friday.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the participants and gave a comprehensive presentation on the achievements of the consortium. He said today's meeting is a felicitation and recognition ceremony of the contributions of the CCoE member institutions, which have contributed immensely to achieve the objectives of the consortium. Prof. Choudhary mentioned that the consortium is comprised on top universities.

Prof. Choudhary said that the member universities represent the finest academic and research institutions of the OIC world, and the generosity, vision, academic excellence and research achievements are of these institutions are nationally and internationally recognized.

Prof. Choudhary informed that the concept of creating an alliance of finest institutions of the OIC emerged from a very intensive and thought provoking discussion between the top intellectual and educa-



tion experts. He said that it was envisaged that COMSTECH being the only inter-governmental organization, hosted by Pakistan should deploy the excellence exist in the OIC region for the benefit of youth of the Ummah. Accordingly, the alliance was created and given an appropriate name "COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence".

The representatives of Islamic University of Technology, Bangladesh, TUBITAK, Turkey, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia, Kazan Federal University, Tajikistan, Agence Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (ANRSI), Mauritania, International Islamic University Islam-

abad, International Center for Chemical and Biological Science, University of Karachi, Lahore University of Management Sciences, University of Lahore, Ibadat International University, Qaid-i-Azam University, Health Services Academy, Islamabad, University of Sialkot, Superior University, Kohsar University Murree, National University of Science and Technology, Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Government College University Lahore, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam and the University of Sargodha participated in the meeting.

Severe flour crisis in twin cities feared

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The flour mill owners have warned of a flour crisis engulfing the region and affecting millions due to the wrong policies of the Food Department.

Flour millers have planned to stop the supply of flour to the market due to the conditions imposed by the Food Department, which will deprive the masses of affordable flour.

In a statement today, the Pakistan Flour Mills Association said that all the responsibility for this crisis will be on the policies imposed by the Food Department.

Flour mills cannot function because of undue interference and restrictions of the concerned authorities, which should be noted, the statement said.

The Food Department has abolished the subsidy and is now buying wheat at Rs 3,900 per 40 kg and selling it at Rs 4,700 per 40 kg.

Now, the 130 flour mills of the Rawalpindi region are being pressurized to buy twenty-five percent of the wheat from far-flung districts of Punjab, including Bhakkar, Jhang, Muzaffargarh, and Bahawalpur.

The Flour Mills Association further said that buying wheat from these districts and deliv-



ering it to flour mills in Rawalpindi and Islamabad costs up to five hundred rupees per 100 kg due to high transportation costs.

However, the Food Department insists that after buying wheat from remote areas of Punjab and transporting it to Rawalpindi Division, it must be sold at the official rate of Rs 1374 per 10 kg, which is not feasible.

Earlier, flour mills in Rawalpindi and Islamabad used to get wheat from local godowns. The policy has changed, which is unacceptable to flour millers as it is not feasible and amounts to depriving the masses of affordable staples.

The association of flour mills said that wheat was not being supplied as per their demand, and if the situation remained the same, the prices would jump in the local market, adding to the trouble of the masses.

Currently, flour mills are being supplied with very substandard wheat, which is smelly, has high moisture, and includes dirt, by the concerned department. The statement said this wheat is unfit for human consumption.



Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Imran Sukhira, renowned business leader and executive member of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries was honored with the Business Role Model Award.

U Microfinance Bank Announces Continued Profitability in Latest Financial Results

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank, Pakistan's fastest-growing microfinance bank, has published its financial results for the half year ended 30th, June 2023, at its Board of Directors' meeting held in Islamabad on November 30th, 2023.

During the first half of 2023, the bank reported a revenue of PKR 21.5 Billion with a growth of 133% as compared to the corresponding period of last year, and also announced a Profit After Tax of PKR 1.4 Billion with a growth of PKR 1.6 Billion as compared to corresponding period half-year loss (restated) of PKR 175 Million.

Being one of the leaders in the microfinance landscape in Pakistan, U Bank's Gross Loan Portfolio stood at PKR 65.5 Billion, reflecting the high

demand for its diverse portfolio of financial products and services catering to the banking needs of multiple population segments of Pakistan.

U Bank's sustained growth and stability are proudly reaffirmed by the A+ long-term entity ratings with a 'Stable' outlook, as given to it by PACRA and VIS Credit Rating agencies in Pakistan. These ratings reflect U Bank's promising business strategy and solid foundation ensuring reliability and financial strength.

In addition to its healthy banking performance, U Bank also continues to have strong confidence and unwavering support from its parent company, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd. (PTCL) which has injected PKR 1.6 Billion into the bank, reinforcing its ability to uphold business growth.

NBP will continue to accept Hajj applications till 12th December

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has started accepting applications for Hajj 2024 at all NBP branches from November 27 till December 12, 2023.

In the Long Hajj Package, the regular Hajj scheme, which spans 38 to 42 days, including 8 days in Madinah, is priced at PKR 1,065,000 per person for the Southern Region (Karachi, Quetta, Sukkur) and PKR 1,075,000 per person for the Northern Region (other cities). The Sponsored Hajj Scheme for the Southern Region is priced at \$3,765 per person, while the Northern Region is set at \$3,800 per person.

For the Short Hajj Package, covering 20 to 25 days, with 3 to 5 days in Madinah, the regular Hajj scheme is priced at PKR 1,140,000 per person for the Southern Region and PKR 1,150,000 per person for the Northern Region. The Sponsored Hajj Scheme for the Southern Region is set at \$4,015 per person, and for the Northern Region, it is \$4,050 per person.

CCP Aims to construct a state-of-the-art headquarters in Islamabad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Design Vetting Committee of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has officially granted approval for the building plan of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). This development marks a new era in the progression of CCP.

The cost of rent, utilities, and staff hire has risen with inflation. The construction of new building will enable CCP to expand its operations within its current budget across other cities.

In 2018, the CDA allocated plots spanning 5.5 kanals in Sector G-10/4, Mauve Area, Islamabad. The building plan encountered roadblocks delaying the entire project for the last two years.

PCB appoints Salman Butt, Kamran Akmal, Rao Iftikhar as consultants

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The PCB on Friday appointed the 2009 ICC T20 WC winning trio of former Pakistan cricketers Salman Butt, Kamran Akmal and Rao Iftikhar Anjum as consultant to the Chief Selector Men's cricket team Wahab Riaz.

The three have assumed their responsibilities in the selection panel with immediate effect. Their first assignment as consultant members to the chief selector includes the upcoming five-match

T20I series against New Zealand, set to commence on 12 January 2024 following the conclusion of the Test tour to Australia.

The consultant members may be assigned additional tasks such as conducting skills camps.

However, the PCB clarified that the trio will not enjoy any independent decision making power and their role will be limited to assisting the chief selector by providing recommendations, collecting feedback and identifying top-perform-

ing talent in domestic cricket. Their role is to present this information to the chief selector and the selection committee for consideration in their decision-making process. The Consultant Members do not have any independent decision-making powers.

Kamran Akmal, in a 15-year career from 2002 to 2017, played 53 Tests, 157 ODIs and 58 T20Is. The former wicketkeeper-batter amassed 6,871 runs across formats and bagged 453 dismissals behind the stumps. He was a member

of the Pakistan team that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2009 at Lord's.

Rao Iftikhar played a Test, 62 ODIs and two T20Is from 2004 to 2010 and took a total of 78 international wickets. He was also part of the side that lifted the T20 World Cup in 2009.

Former Test captain Salman Butt represented Pakistan in 33 Tests, 78 ODIs and 24 T20Is. He made 5,209 runs spanning the three formats with 11 international centuries. He was in the T20 World Cup winning squad in 2009.

Director General Sports Punjab chairs high-profile meeting on tracing fresh cricket talent



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail presided over a high-profile meeting regarding tracing fresh cricket talent from SBP's Faisalabad and Sialkot High Performance Centers at his office at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Top officials from Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) including Director Domestic Cricket Nadeem Khan, Director Legal Affairs Bilal Raza, Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket Junaid Zia, General Manager Finance Bilal Haneef and Malik Aslam also attended the important meeting.

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza, SBP Consultant Legal Affairs Ikram Bari were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that the construction work of state-of-the-art Sialkot and Faisalabad Cricket High Performance Centers have been completed as per international standard. "These are state of the art Cricket Centers where all modern facilities like swimming pool, gymnasium etc have been provided to players," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that the prime objective of SBP's Faisalabad and Sialkot High Performance Centers is to unearth new local cricket talent from these regions. "These facilities are no less than a blessing for the youth of these areas and they must learn modern cricket techniques and polish their skills at these High Performance Centers," he added.

Director Domestic Cricket Nadeem Khan on this occasion said that Sports Board Punjab has constructed wonderful High Performance Centers for the promotion of cricket.

Pakistan U19 squad announced for ACC U19 Asia Cup 2023

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The junior selection committee, headed by Sohail Tanvir, has finalised the 15-member squad for the eight-team tournament scheduled from December 8-17 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saad Baig, who captained the Pakistan U19 team in the home series against Sri Lanka and the tour to Bangladesh earlier this year, will continue to lead the side in the tournament. Pakistan U19 are placed in Group-A alongside Afghanistan U19, India U19 and Nepal U19.

They will play their first match of the tournament against Nepal on December 8 followed by games against India and Afghanistan on December 10 and 12, respectively.

Prior to the selection of



the squad, the Pakistan U19 probably had assembled for a training camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre, Karachi since November 24. The 15-member squad will now depart to Dubai on December 6.

Pakistan U19 squad is as under: Saad Baig (captain and wicket-keeper), Ahmad Hussain, Ali Asfand, Amir Hassan, Arafat Minhas (vice-captain), Azan Awais, Khubaib Khalil, Najab Khan, Naveed Ahmed Khan,

Mohammad Riazullah, Mohammad Tayyab Arif, Mohammad Zeeshan, Shahzaib Khan, Shamyul Hussain and Ubaid Shah. Non-Travelling Reserves - Ahmad Hassan, Aimal Khan, Obaid Shahid and Mohammad Zulkifal.

New York Strikers hand Northern Warriors first loss in Abu Dhabi T10 League 2023



Sports Desk

ABU DHABI: A combined team effort by New York Strikers handed Northern Warriors their first loss during the ongoing season of the Abu Dhabi T10 League in a low-scoring thriller at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

New York Strikers jumped to the top of the Abu Dhabi T10 League points table after today's three-wicket victory.

Strikers opted to bowl first and Akeal Hosen justified the decision right as he bowled Kennar Lewis in the first over.

Hazratullah Zazai was the next to depart after scoring a cautious 17 off 21 with two boundaries.

Colin Munro then took control and attacked Strikers as he remained unbeaten at 44 runs from 27 balls with the help of three boundaries and as many sixes.

Munro could not get enough support from the other end and Northern Warriors ended up scoring a meagre 88-3 in 10 overs.

In response, Muhammad Waseem (23) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (22) gave Strikers a flying start in the pursuit of a small total.

However, Tabraiz Shamsi removed both openers in his consecutive overs to halt Strikers' progress at 54-2 in 6 overs.

Holder's all-round exploits help Samp Army thump Team Abu Dhabi

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Jason Holder scored an unbeaten 29 off 10, then followed it with brilliant bowling figures of 3-12 to help Morrisville Samp Army defeat Team Abu Dhabi by 35 runs in the Abu Dhabi T10 League at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Morrisville Samp Army after being invited to bat first lost their first wicket in the second over as Ibrahim Zadrani (17) was dismissed by Rumman Raees.

Skipper Moeen Ali soon followed Zadrani in the next over while Faf du Plessis attacked Team Abu Dhabi bowlers from his end before getting run out at a total of 51.

Faf du Plessis scored 29 runs off 11 balls with the help of one boundary and three sixes.

Karim Janat played a 29-run cameo of 13 balls before getting out in the last over with 99 runs on the board.

Jason Holder then finished the innings in style with three sixes on the last three balls to push the



team's total to 118-5 in their 10 overs.

Tymal Mills led the bowling charts for Team Abu Dhabi with figures of 2-24, while Roelof van der Merwe and Rumman Raees picked one wicket each.

In response, Team Abu Dhabi had a horrible start as they lost their first wicket on the first ball of the innings.

Alex Hales then got out stumped in the next over bowled by Peter Hatzoglou. Samp Army skipper

Moeen Ali in his first over picked two wickets to leave the opponents struggling at 37-5 in the fourth over.

Tom Banton was the first victim of Ali after scoring 16 off 9, while Colin Ingram was stumped after scoring two runs.

Team Abu Dhabi failed to recover from the early setbacks and slipped to 63-8 in eight overs after Jason Holder's two-wicket over.

Dwayne Pretorius scored 15 before getting caught

behind, while Van der Merwe suffered a similar fate two balls later.

Alishan Sharafu remained unbeaten at 18 off 15 but failed to get his team to the target as Team Abu Dhabi finished with 83-8 in their 10 overs.

Holder picked three wickets, while Moeen Ali got two.

With this loss, Team Abu Dhabi sank to the bottom of the Abu Dhabi T10 League points table with three losses in three games.

Ind vs Aus: India break Pakistan's T20I record

India have dethroned Pakistan for having the most victories in the Twenty20 Internationals, after clinching a victory against Australia in the fourth match of the ongoing five-match series on Friday.

The Men in Blue rose to the top spot in the table — with 136 wins after their third success in the five-match series — a record previously held by Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Men in Green slipped down to the second place with 135 wins. Third on the list is New Zealand, who have won 102 games.

India took an unassailable 3-1 lead against Australia in the T20I series as they beat the Mathew Wade-led side by 20 runs in today's fixture at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, Raipur.

After being put in to bat first, India posted a decent score of 174/9 in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, Australia were restricted to 154/7 in their 20 overs.

DC South girls, boys basketball championship begins

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Deputy Commissioner South Girls and Boys Basketball Championship kicked off here at the International Abdul Nasir Basketball Court in Arambagh on Friday. The Amjad Hayat, SSP City, was the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony.

The event is being organized by the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) in collaboration with the Alliance of Markets Arambagh.

Asif Gulfam, Begum Asma Ali Shah, KBBA President Ghulam Muhammad Khan, Asghar Baloch, Salim Khamisani, Abdul Hamid Baloch, Muhammad Akhlaq and others were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Amjad Hayat announced that he and the police department will provide all possible help for the promotion of every sport, including basketball, and soon the Martyrs Police Basketball Tournament will be organized on the wish of the organizers.

In the girls' event on the first day of the championship, Islamia College defeated KMA College 12-6. Sahar Khan emerged as the top scorer with 4 points while Laiba and Amara added 2 points each. In the second match, IOBM College defeated Degree Science College Lines Area by 11-7. Nimra top-scored with 6 points while Sarah struck 2 and Fiza 1 point for the winners. For the losing side, Ayesha Anees, Arooj Akram and Umaira Rashid scored 2 points each.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Mr. Umer Ellahi s/o Fazal Ellahi allottee of plot No. 252-D, Area Development Scheme Hassanabad has appointed General Power of Attorney to Sheikh Ishtiaq Ali Siddique s/o Sheikh Ghulam Rabbani Siddique vide registered deed at No. 19/4 dated 09-01-1989 from Sub Registrar Attock. Now the General Power of attorney wish to transfer above mentioned plot in the name of Mst. Ruksana Azeem w/o Azeem Khan.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

Bangladesh leave New Zealand in deep trouble in 332-run chase

Sports Desk

SYLHET: Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed 4-40 to put Bangladesh within three wickets of a famous win over New Zealand in the first Test on Friday.

Set a target of 332 runs, New Zealand stuttered to reach 113-7 at stumps on the fourth day, still needing 219 runs for what looked like an improbable win.

Daryl Mitchell dragged the match into the fifth day with an unbeaten 44, remaining New Zealand's only hope to produce a miracle.

Ish Sodhi was with him on seven, but not before he was reprimed by the third umpire after initially being given out two overs before stumps.

Bangladesh will be looking to wrap up the New Zealand innings quickly on the fifth and final day for what they hope

will be their second Test win against New Zealand and their first at home.

Pacer Shoriful Islam and spinners Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Nayeem Hasan complemented Taijul with a wicket each to put them firmly on course.

The Kiwis lost opener, Tom Latham, to Shoriful for a duck before the scoreboard was moved and never appeared to recover from the early blow.

Taijul swiftly removed danger man Kane Williamson leg-before for 11 and Mehidy got rid of Henry Nicholls for two to leave New Zealand struggling at 37-3 at tea.

Devon Conway fell to Taijul for 22, giving a catch to close-in fielder Shahadat Hossain soon after the resumption.

Taijul then knocked over Tom Blundell for six to put New Zealand in further

trouble.

Mitchell and Glenn Phillips added 21 runs for the sixth wicket to momentarily halt Bangladesh's victory push.

Nayeem hit Phillips in front of the wicket on 12 before Taijul removed Kyle Jamieson for nine.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehidy earlier added a half-century each after skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto's ton.

Mushfiqur hit 67 before Mehidy took on the mantle and carried Bangladesh to 338 in their second innings, with the hosts adding 126 runs to their overnight score of 212-3.

Ajaz Patel took the last wicket, that of Shoriful, to finish with 4-148 for New Zealand, while leg-spinner Sodhi claimed 2-74.

Tim Southee dismissed Najmul in the second over of the day after the Bangla-



desh skipper added just one run to his overnight 104.

Fellow overnight batsman Mushfiqur was trapped leg-before by Patel after he completed his 27th Test fifty.

Sodhi removed debutant Shahadat Hossain for 18 between the dismissals of Najmul and Mushfiqur.

Nurul Hasan departed for 10 after riding his luck twice. He was given leg-before on eight off Patel but the decision was overturned as replays indicated an inside edge.

New Zealand cleaned up the last three wickets in less than an hour after the lunch break.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan H.E Obayek Arif Osmanaov called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik here at Minister office on Friday.



Photo: Online

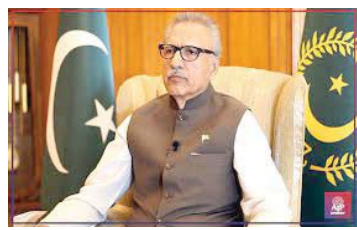
President for creating awareness about HIV/AIDS to prevent its spread

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged all stakeholders, including the media, influencers, and community leaders, to create awareness about the HIV/AIDS to prevent its spread. "We also need to intensify our efforts towards the prevention of HIV transmission, establishing surveillance systems, reducing the stigma attached to this disease, training health staff, and strengthening our institutional framework," the president said in a

message in connection with the World AIDS Day.

The World AIDS Day is being observed on Friday, under the theme "Let communities lead", to highlight the role of communities in advancing progress towards ending AIDS. President Alvi said the "Day reminds that ending the HIV epidemic requires collective efforts at the community level, visionary thinking, and a resolute commitment to reach even the most marginalized populations and improve the outreach of health services".



"We have the ability and determination to enhance the quality of life for those affected by this preventable yet treatable disease. "On this day, let us

also reflect on the successes and challenges of the past to seize the myriad opportunities of tomorrow in our journey to make Pakistan HIV-free," he said adding Pakistan would continue its efforts to reach out to individuals of all ages and backgrounds across the nation and empower them to make healthy lifestyle choices. "We affirm to rectify health disparities and improve access to HIV and health services. Together, we shall pave the path to a brighter and healthier future for all," the president added.

PM invites Dutch firms to invest in Pakistan's agriculture, energy sectors

Agencies

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday met Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte wherein he invited the Dutch firms to invest in agriculture, horticulture, water management and renewable energy sectors of Pakistan.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of COP 28, they appreciated the celebrations held in Islamabad and The Hague to mark 75 years of the establishment of diplomatic



relations this year. This was the second meet-

ing of both leaders after the one held in New York, Unit-

ed States on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session.

The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, and exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest, including situation in Afghanistan.

They also discussed the evolving human rights and humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Prime Minister Kakar underscored that Pakistan and the Netherlands should work together bilaterally as well as

through the European Union on matters of mutual interest.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction on the upward trajectory in bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of concrete outcome on climate action and referred to Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities despite being one of the lowest carbons emitters.

Prime Minister Kakar invited the Dutch prime minister to visit Pakistan.

Barrister Gohar submits nomination papers for slot of PTI chairman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has started the process of receiving the applications of candidates to take part in the intra-party elections slated to be held today (Saturday), as the PTI founding Chairman Imran Khan-nominee for the slot of the Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has submitted his nomination papers.

According to the details, the nomination papers were received by Returning Officer, Sardar Masroof Khan here on Friday.

PTI senior central leader Ahmed Owais was the proposer in the nomination papers filed by Barrister Gohar Ali Khan for the slot of PTI Chairman while PTI Central Information Secretary Raoof Hasan was his seconder.

Strictly action will be taken against dacoits and their facilitators in Kucha Area: CM Naqvi

Asim Tanveer

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over an important meeting at Rahim Yar Khan Airport, ordering a grand operation to completely eliminate the bandits of Kache.

Strong Action should also be taken against the facilitators of dacoits in Kacha area without discrimination, Mohsen Naqvi instructed.

In the incident that happened yesterday, 3 police constables were martyred, 4 robbers were killed in police action, briefing.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has ordered a grand operation for the complete elimination of dacoits in the area of Kacha. An important meeting was held today at Rahim Yar Khan Airport under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in which the ongoing operation against dacoits in Kacha area was reviewed. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed.

Bilawal urges politicians to leave 'politics of hate, division'



Bureau Report

QUETTA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged politicians to leave the politics of hate and division in the country.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while addressing the annual session of the Local Council Association of Balochistan today, said that some other powers will take advantage of the failures of the democratic parties.

It would be a disaster for the country if the democratic parties were replaced by some other powers, he warned.

He asked the politicians to leave the politics of hate and division in Pakistan. He urged the politicians to resolve public issues through collective efforts.

Governor hails bilateral relations with Netherlands



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has hailed the diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Pakistan.

Speaking at a solemn ceremony to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries at the Lahore Fort here on Friday, he said Pakistan appreciates Netherlands' cooperation in political, economic, climate change, education, culture, and multilateral fora.

Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan, Henry de Vries, Honorary Consul of Netherlands Asma Hamid, former Federal Minister Khurshid Kasuri, Tahir Khalil Sindhu, former governor Shahid Hamid and other distinguished guests were present in the ceremony.

Caretaker govt committed to hold free & fair elections: Solangi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the government was committed to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the country. Talking to a private television channel in current affairs programme, the minister said the caretaker government would fulfill its legal and constitutional responsibilities by providing financial and administrative assistance as well as security to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for conducting the elections.

Rejecting rumours about the delay in elections, he said the ECP had already released the final lists of constituencies after completing the delimitation exercise across the country.

Pakistan Navy deploys ship for Regional Maritime Security Patrol in Goa



File Photo of PNS Tughril

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Amidst the prevailing maritime situation in the Middle East, Pakistan Navy has deployed PNS TUGHRIL to ensure safety and security of merchant ships carrying shipments to and from Pakistani ports passing through one of the world's busiest choke points.

Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea

lanes of communication besides safeguarding national maritime interests and trade through sea.

Pakistan Navy is well cognizant of its national obligation with regards to maintenance of rule based order in the region. In the same spirit Pakistan Navy regularly deploys its ships on Regional Maritime Security Patrols and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts under the ambit of Combined Maritime Forces.

PTI finalizes preparations for today's intra-party election

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has given finishing touches to its preparations to hold intra-party elections on the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) scheduled for today (Saturday), which is a clear sign of the party's unshakable commitment to the democracy and unwavering belief in the rule of law.

PTI Spokesperson said that the PTI's founding chairman Imran Khan was the main torchbearer of the democracy among the political parties, which was evident from his incessant and relentless efforts to introduce, inculcate and strengthen democratic values and norms in the party.

He recalled that the PTI was the only political party that had made several attempts to conduct intra-party elections in true sense, which was

unprecedented in Pakistan because leadership of the rest of the political parties in the country did not believe in democratic values that could be judged from the fact that they never conducted genuine intra-party elections.

PTI Spokesperson reiterated that the PTI also held intra-party elections last year according to the law, however, he added that in order to set a great example of respect for the law, the party decided to hold the intra-party election again despite the illegal decision of the electoral watchdog declaring the PTI's intra-party poll null and void.

He emphasized that PTI Chairman buried the traditional hereditary and family-limited politics and set a great example of democracy by nominating a hard-working, loyal and capable worker of the party for the slot of the party chairman.

We regret the death of five PPP Workers in a Road Accident: Gillani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: After participating in the Foundation day meeting in Quetta, the car of Nowshahro feroz's Jiyalas a Road accident, 5 Jiyalas were died

Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed. Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani expressed grief and sorrow over the death of 5 people including the Pres-

ident of PPP Taluk Nowshahro feroz in the Road accident.

The news of the death of taluka president Khalifa Shakeel Memon, Mir Nadir Chandio, Rizwan Soomro, Gahnu Taggar and Muzaffar Bhutto is shocking.

Khalifa Shakeel Memon and other late stalwarts were the capital of the party, their services to the party will always be remembered.

How many bank account deposits are safe in Pakistan?

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Deposit Protection Corporation (DPC) - a subsidiary of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) - has issued its annual report on the safety of the deposits in bank accounts across the country.

The SBP's Deposit Protection Corporation declared 71,540,000 bank accounts 'safe' in Pakistan, according to the annual report issued here today.

The bank deposits worth Rs500,000 have a legal cover, said the DPC.

It stated that the deposited money in 98% of bank accounts was completely safe and protected. The total number of accounts in scheduled banks across Pakistan was 70,300,000.

It reports that DPC provides deposit protection to more than 98 per cent of the total 73 million depositors of scheduled banks in Pakistan.

In a press statement, the DPC said that the objective of releasing its third Annual Report for the year 2022-23 was enhancing the awareness among bank depositors and general public regarding protection of deposits of its member banks.

The Annual Report emphasize-

es DPC's unwavering commitment to safeguarding depositors' funds, strengthening financial stability, and continually enhancing the horizon of deposit protection.

The report provides insights into DPC's performance during the year and disclosure of its financial performance. It delves into DPC's future plans and strategic initiatives underscoring the organization's commitment to strengthen deposit protection.

The coverage and scope of DPC's deposit protection have been portrayed through statistics and graphical presentations in the report reflecting a clear picture of the Corporation's safety net.

The report also focuses on public awareness with the tagline "Know the deposit protection". To ensure ease of understanding, frequently asked questions regarding deposit protection have been illustrated pictorially in this segment.

It is important to note that DPC commenced operations in the year 2018 with the mandate to compensate banks' depositors in the unlikely event of a bank failure, as stipulated in the Deposit Protection Corporation Act, 2016. Under this Act, all scheduled banks in Pakistan are members of DPC, it concluded.