

President underlines need for special efforts to include PWDs in all walks of life

President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the government organizations and civil society to make special efforts for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of life. "We need to create an enabling and friendly environment for PWDs by providing them inclusive education, healthcare facilities, employment based on their skills and abilities... (Details on Page 8)



Commerce minister visits KSA to finalize 'Investment-Related part of GCC FTA

Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Pakistan's Commerce and Industries Minister, led an official delegation in Saudi Arabia comprising Secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce and Board of Investment (BOI) and officials from the Attorney General's Office. He held parleys with the GCC's Chief Negotiator to finalize the investment-related part of the GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), said a press release issued here on Sunday. (Details on Page 6)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Defend

The army chief appreciated the training standards, operational preparedness, and high morale of officers and troops. PHOTO:



Photo: ISPR

Armed Forces focused on defending frontiers of motherland with nation's support: COAS

Asim Tanveer

KHAIRPUR TAMEWALI: The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, visited troops at Khairpur Tamewali (KPT) on Saturday to witness the field exercise of Bahawalpur Corps.

While addressing the troops, the Army Chief said, "Pakistan Armed Forces are focused on defending the frontiers of motherland against a full spectrum of threats and with the support of the nation."

During his visit, the COAS was briefed about field exercise, aimed at enhancing professional skills at vari-

ous tiers and battlefield procedures required to meet future challenges in an operational environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS witnessed integrated fire and battle maneuvers of various elements, including armor, mechanized infantry, artillery, air defense, anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), fully supported by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), and combat aviation.

Later, COAS interacted with troops participating in the exercise.

The Army Chief appreciated the training standards, operational preparedness, and high morale of officers and

troops. COAS directed troops to keep serving the nation with traditional zeal and passion under all circumstances.

"We are cognizant of the challenges, and with the support of the nation, we are prepared to thwart any nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan," COAS emphasized.

"The Pakistan Army is fully prepared to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan against all odds. Armed Forces will defeat the enemies of Pakistan, InshaAllah," the COAS concluded.

Earlier, on arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Bahawalpur Corps.

Foreign Minister participates in the G77 & China Leaders' Summit on Climate Change during COP28



City Desk

DUBAI: Foreign Minister Jilani represented Pakistan at the G77 & China Leaders' Summit on Climate Change held during the ongoing COP28 World Climate Action Summit in Dubai, today.

In his remarks, Foreign Minister Jilani stated that the future of humanity would be defined by the response of the international community to the existential challenge of climate change. He highlighted that all the countries had a significant stake in enlarging the ambition and accelerating the implementation of the commitments and pledges made for climate action.

Noting that last year at COP27, the G-77 & China, under Pakistan's chairmanship collectively scripted history by acting in unison to secure the establishment of a fund for loss and damage, the Foreign Minister underscored the need to bring similar solidarity and unity to achieve the Group's objectives in all areas of climate change - mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance. While emphasizing the need to keep the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius alive, Foreign Minister Jilani called on the developed countries, consistent with the principles of Equity and CBDR, to take lead in accelerating climate actions, including the implementation of mitigation actions.

The Foreign Minister Jilani laid emphasis on provision of climate finance to developing countries. He also highlighted the need for sharper focus on adaptation to build resilience to climate change.

Tsunami expected in Philippines and Japan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake of at least magnitude 7.5 struck Mindanao in the southern Philippines late on Saturday, triggering evacuation orders for some areas and southwestern Japanese coasts because of warnings of tsunami waves of a metre (3 feet) or more.

The Philippine Seismology Agency Phivolcs said the waves could hit the Philippines by midnight (1600 GMT) and continue for hours.

The U. S. Tsunami Warning System said there could be waves of up to 3 metres above the tide level along some Philippine coasts.

"Boats already at sea during this period should stay offshore in deep waters until further advised," Phivolcs said, asking people living near the coast of Surigao Del Sur and Davao Oriental provinces to "immediately evacuate" or "move farther inland".

The Japanese broadcaster NHK said tsunami waves of up to a metre were expected to

reach Japan's southwestern coast around 30 minutes later - by 1:30 a.m. on Sunday (1630 GMT on Saturday).

Phivolcs said it did expect significant damage from the tremor itself, but warned of aftershocks.

Raymark Gentallan, local police chief of the coastal town of Hinatuan near the earthquake's epicentre, said power has been knocked out since the quake struck, but disaster response teams have not monitored any casualties or damage yet.

Earthquakes are common in the Philippines, which lies on the "Ring of Fire", a belt of volcanoes circling the Pacific Ocean that is prone to seismic activity.

The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said a quake of magnitude 7.5 had struck at a depth of 63 km (39 miles).

The U. S. Geographic Survey put the quake at magnitude 7.6 and a depth of 32 km (20 miles), and said it had struck at 10:37 p.m., Philippines time (1437 GMT).

PM Kakar for executing \$100 bn commitments for climate change finance

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday called for immediately executing the US\$100 billion commitments for climate finance to ensure implementation of climate change actions by the developing countries and to mitigate the climate change impacts. "Such finance should not be at the cost of development finance nor add to the already high debt burden of the developing countries," the prime minister said while delivering National Statement at the 28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations (COP 28) here.

He also called upon the developed countries to take the lead in raising global mitigation ambition commensurate with their economic standing and historical responsibility, and then help developing countries do the same. "We need to achieve global resilience through delivering an ambitious outcome in the form of a framework for global goal on adaptation with clear targets and indicators including regular monitoring of progress," he said adding that at least half of climate finance must be allocated to adaptation. The prime minister said the expectations from COP28 were high but not unrealistic hoping that



this COP would deliver with action not just words. He laid emphasis on providing adequate means of implementation including climate finance, capacity-building and technology, to developing countries to tackle this growing challenge. The prime minister highlighted that last year Pakistan suffered super floods while this year would be the world's hottest year in recorded history. At COP 26 at Glasgow, he said Pakistan increased its ambitions presenting the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with a target of 60% overall reduction in projected emissions by 2030. "This year Pakistan presented a comprehensive national adaptation plan and has also launched an innovative

Living Indus Initiative that brings together our care for climate and for nature," he said adding "We will also be presenting our first update report during this COP". Last year, he said Pakistan led the endeavor to craft an agreement on establishing a global loss and damage fund while this year "we worked to activate an adequately financed loss and damage fund and its funding arrangement". He said climate justice demanded that the developing countries should be enabled to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even as they contribute to climate objectives. "The provision of sufficient additional predictable grant-based climate finance by developed countries is imperative."

Another PIA crew member vanishes in Canada

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Another crew member of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has allegedly slipped away in Canada after a flight from Lahore landed in Toronto.

Sources told that steward Ayaz Qureshi reached Canada from Lahore by PIA flight PK784. On reaching Toronto, he slipped away instead of returning to the country, they added. "On its scheduled return to Islamabad, the steward did not turn up in Toronto. The flight of the national flag carrier had to return back to Islamabad without the crew member," sources quoting PIA officials said.

With their 'escape', the number of PIA crew members who sneaked away upon arrival in Canada this year has increased to four.

Earlier this month, two PIA flight attendants slipped away in Canada after the airline's flight from Islamabad reached Toronto.

The PIA spokesperson said that the two flight attendants - Khalid Afridi and Fida Shah - reached Canada from Islamabad by flight PK-772. However, the two crew members did not turn up in Toronto and the flight of the national flag carrier proceeded without them.

NAB files Gujrat kickbacks reference against Pervaiz Elahi, son

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has filed 1.23 billion rupees corruption reference against former Punjab CM Pervaiz Elahi, his son Moonis Elahi and others.

The NAB has filed graft reference against Elahi and son and other accused at Lahore's accountability court after completing inquiry about kickbacks in Gujrat development projects.

The anti-graft body has named Pervaiz Elahi and Moonis Elahi as main accused in the accountability reference.

"Pervaiz Elahi, Moonis Elahi and other accused have been found involved in losses to national exchequer," according to the NAB reference.

"Pervaiz Elahi misused public office and received bribes. He and his son got illegal approval of 116 schemes

for Gujrat and received kickbacks by granting contracts of schemes to their favorite contractors," NAB reference read.

"The accused jointly received overall financial benefit of 1.23 billion rupees in bribes and kickbacks," accountability bureau accused.

"Former Punjab CM received 744.5 million rupees in kickbacks. Moonis Elahi's accountant used to deposit kickbacks money to his family accounts," according to the reference.

"Moonis Elahi also deposited one million and 61,000 Euros in his personal account," NAB accused.

"During Pervaiz Elahi's tenure as chief minister, his family deposited over 304 mln amount in their personal accounts," reference read.

The NAB has pleaded to the accountability court to conduct trial and award sentences to accused in the reference.

Akbar S. Babar to challenge results

City desk



ISLAMABAD: Akbar S Babar, founding member of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has decided to challenge the intra-party election, scheduled to be held on December 2 as per the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Speaking in a press conference held at National Press Club Babar said, as part of the founding members, he was involved in structuring the PTI constitution, in which democratic culture was adopted.

According to the party's constitution, he claimed, no chairman can be elected more than two times while its term would be not more than three years. "Our aim was to make PTI an exemplary democratic party," he added.

Akbar S Babar was of the view that every PTI leader has a right to contest intra-party election for party chairman.

Barrister Gohar Khan elected PTI chairman unopposed



Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was elected unopposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) new chairman, replacing incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

PTI intra-party polls were held today (Saturday) on orders of the Election Commission of Pakistan. Voters exercised their right to vote through an online app.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was nominated by the PTI founder for the top slot a couple of days ago.

According to PTI election commissioner Niazullah Niazi, former federal minister Omar Ayub Khan was elected secretary general of the party while jailed former provincial health minister Yasmin Rashid has been elected PTI Punjab president.

Similarly, incarcerated Haleem Adil Sheikh and Ali Amin Gandapur were elected

unopposed party presidents of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces.

Earlier this week, Barrister Ali Zafar announced that party Chairman Imran Khan would not be contesting intra-party polls and Barrister Gohar Khan had been nominated for the slot of party chief.

PTI Senator Ali Zafar announced the development while addressing a presser along with Raouf Hasan and Barrister Gohar in Islamabad.

Speaking to the media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan in Islamabad, Zafar said the party chairmanship is temporary, as Khan would return as chairman of the party once his disqualification in the wake of the Toshakhana case is overturned.

He further said that ex-premier had directed the party to hold intra-party polls. "PTI is Imran Khan and Imran Khan is PTI."

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the Next Prime Minister of Pakistan: Gillani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani and former Member of National Assembly Begum Belam Hasnain Kharal arrived at Gillani House. Former MNA Nawab Liaquat Ali Khan, Divisional Secretary Information M Saleem Raja, Hasnain Khan Kharal were also present on this occasion.

Talking, said that Begum Belam Hasnain Kharal and her mother Begum Nadira Khakwani (deceased) were loyal to the party of Bhutto family while Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Bhutto Shaheed, Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and Begum Nusrat Bhutto whenever. When she came to Multan, she stayed in her house and the party's advisory meetings were also held at her residence in Multan, Syed Raza Gillani added that she is a faithful and loyal partner of our party and the party will always appreciate his services.

On this occasion, Begum Belam Hasnain Kharal said that in the general elections that are being held on



February 8, the women of Pakistan People's Party will play their full role to make the party candidates successful and, God willing, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the next prime minister of Pakistan.

CM Punjab inaugurates CBD Punjab's Lahore Prime's, Signaling Punjab's Progress



City Desk

LAHORE: Saturday, December 2, 2023. Punjab Central Business District Development Authority, also recognized as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has successfully completed the infrastructure in Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, in accordance with its commitment to investors. The inauguration of this monumental project was officiated by the esteemed Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

The Inaugural ceremony was attended by Ministers and Cabinet members of Punjab Government, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin, COO CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, Directorate Heads of CBD Punjab, senior officials of local government and CBD Punjab.

Completed within the estimated cost of Rs 332 million as per the approved PC1, this milestone underscores a significant achievement for the development of Punjab. The comprehensive infrastructure encompasses road networks, sewage and drainage systems, electricity, water and gas supply, street lighting, ICT integration, robust security measures, and visually appealing landscaping, all constructed to the highest standards.

While expressing his views, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, stated, "Lahore Prime sets the stage for Punjab's growth and progress. Engaging our investors is pivotal in transforming this area into a nexus of innovation and advancement."

He further added that the project's success owes much to the unwavering support of the Punjab Cabinet and the invaluable guidance of the honorable Chief Minister, without which this endeavor wouldn't have been possible.

The completion of Lahore Prime's infrastructure signifies not just construction but the laying of the groundwork for a prosperous and vibrant Punjab. CBD Punjab vision is to adorn Lahore Prime with skyscrapers and architectural marvels, elevating the skyline and creating an environment that reflects modernity and advancement.

All Pakistan Women's Association holds awareness walk on women's rights in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) Multan organized an awareness walk on women's rights at Benazir Women's Crisis Center and Darul Aman, led by Vice Chairperson Mrs Farah Faisal Mukhtar General Secretary Nazia Yasir Khan, Joint Secretary Tehmina Munir, Trier Yasmin Khalil Bukhari, Executive Members Dr. Shehla Aftab, Nasreen Fareed, Tahira Najam, Hania Mansoor, Rafat Sadaf (Friends of Apua), Aziba Javed, Menaghuri, Rukhsana Naeem, Iram Iqbal, Kiran Rashid, Farah Saqib, Farah Abrar, Hina Chughatai, And Administrator Mukhtar A Sheikh Trust Zohaib Amjad participated, while addressing the participants, Mrs. Farah Faisal said that women should be empowered and awareness should be created to promote equality within the community and women should be given their rights.

Which is the need of the hour, he said that in South Punjab, women are subjected to sexual violence in most of the rural areas and their rights are denied, so we all have to organize such an Islamic society together. Where women have equal rights and we all continue to play our part, Apua Multan provides a platform for community members, activists and government officials to promote a culture of empowerment and gender equality. Work together to promote, the participants of the walk carried placards regarding women's rights, during the women's awareness and solidarity walk, the members of Apwa Multan visited the Benazir Women's Crisis Center and Darul Aman.

And appreciated the commendable efforts of the government in the protection and support of women in South Punjab. Shiraz Ahmad, lawyer of Benazir Women Crisis Center and Samra Sher-een Khan, manager of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Center for Women, Multan informed the participants about the services and problems of Apua Multan and told that the women in the center are provided with legal assistance, medical and psychological support is provided, and cases against violence against them are pursued, Mrs. Farah Faisal, vice-chairperson of APWA Multan, said that Benazir Women Crisis Center is an important institution that protects women. And working for support.

Four wanted two different murder, abduction cases arrested in Hassanbadal

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Four suspects wanted in two different murder and abduction cases were arrested by Police in Hassanbadal on Saturday.

Police claimed to resolve the mystery of blind murder case of an Afghan shopkeeper and arrested two suspects. Police sources said that body of 50-year-old Afghan national identified as Haji Imrat Khan who was missing from one day was found from a drain in the Jallo area near Burhan motorway interchange in the limits of Hassanbadal police station on August 7, 2023.

Police registered a case and launched further investigation. Police on suspension picked Arsalan Khan- a native of Mardan and Kamil Khan- a native of Nowshera who during interrogation has confessed that they have abducted the man, snatched money worth Rs 0.2 million and later threw his body in deserted place after killing him to conceal the crime.

Separately, same Police arrested two suspects who abducted two teenage girls and recovered both the abducted girls. Piasat Azad- a native of Bhoigar village filed an application with Police that his daughter and her niece are students of local seminary. He added that they were abducted when they were returning home after attending their lesson at the seminary few days ago.

Police spokesman has said that through human and digital intelligence, police arrested the abductors identified as Hammad Ali and Majid Hassan- both residents of Lahore and recovered the abducted girls.

Greenery

ISLAMABAD: A worker showering water on plants at local nursery in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Poverty triggers harrowing familicide

Man kills wife, three daughters before committing suicide

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A devastating tragedy unfolded in pills the Dijkot area where a financially distressed man took the lives of his wife and three daughters, employing a lethal combination of poisoning and fatal blows with a hammer before ending his own life by consuming poisonous pills. The police have secured the bodies and initiated an investigation, while the entire community grapples with shock and terror.

The incident occurred in Chak

271, RB, within the jurisdiction of the Dijkot police station. Mohammad Tahir, 55, succumbed from the village Numberdar, the Dijkot police, led by SP Iqbal Town Usman Saifi, DSP Factory Area Rana Ataur Rehman, and SHO cumbered to the burdens of poverty. Dijkot Mouzzam Gujjar, reached the scene at 8 am

In a horrifying turn of events, he administered a drug-laced meal to his 45-year-old wife Naheed Akhtar and three daughters Zehra Fatima, 12, Hiba Tahir, 1 and Raiza Tahir, 19, rendering them unconscious, Taking

a hammer to their heads,

Tahir brutally ended their lives. In Tahir, who worked in the field a final act of despair, he ingested of medicines, left behind a heart hidden with in a batch of wrenching will obtained by darkness and by dawn, Tahir In the document, he cited changed into fresh clothes and incapacitation to provide for sought solace in the company of family due to financial struggles and debts. There, he narrated the gruesome incident before being transported to Dijkot and subsequently to Civil Hospital Faisalabad, where he even-

tually succumbed. Upon receiving information

Tahir's distress pushed him to make the agonising decision to end the lives of his wife and daughters before taking his own. The Expos Thibune learnt that Tahir took this extreme step independently, emphasising that no one else was involved in the tragic decision, in the will, he acknowledged

The Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PTSA) teams also arrived, transferring all five bodies to the hospital for post-mortem examinations and collecting crucial evidence.

Journalists demand

Officials take notice of construction on Wana Press Club land

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: It is regrettable to make a market on the property and old land of District Press Club Wana,

The journalists appealed to the Army Chief and Corps Commander Peshawar to take notice and demanded permission to build a press club at the same place.

The important cabinet meeting of District Press Club Wana was held under the chairmanship of President District Press Club Wana Mujeeb Ur Rahman Wazir on Saturday.

In which General Secretary Zardad Wazir, Press Secretary Qismat Ullah Wazir and other office members partic-



ipated.

It was unanimously decided in the meeting that we will not allow any construction in place of the old press club building.

The old Press Club building was inaugurated by the former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2004.

Later, as soon as the funds were released, the main building was constructed.

Unfortunately, in 2007, the Wana Press Club building was blown up by terrorists with explosives.

The EX Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Iftikhar Hussain, had allotted two canals of land for District Press Club Wana.

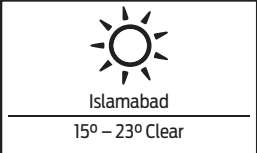
It is to be clear, that 135000000 one crore thirty five lakh rupees was approved by the former provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the construction work of District Press Club Wana.

President Said, but now the work is still pending due to the refusal of Brigadier Awais Shamim of Wana Scouts Force to give his place to the journalists.

President said, Now there are reports that Brigadier Mohammad Owais Shamim has leased this place and land and which is cruelty and injustice to the people of Waziristan.

President Press Club Mujeeb Ur Rehman said that this land is the property of Press Club Wana, the building of the press club should be constructed on it, if no one hears us, so the journalist of District Press Club Wana will approach the court to fight this case.

Journalists strongly demanded from Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, Corps Commander Peshawar, that the journalists should be allowed to construct a press club building on the land near the Aman post Wana bazar.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:26 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Enquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79

PAC organized "Women Entrepreneur Gala" in Chakwal

PNP

CHAKWAL: Punjab Arts Council and District Administration of Chakwal jointly organized Women Entrepreneur Gala. Deputy Commissioner Chakwal Qaratul-Ain Malik was the chief guest of the opening ceremony of Women Gala, on this occasion, Assistant Commissioner Bilal Zubair and Deputy Director Arts Council Muhammad Sulaiman also accompany the honorable Chief Guest. More than 150 stalls were set up in the Women Gala. Chief Guest Deputy Commissioner Chakwal Qaratul Ain Malik in his address on the occasion said that organizing workshops, training programs and networking opportunities would go a long way in equipping women with necessary skills and knowledge. Economic empowerment of women not only benefits them individually but also has a positive impact on societies and economies. We can harness the potential of women and empower them financially through entrepreneurship. She further said that by giving women the resources and support they need to start and run their own businesses, we enable them to not only stand on their own feet, but also contribute to economic growth. Assistant Director Muhammad Sulaiman said that educated women are more likely to become successful entrepreneurs, which contribute to both their individual development and social development. Empowering women, ensuring their financial independence, improving their access to opportunities and facilities and including them in mainstream socio-economic activities are essential to create a just and inclusive society. A large number of women from across the district participated in the Women Gala.

Pakistan's first Sufi Opera singer

Saira Peter mesmerises the audience with her magical voice at PNCA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saira Peter, a British-Pakistani soprano recognised as the Pakistan's first Sufi Opera singer mesmerised the audience with her magical voice at musical evening in Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah was the chief guest on the occasion.

Prominent government officials, Diplomats and large number of people were also attended the event.

In his opening remarks, Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayub Jamali welcomed the guests at PNCA Auditorium.

On the occasion, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah appreciated the performance of Saira Peter and said that the people here love music.

He termed Saira Peter as highly accomplished singer.

Saira Peter and her husband a music director Stephen Smith started the performance with classical opera receiving high applause from the audience. From there,

Saira went on to perform Sufi Kalam. Saira Peter has also the distinction to be the world's first Sufi opera singer.

Saira Peter has received an overwhelming response to his live performance in jam packed PNCA Auditorium.

Saira presented opera and classical songs, Urdu, Pashtu, 'thumri', 'ghazals', film, Sindhi, Balochi and Punjabi songs. She also sang a special Arabic song during her performance.

Saira Peter and her enthusiastic audience shared lively interaction throughout the concert.

She conveyed her love for the music of her homeland and thanked PNCA for showing so much honour.

Passionate about bringing together people of all backgrounds, Saira Peter identified music as a historical means of promoting a positive message.

Simultaneously in the midst of studying Western Classical voice, she envisioned using her music to take Sufi peace poetry to the world stage.

She is currently working with a team of British artists to develop the world's first full-scale "Sufi Opera", a musical stage



drama based on the story of Umar Marvi, one of Latif's "seven heroines" of Sindh.

Saira Peter has also pioneered a fusion style of the qawwali genre in which she incorporates both Western operatic and South Asian classical styles of singing.

Workshop

ISLAMABAD: Central President of Private Schools Network Islamabad Dr. Muhammad Afzal Barbar distributing certificates to the participants of teachers training workshop.



Photo: Spokesman

Cheezzy Success

Cheezious Lights up Peshawar with Grand Opening of 32nd Outlet

PESHAWAR: Cheezious, the renowned culinary destination known for its delectable offerings, proudly announces the grand opening of its 32nd outlet on University Road, Peshawar. The momentous occasion was celebrated with the presence of esteemed guests, including Chief Guest HKB Mr. Haji Bahadur Khan, Mr. Shafi Ullah Khan (DG KPK Halal Food Authority), Mr. Iqbal Wazeer (DC Peshawar), the President of Peshawar Chamber of Commerce, Director of Operations,



Abdul Qadir Khan, expressed his gratitude for the warm reception from the local community, acknowledging their love and support that enabled Cheezious to establish its second outlet. He highlighted how the connection with the local people has been instrumental in the restaurant's success.

Zohaib Hassan, Head of Marketing, Cheezious said "Cheezious has been able to achieve exponential success because of the people who have trusted us as a brand. Today, we feel proud to open our 2nd outlet for the people of Peshawar and will continue serving the community with our signature culinary delights.

AKU-IED concluded its 12th International Conference



City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) concluded its 12th International Conference, unveiling a dynamic platform for dialogue on 'Technology, Pedagogy, And Society: Critical Appreciation of The Present and Prospects for The Future.'

This 2 days milestone event coincided with the University's 40th anniversary, symbolizing a longstanding commitment to academic excellence. The conference, a melting pot of diverse perspectives, brings together thought leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to scrutinize the intersection of technology, pedagogy, and society.

Ms. Rana Hussain, Caretaker Minister for School Education, College Education, and Women Empowerment, Sindh, graced the Inaugural Session as the Chief Guest, emphasizing the imperative need to discuss technology's societal impacts.

Keynote speakers, including Sean Michael Morris, Dr Asadul Islam and Dr. Shah Jamal Alam, illuminated the evolution of critical digital pedagogy and the essential role of formal reasoning in the age of AI dominance. The first day featured a vibrant panel discussion on 'Implementing EdTech Reform,' addressing evidence, policy, and delivery in education.

Day 2 unfolded at the Karimabad campus, witnessing more than 200 participants engaging in over 40 workshops on diverse topics such as Teaching in the Digital Era, Educational Robotics, and Fostering Equitable Learning Spaces. Dr. Nauman Naqvi's Lightning Talk challenged conventional thinking, advocating for a transformative journey toward sustainable existence.

Dr. Maha Bali's keynote on 'Fostering Equitable Learning Spaces' sparked crucial dialogue on reshaping educational practices for inclusivity. A dynamic panel discussion, 'Practitioners' Perspectives on Technology, Pedagogy, and Society,' explored the pivotal role of pedagogies in leading EdTech reform, moderated by Azra Naseem.

U. N.-Habitat concludes national conference on housing, land and property rights of women in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) marked the culmination of its awareness campaign with a three-day National Conference (November 28-30, 2023) in collaboration with UNHCR aiming to secure Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Rights for women and vulnerable groups in Pakistan.

A Dialogue with the Political Leadership of Pakistan was held in collaboration with the SDGs Academy on the third day of the National Conference on Housing, Land and Property rights of Women in Pakistan. The Dialogue was graced by Mr. Khalil George, Federal Minister for Human Rights who served as the Chief Guest. Noteworthy panelists for the dialogue included, Mr. Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwer, Federal Shariat Court of Pakistan, Ms. Samar Haroon Bilour, Ex MPA and current spokesperson of ANP, Ms. Fozia Arshad, Senator and Mr. Ammar Jaffri, Chairman, SDGs Academy.

Mr. Zahid Nasim Khattak, HLP Expert, UN-Habitat, warmly welcomed participants and explained that the objective of the dialogue is to advocate for women's housing, land and property rights and inheritance in Pakistan and get them included in the party manifesto for the upcoming elections so that women and vulnerable groups get their rights and we could achieve sustainable development.

Mr. Khalil George, Federal Minister for Human Rights in his remarks esteemed the discussions on disparities and challenges faced by women in accessing and securing their rights to housing, land, and property in Pakistan. He stated, 'It is heartening to see the dedication and passion each participant has brought to the table, contributing to a growing awareness of the importance of gender equality in these fundamental aspects of life.'

13th Pakistan Mountain Festival

Young hikers cleanup Margalla Hills Trail-5

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: More than one hundred university students and nature lovers participated in the hiking and cleanup drive at Margalla Hills Trail-5 after an interactive session on wildlife and biological diversity of the Margalla Hills on Saturday.

It was the 13th Pakistan Mountain Festival's daylong kickoff event, organized by the Development Communications network (Devcom-Pakistan), DTN and Islamabad Wildlife Management board (IWMB) in collaboration with the Comsats University Islamabad Campus Computer Science Adventure Society (CSAS). Pakistan Mountain Festival (PMF) is an annual flagship event of Devcom-Pakistan to commemorate the UN's International Mountain Day (IMD) that falls on December 11.



Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder Pakistan Mountain festival Munir Ahmed said the Margalla Hills National Park increasingly becoming a focus of visitors and illegal constructions. Solid waste management and littering have increased

manifold despite many interventions by the IWMB and civil society organizations. The environmentally unfriendly practices have damaged the natural resources in all three parts of the National Park including hills, Rawal Lake and Sharkarparian despite many

initiatives. Mountain Resources are the lifeline of the over 80 percent of the people living downstream who are responsible for heavy carbon emissions, and devastation of the mountain ecosystems.

The IWMB Deputy Director Sakhat Ali briefed the participants about the rich biodiversity of the Margalla Hills National Park that was established in 1980. It is the third-largest national park in the world with an area of 17,386 hectares (42,960 acres) under the foothills of Himalaya.

IWMB Deputy Director said under the new management recently the IWMB has taken many steps for the protection of the Park and visitors. Many cases of woodcutting and forest fires were averted. The renovated IWMB nature education centres are the hub of activities and awareness raising sessions, and community engagement.

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 - I

Russia, as well as other countries, has launched and is conducting an in-depth revision of ideas that were assimilated, at first glance. These ideas largely shaped the economic, political and cultural world that emerged after the Cold War in the context of the unipolar concept and related globalisation processes. This long overdue and certainly beneficial process is directly related to the strengthening of the multipolar foundations of international life. Obviously, there can be no technological sovereignty without national science and production facilities; nor can any country be truly independent without the unique practices and values of its population.

Three or four generations of Russian citizens experienced several completely different political and ideological regimes and opted for a civilisational choice prioritising development in line with national traditions. Without renouncing science and technological progress and the advantages of participating in the international division of labour, we are discarding the gloomy wraith of perceptions and ideological concepts adopted in the well-known historical environment of the late 1980s and the 1990s. They are of little use in current geopolitical realities. Experts in all managerial spheres are rationally placing an emphasis on forms, methods and approaches, borrowed from the longstanding tradition of Russian statehood. Nor do we reject appropriate aspects of advanced foreign experience.

Global development has now entered another crucial phase. Russia is once again facing foreign attempts to hamper its development. One of the main directions of attack comes in the form of the Western values agenda (or rather, that of the globalist elites who have seriously encroached upon their domestic rivals, including nationally-oriented elites). More and more people involved in inter-

national communication are discarding and rejecting this agenda right before our very eyes. They are not doing this because they want to quarrel with globalists and neo-liberals, but because aesthetic perceptions, preached throughout an entire era as a model of universal human values, have proved unviable.

If we listen to past and present statements by politicians, public intellectuals and other public opinion leaders of the Western globalist mainstream, we should not doubt the fact that they have hatched all kinds of ambitious plans, and that they continue to hatch such plans today. Summing up, they are voicing the following logic: as economic globalisation continues to develop, as mass education spreads and as people gain additional access to Western popular culture and become accustomed to American standards, the mentality of people in non-Western peripheral countries will also start changing. They believed that the religious and traditionalist factor would eventually recede into the background in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, just like in post-Christian Europe. People were expected to become receptive to neo-liberal values, including the so-called tolerance concept.

However, something went wrong, so to say, and we can see this with the naked eye. According to British weekly *The Economist*, the mouthpiece of the neo-liberal establishment, despite the aggressive imposition of narratives seen as profitable by the ruling Western elite via globalist media outlets and NGOs, the rift between Western values and those of the rest of the world is not narrowing. It is becoming wider and deeper. [1] Moreover, conservative circles in Western society are increasingly rejecting the neo-liberal ideology.

eral ideology.

Those involved in discussions about neo-liberal narratives are always tempted to limit everything to deliberations on the strangest and most challenging element, specifically, prioritising the so-called gender issues and LGBT rights. However, this issue is more complicated, and it would therefore be appropriate to analyse the paradigm of neo-liberal values in greater detail and to divide it into four tentative aspects, including the economy, politics, society and technology.

1. Economics.

The first and main postulate in this area is the dominance of the US dollar as a reserve currency and means of payment in international trade. De-dollarisation is seen as an existential threat to Western hegemony. Non-Western countries, on the other hand, are denied the right to exercise exchange controls.

The next sacred cow is commodities and sales markets that are open to Western capital, including speculative capital. In the United States and the European Union, protectionism is declared a reasonable measure to regulate cross-border flows. Others are encouraged to believe in the "free market" and to "improve the investment climate" for Western capital in their territory. Here is a case in point: the US banned a number of Chinese companies, including Huawei and ZTE, from importing telecommunications equipment because American corporations were finding it increasingly difficult to compete with them. At the same time, the Americans are insistently demanding preferential treatment for their companies in China.

The governments in the West are facing a difficult challenge right now: they need to find the best way to portray the planned confiscation of private assets

from Russia. The answer seems obvious within the neoliberal paradigm. The inviolability of private property is certainly a fundamental principle that underlies the "market economy." So of course, private property cannot be seized – expect when it is really necessary, but only by the West, from representatives of countries with "authoritarian" regimes. Laws and propaganda will be adjusted to fit with this ideological construct.

Another manifestation of the neoliberal approach to economics is as follows. They take an issue of global significance, such as environmental protection or climate change, and turn it into a mechanism for promoting the interests of Western financial and industrial groups.

We are not going to deny that there are major environmental and climate problems; but our approach is in favour of finding collective ways to address them. However, the Western approach is increasingly drifting towards eco-extremism. They are imposing the most stringent standards and regulations for the "green transformation" on the countries of the Global South, where developed countries used to establish hazardous industrial facilities in the past. Developing countries are required to accelerate the energy transition, which implies drastic cuts in the use of fossil fuels and in investment in the conventional fuel and energy industry. This makes sense for neocolonial states that are contemplating super profits from exporting green products and technologies, with American and European multinationals taking over fuel markets and draining money from developing economies to finance their own energy transition. This is fraught with many countries being starved for energy and, as a result, facing a shortage of resources for development. At the same time, the West – namely the EU – is not above increasing coal and fuel oil power generation if necessary.

To be continued



Analysis
Alexey Drobinin



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

Dr. Shamshad's many ifs and buts - II

falls might hinder long-term economic growth. A more balanced approach involves policy reforms, improved tax administration, and enhanced compliance measures, reducing overreliance on taxing savings. By expanding direct tax collection mechanisms and reforming policies, governments can avoid burdening savers while ensuring fair and sustainable revenue collection, as witnessed in countries with successful saving schemes.

A critical element for this fund is the appointment of competent and qualified apolitical advisors to form an advisory council. This council, in turn, will appoint a Board of Directors (BOD), responsible for appointing a CEO. The CEO, under the guidance of the BOD, will assess the financial, economic, and managerial status of each entity within the fund's purview.

The comprehensive review of Pakistan's financial landscape underscores the intricate challenges the country faces in managing its debt, reforming tax policies, and attracting investments. The analysis reveals a multi-faceted approach required for financial stability, including debt restructuring, enhanced tax collection, and fostering an investor-friendly environment. While acknowledging the efforts made, there's a resounding call for systematic reforms to alleviate the burden on various fronts, such as debt repayment, regressive taxation on savings, and revitalizing loss-making state-owned enterprises. The pivotal role of collaborative efforts, policy enhancements, and transparent governance emerges as crucial pillars for achieving sustainable economic growth and navigating the intricate web of financial intricacies in Pakistan's journey ahead.

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



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

She said that the caretaker government has prioritized protecting depositors' interests, identifying a disparity between banks' profits and the benefits provided to depositors. Despite banks' significant earnings from increased interest rates, depositors weren't receiving proportionate benefits. After persistent efforts, scheduled banks, excluding Islamic Banks, began offering better returns to depositors. However, Islamic Banks lag behind in providing equitable profits to their depositors. Consequently, the government, in collaboration with the State Bank, is engaging with Islamic Banks to ensure fairness in returns to depositors, emphasizing a commitment to equitable treatment across the banking sector.

She highlighted the implications of the 18th amendment, noting that the federal government now solely collects taxes but transfers the revenue to provinces, which are not obligated to collect taxes themselves. She emphasized the necessity for collaborative efforts to devise a mechanism enabling provinces to take on a role in tax collection, advocating for a shared responsibility framework to address taxation more effectively.

In discussing the privatization of

Dominica, Blue Carbon unite for sustainable climate solutions

After nearly seven weeks of bloodshed, terror, and horrors in the war between Israel and Hamas, the four-day pause in the fighting, which was subsequently extended by several days, was urgently needed.

To the relief of everyone, the bombardments, the rocket launches and the shootings ceased — if only for a week. The temporary truce agreement allowed for some of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel to be released, and for desperately needed humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip.

These few days of calm were the first rays of hope after one of the darkest periods in the long-running conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. But now that hostilities have resumed in their full intensity, what does this mean for the likely trajectory of the war in the days and weeks ahead?

There was no guarantee that the pause in fighting would lead to a permanent ceasefire, or even to further humanitarian truces, in the near future. However, it did signal that even though this initially seemed to be a war in which Israel would not call even a temporary halt to its military operations until it had achieved its declared objective of destroying Hamas — whatever that means — it was prepared to alter its priorities to secure the release of as many hostages as possible, even if this meant giving Hamas a chance to regroup. There is no reason to believe that, through third-party negotiations, this pattern will not repeat itself.

Moreover, the truce also indicated that despite the distorted judgment of the leaders of the Palestinian Islamit organization, which manifested itself in its most extreme form in the Oct. 7 attacks, the realization filtered through to them that it was in their own best interest to release their hostages, especially the most vulnerable among them.

The pause in fighting in the past week yielded political benefits for both sides. In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government had been under immense pressure, justifiably so, to prioritize the release of hostages. The joyful sight of dozens of them returning home from captivity eased some of that pressure.

It might be the case — and hope this is not simply wishful thinking — that Israel has been reassessing the methods for achieving its war objectives and might take a longer-term view. It might realize that military force is not the only way to tackle Hamas and that achieving its objectives will primarily require political and diplomatic efforts that can guarantee a better future in which everyone involved in this conflict, and future generations, enjoys equality in terms of security, rights, and prosperity.

Why Missing Persons are missing? - IV

China has implemented stringent measures to combat terrorism, especially in the Xinjiang region, where ongoing conflict with Uighur separatist groups exists. The Chinese government has utilized surveillance technologies, extensive security measures, and mass detentions to counter perceived terrorist threats.

Once again, let's turn our attention to Pakistan. In Pakistan, when the government and law enforcement agencies take stringent actions against terrorist elements, the so-called advocates of human rights immediately step forward. Interestingly, these advocates often remain silent when other countries implement even more stringent measures against such elements within their borders. Our judicial justice system is widely known for its flaws and delays, with cases taking years to conclude and often resulting in the punishment of the innocent while the actual culprits go free. In such circumstances, whenever our agencies detain a suspicious person for investigation and evidence collection, accusations of forceful and unlawful arrests arise.

I firmly believe that our agencies do not apprehend innocent individuals without reason, and there is always substance behind these arrests. If one is innocent and has not acted against the state or armed forces, there is no reason for anyone to apprehend them. There is always a story behind every missing person, and our religion emphasizes the love for our country, the nation that has granted us identity and freedom. This loyalty is especially evident when we consider the struggles for freedom faced by the Palestinians and the people of Kashmir in Occupied Kashmir.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of every individual to recognize the significance of our freedom, an independent country, and a patriotic army. While it may be easy to immediately blame agencies for allegedly catching innocents, it is essential to remember that these arrests have led to the disclosure of many terrorists, anti-state elements, and foreign spies. Terrorists never admit their crimes themselves, and investigations are crucial to extracting information from them. National security is a non-negotiable aspect, and no country in

the world compromises on this front.

I have come across numerous columnists and journalists who consistently blame agencies, often looking at only one side of the picture. In presenting a comprehensive and truthful picture, I attempt to address those who question why some individuals go missing. I don't assert that all missing persons are culprits, as it is not my role or that of journalists to make such determinations. Only a thorough investigation can establish the innocence or guilt of individuals. Various factors contribute to the phenomenon of missing persons. Notably, not all individuals reported as missing are under the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies; some have affiliations with terrorist organizations and engage in conflict against the state. Individuals with ties to terrorism may go into hiding to evade arrest. Additionally, some people become missing due to personal vendettas, seeking refuge in remote areas to escape potential revenge from adversaries. Others may be connected to cross-border smuggling and various criminal activities, prompting them to remain in hiding. The classification of these individuals as missing persons can be intentional or unintentional, influenced by design or lack of awareness.

Recently, an honorable court has instructed interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to attend court proceedings in the event that he is unable to ensure the retrieval of over 50 Baloch students who are reportedly missing. It is deemed inappropriate to involve the court in overseeing missing persons cases. Notably, Pakistan has the lowest number of missing persons in the region, and the missing persons issue has been utilized as a propaganda tactic against the country. It is worth mentioning that 78% of the cases listed have been successfully resolved.

Readers, in the current situation, it is the responsibility of every individual to exercise caution while speaking or engaging in activities that may jeopardize our national security. Additionally, it is everyone's duty to cooperate with agencies and provide them with all relevant information regarding anti-state and terrorist elements, contributing to making our country a land of peace and prosperity.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

Leaders of four major global wire services meet to discuss cooperation in times of change

Xinhua

BEIJING: Leaders of four major international wire services whose news products reach three-fourths of the global population met on Friday to discuss cooperation to tackle pressing challenges facing media in times of change.

The meeting among leaders of Xinhua News Agency, Reuters, The Associated Press (AP), and Agence France-Presse (AFP) was the first of its kind. Fu Hua, president of Xinhua, hosted the event in downtown Beijing.

"The global media industry is undergoing a significant transformation," Fu said, citing factors such as technological innovation that is reshaping the industry, and the spread of fake news that is challenging journalistic ethics.

He proposed establishing a high-level dialogue and cooperation mechanism of the four within

the framework of the World Media Summit (WMS).

"By engaging in such dialogues, we can inspire one another and promote mutual development," Fu said.

Reuters Head of Agency Sue Brooks said the content produced by the four reaches around 75 percent of the global population.

"Therefore, it is very important that the information we gather and the journalism that we produce tells the world the truth and is trusted by them," she said.

The executives agreed that international news agencies should work together and stay committed to providing users with objective, fair and accurate information.

"We view collaboration with fellow news agencies as paramount," said AP Vice President YK Chan.

"Collaboration allows us to tell important stories, keep our journalists safe and address more pressing

challenges facing our industry," he said.

The topics discussed at Friday's meeting ranged from coping with the emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and combating fake news, to improving ways to better protect journalists covering wars and natural disasters.

Fu suggested mutual humanitarian assistance during news reporting in conflict zones, natural disasters and other dangerous areas, and proposed building on existing text and photo service cooperation to expand collaboration, particularly in video content commercial distribution.

On meeting the challenges brought by technological advancement, media leaders concurred that while the application of the technologies can aid in news collection and dissemination, it should not replace the media industry itself, nor should it compromise news ethics and authenticity.

Michael Mainville, member of the



AFP Executive Committee and AFP Asia-Pacific regional director, said while AI can help media outlets boost productivity, "we believe it is also very

important to discuss the principles of how we will use artificial intelligence." Fu suggested that the four global wire services deepen exchanges and

communication while conducting operational training in international media development trends, cutting-edge media technology applications, and combating fake news through information verification.

He said that in recent years, Xinhua, Reuters, the AP and AFP have proactively adapted, innovated, and utilized technological achievements, standing at the forefront of media transformation.

Friday's meeting took place before the fifth WMS to be held in the cities of Guangzhou and Kunming.

Themed "Boosting global confidence, promoting media development," the fifth WMS, which runs from Dec. 2 to 8, gathers over 450 participants from 101 countries and regions, including representatives of 197 mainstream media outlets, think tanks, government agencies, diplomatic missions to China, as well as UN agencies and international organizations.

Meeting

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kaakar meets with the President of Sri Lanka on the sidelines of the high-level segment of SOP 29 on Saturday.



Photo: Online

French scholar speaks at ISSI Roundtable on 'The Plight of Indian Minorities under Modi's India'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted renowned French scholar Christophe Jaffrelot, for a roundtable discussion on "The Plight of Indian Minorities under Modi's India." The event was attended by academics, practitioners, diplomats, students and representatives of the media.

Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director ISC, in his introductory remarks said that the BJP's attempt to unite all Hindu fragments together into a single Hindu party will fail as sub-castes galore had begun to create small parties of their



own in every state. Hindus alone had 1,600 jatis, with multiple caste-like divisions and holding them together for a long time was highly challenging.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood welcomed the distinguished participants and emphasized the significance of the subject. He underlined that contemporary India was drifting towards deeper

polarization, more religious intolerance, and increased violence. Rise in hate speech, mushrooming of vigilante groups, frequent mob lynchings, demolition of churches and mosques, schemes like 'Love Jihad' and 'Ghar Wapsi', and legislative measures like the National Register of Citizens and Citizens Amendment Act (CAA) were manifestations of the 'Hindutva' ideol-

ogy, which had a deep impact on the minorities, especially Muslims.

In his presentation, Professor Jaffrelot affirmed that it was necessary to mention vigilantism and hate speeches; and that there was a lot more to cover when Muslims' marginalization in today's India was contemplated. In this context, three facets — namely institutional representation, socio-economic condition, and educational status — of Indian Muslims were worth examining. Through thoroughly researched quantitative data, Prof. Jaffrelot pointed out as to how Muslims in India were facing a consistent decline in their condition since 1947.

COP-28

Living Indus Initiative showcases policy consistency on key issues of Pakistan: Dr Suleri

City Desk

ISLAMABAD/DUBAI: Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri on Saturday said the climate debate at the biggest environmental conference, COP-28, has gained momentum amid increased discussions on Loss and Damage Fund (L&D Fund), just energy transition and climate finance.

The SDPI Executive Director who is at present in Dubai, UAE to attend the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP-28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting being held annually.

Dr Suleri said the discussion at COP-28 are also critical important because of the first ever global stock take (GST) of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) pledged by the nation states under the Paris Agreement in 2015 which will be the evaluation of the progress on those goals.

"One thing is clear that the global targets to limit the world average temperatures to 1.5 degree Celsius have not been met so far through carbon emissions' reduction. It has been deeply realised here at this forum that it is mainly due to

the fossil fuel-based economy and human consumption patterns," the SDPI Executive Director said.

Dr Suleri noted that the decline in the fossil fuel consumption would help the world in reducing the rising global temperature uptick.

Commenting on the ongoing COP process, he said there are three terms used at the forum: "One is fossil fuel phase out, fossil fuel phase down, and just energy transition."

He said the energy transition is discussed by countries like Pakistan who have vowed to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels by phasing out coal, crude oil usage. However, these countries also argue that this transition could not be achieved overnight and has a cost and it will be financed by whom.

The developed countries, he said are against the energy transition whereas the petroleum producing countries are also against the fossil fuel phase out.

"In the previous COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, the government of Pakistan and the former Climate Minister, Senator Sherry Rehman had a great contribution in the creation of loss and damage fund. Although, the Fund got

active at the start of the COP-28 and got pledges but from our (Pakistan) perspective these pledges are very minuscule," he said.

"I personally believe that it will reach near one billion dollars and these are peanuts keeping in view the devastation in Pakistan post-2022 floods that alone incurred \$30 bln losses to the country and the one billion dollars pledges are very low for the entire world's developing countries marred by climate catastrophes," Dr Suleri said.

Despite that the SDPI Executive Director said the Fund has a historic significance as it is a long-standing demand of the developing countries for the past many decades. The fund not only was created but is going to be made operational under the supervision of the World Bank and after four years it will be reviewed to replace its position.

"The developed countries demanded the fund to be placed under the World Bank whereas the least developed countries believed that the fund would become like IFI (international financial institution) and demanded the UNFCCC to devise a separate mechanism for the Fund.

Pakistan took the middle situa-



tion here, advocating, to first place the Fund under World Bank for some time and then should be made independent after becoming operational after some time and many other countries supported Pakistan on this as this mechanism has been adopted," he said.

Other than the Loss and Damage Fund, he said the Global Climate Fund (GCF) is also receiving pledges as the US has pledged \$2 billion, adding, "But the 2020 target of \$100 billion gap is still not met and countries like Pakistan are pushing the larger emitters to fully contribute in L&D Fund and GCF who have historic role in increasing global

carbon emissions.

Apart from this there were Adaptation Plan negotiation stream was also under the global discussions whose contact group meeting has started. "In adaptation you learn to live with climate change, conform policy measures and life style according to it and mitigation is to make measures to reduce losses due to climate change-induced disasters."

The negotiations, he said will look into the commitments made by the countries in their adaptation plans during the discussion. "The mitigation is a costly business as it is similar to compensate the Bus crash incidents victims which

could have been avoided by spending lesser amount on the repair and maintenance of that connectivity route," he added.

Adaptation, he said is a pre-incident compensation and mitigation is post-disaster compensation which is more visible and the rich countries are focusing more on mitigation funds whereas Pakistan demands to take both adaptation and mitigation simultaneously.

The third important thing, he said is renewable energy transition. "The G20 countries in its meeting in New Delhi few months back discussed to increase renewable energy share by three times which is being debated here at COP28 to how to increase the renewable energy resources and its share in the energy mix."

These are the three main pillars of COP-28 negotiations and historically COP decision making process goes beyond 12 days whereas nine more days are left and it may extend beyond that, he added.

Commenting on the activities held at the Pakistan Pavillion, Dr Abid Suleri said a panel discussion on Living Indus Initiative was held participated by the Caretaker Prime Minister and WWF-International President, Dr Adil Najum

spoke extremely well on it.

He added that Recharge Pakistan project also discussed, whereas a dashboard was inaugurated by the Prime Minister to provide forecast at division and district level in Pakistan indicating climate data on rising temperature and precipitation hotspots by 2048-2050 developed by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

Dr Suleri said, "Although L&D Fund initiated which is good but its volume is not 10% of the total losses of Pakistan alone and under these commitments that are very low, "we will have to scale it up further." For renewable energy, he said it is the future of the country and it would have to switch over renewable energy as it would significantly impact the import bill of the country and also enhance its renewable energy share.

Living Indus Initiative, he said is a great initiative that has been taken by three successive political governments of PTI, PDM and the caretaker government. "The Caretaker Prime Minister also participated in the panel discussion and expressed his views. This is the policy consistency required on the important issues of the country," he added.

Pakistani student feels charm of AI diagnosis, TCM integration

Xinhua

NANCHANG: It is the seventh year that 27-year-old Fahad Kabeer studying traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) at Jiangxi University of Chinese Medicine, the only university in east China's Jiangxi Province that provides TCM education for international students.

He was very excited to experience how modern technology helps traditional medicine become more "intelligent" during an exhibition in 2023 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Traditional Medicine which

opened on Thursday in Jiangxi, and that has greatly changed his former impression on TCM.

Putting his face into the device and showing his tongue, an "artificial intelligence (AI) doctor" shaped like a capsule can proceed data analysis through his face and tongue images.

"This is just like to 'observe' in the traditional Chinese medicine," Kabeer said. "My pulse statistics can also be automatically collected through the pulse detector, with the support of massive big data uploaded, the 'AI doctor' can help for better diagnosis and treatment."

After the prescription is issued, it only takes 20 seconds for the smart devices to dispense medicines, and the auto-decoction machine would help the patients in decocting the herbal medicines in an efficient and scientific manner, ensuring a better curative effect.

As the saying goes, good medicine depends on good materials. But how can such an "unmanned" system ensure the quality of medicinal materials? Zeng Ji from the Digital TCM Industry Innovation Exhibition Center at TCM Sci-Tech Innovation City in Ganjiang New

Area, explained that the source of authentic medicinal materials can be traced through the digital management platform.

"The medicinal materials prescribed by doctors can be seen in real time through the screen, and the monitored statistics of the soil, water source, and atmospheric environment where the herbs growing can be clearly indicated, so that the quality and security of medicinal materials can be strictly controlled," Zeng said.

"With the help of modern technology, traditional medicine will become more 'intelligent' While experiencing an efficient and



convenient medical treatment, the tracing system will guarantee

the security of medicinal materials," said Kabeer.

Over the years, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has provided an important platform, which continuously promotes TCM to the world.

Rahman Shah, deputy secretary of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination in Pakistan, noted that China and Pakistan had broad prospects for cooperation in the field of traditional medicine.

The official believes that China is heading in the field of traditional medicine education, and more and more Pakistani students will come to China to learn TCM in the future.

Cement sales decline by 2.12% in November

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA) on Monday said that the collective consumption of cement across Pakistan stood at 3.924 million tons, registering a decline of 2.12 percent in November 2023, ARY News reported.

As per the data released by APCMA, local cement sales by the industry during the month of November were 3.262 million tons compared to 3.862 million tons in November 2022, registering a decline of 15.53 percent.

During November last year, total cement sales stood at 4.009 million tons.

Whereas in November 2023, the cement exports were 662,374 tons with a staggering increase of 348.29 percent. In November 2022, 147,757 tons of cement was exported.

Earlier, the country recorded a rise in cement sales by 57.44% in July 2023 to 3.212 million tons from 2.040 million tons a year ago.

The 57.4% increase in cement sales signaled the commencement of construction activities in the country.

According to the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), they recorded 3.212 million tons in cement sales in July 2023 besides a significant rise in cement exports by 183.91% to 435,854 tons from 153,517 tons a year ago.

The North-based cement factories sold 2.473 million tons in the first month of the current fiscal year which was 46.54% more than the previous year's 1.688 million tons.

Pakistan's trade deficit shrinks by 33.59pc in five months



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's merchandise trade deficit stood at \$9.38 billion, shrinking 33.59 percent during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023-24 on account of a significant reduction in imports. The country's trade balance, gap between exports and imports, was recorded at a deficit of \$9.38 billion in July to November period of the year 2023-24 as compared to \$14.28 billion in the same period of the previous year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

During the period under review, imports witnessed a massive decrease while exports saw a marginal increase, which reduced the trade deficit.

The exports increased by 1.93 per cent to \$12.172 billion compared to the exports of \$11.942 billion during the corresponding period of last year, stated the PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports narrowed by 17.32 percent and were recorded at \$21.550 billion compared to \$26.064 billion last year.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 7.66 per cent in November compared to the exports of the same month of last year. The exports during the month were recorded at \$2.572 billion as against the exports of \$2.389 billion in November 2022.

Transporters found to be charging excessive fare in Attock district: DART

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Secretary DART Attock Zaheer Ahmad Khan has said that strict disciplinary action is being taken against the transporters who charge excessive fare under the orders of Chairman Regional Transport Authority and Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza. Secretary RTA Zaheer Ahmed Khan while releasing the data of November 2023 said that 220 vehicles were checked for excessive fare. Out of which 75 vehicles were found to be charging excess rent in Attock district. 28 vehicles were closed for three days. And Rs 90000 was charged as fine for charging excess rent. Moreover, VICS Center Tan Mela Attock inspected 665 vehicles for fitness certificates during the month. Out of which fitness certificates were issued to 457 vehicles while remaining vehicles were given two weeks' time to remove the defects. Heavy vehicles were checked during November 1960 with reference to axle load management. Out of which vehicles with excess weight load were fined Rs.243,000 to the government account. The public appreciated the work done by the staff of Secretary RTA and hoped that the transporters who work against the law will be dealt with strictly.

PMEX holds InvestExpo 2023

SECP is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent marketplace: Chairman SECP

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) organised Invest Expo, featuring exhibitions by leading entities in the financial sector, including stock brokers, commodities brokers, mutual funds, insurance, and microfinance companies. The first-ever expo in Islamabad is a significant move towards the goal of encouraging safe investment alternatives and raising financial knowledge.

The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Mr. Akif Saeed, inaugurated InvestExpo 2023. In his inaugural speech, Akif emphasized the importance of ensuring investor protection, stating that the SECP is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent marketplace through regulatory safeguards to instill confidence in investors.

He said that the SECP investor education program, Jamapunji, aims to improve financial



literacy by providing individuals with the necessary knowledge to make informed financial decisions. The expo is part of efforts to empower

individuals with knowledge on diverse investment avenues, fostering financial literacy across Pakistan.

The event highlighted the variety of safe investment opportunities and provided a platform for dialogue and idea exchange to enhance the nation's financial landscape. Beside the expo, the event also inculcates insightful awareness sessions by market experts, focusing on investing in stocks, commodities, and mutual funds. Speakers shed light on the intricacies of insurance, takaful, and microfinance. The expo attracted a diverse audience, highlighting the growing significance of financial literacy in the country.

Strategic partners, including the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Central Depository Company (CDC), National Clearing Company (NCCPL), Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA), Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP), Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN), and the Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP), played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of InvestExpo 2023.

Algeria is keen to promote trade and economic ties with Pakistan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria said that his country wants to develop strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas. He said that Pakistan is one of the first countries to recognize Algeria and it is time that both countries should focus on improving business relations to achieve better results for their respective economies. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

The envoy said that Algeria occupies important geographic location with abundant natural resources including mines like iron, lithium, uranium etc. and Pakistani investors should explore investment opportunities in his countries to export their products to huge African market. He said that a delegation of Algeria would also visit Pakistan to attend exhibitions in Lahore and Karachi. He said that ICCI should also plan a delegation for Algeria to explore business opportunities.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Cham-



ber of Commerce & Industry said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Algeria is quite low and both countries should make efforts to take it to at least US\$ 1 billion. He identified cotton, textiles, construction material, chemicals, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, aluminium, plastic goods, electric & electronic items, food products and others as potential areas of trade cooperation between Pakistan and Algeria. He

said that Pakistan is producing many quality products and Algeria should focus on their import from Pakistan. He assured that ICCI is ready to work with the Algerian Embassy for enhancing connectivity between the private sectors to improve trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Algeria.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Algeria have

FCCI elections

All chambers, trade bodies announce full support for BMP: Presidential Candidate

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A large number of Chambers of various cities, trade groups and industrial associations from across the country have so far announced their support for the Businessmen Panel (BMP) for the upcoming FPCCI elections 2024.

The presidential candidate of Businessmen Panel for FPCCI elections Muhammad Ali Sheikh observed that the leadership has visited various cities of all provinces across the country and winning their full support for all candidates of the Businessmen Panel.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh expressed his full confidence of his group's victory, as they have received overwhelming



support from all chambers and other Trade Bodies from across the country.

The BMP chairman and ex-president of FPCCI Mian Anjum Nisar said the Businessmen Panel has nominated Ali Sheikh to contest presidential slot because he is a well-experienced business leader, rendering excellent services for the promotion of trade and industries on various business platforms, including GCCI as its senior vice president, which is one of the major chambers of the country.

Business

FAISALABAD: A vendor is selling traditional food item Biryani on his vehicle at Katchery bazaar in the city.



Photo: Online

From X to ex: Walmart not advertising on Elon Musk's Twitter

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Walmart said on Friday it is not advertising on social media platform X, one of the latest brands to say it has dropped the Elon Musk-owned site.

"We aren't advertising on X as we've found other platforms to better reach our customers," a Walmart spokesman said.

X, formerly known as Twitter, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The platform has struggled to retain advertisers since Musk acquired the company in October 2022, and faced a fresh exodus in recent weeks over rising concern about antisemitic



content. Earlier this month, Musk agreed with an X user who falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people, saying the user was speaking "the actual truth."

The user had also referenced the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory, which purports that Jewish people and leftists are engineering the ethnic and cultural replacement of white populations with non-white immigrants that will lead to a "white genocide."

Commerce minister visits KSA to finalize 'Investment-Related part of GCC FTA'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Pakistan's Commerce and Industries Minister, led an official delegation in Saudi Arabia comprising Secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce and Board of Investment (BOI) and officials from the Attorney General's Office.

He held parleys with the GCC's Chief Negotiator to finalize the investment-related part of the GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The technical teams from the two sides held extensive discussions on the remaining details of the investment chapter,



including investment protection and facilitation.

They also discussed the potential impact of the FTA

on bilateral trade and investment flows. "This is a major step forward in our efforts to strengthen economic ties

between Pakistan and the GCC," said Ejaz.

The investment chapter is an important part of the agreement, and we are confident that we can reach an agreement soon.

The GCC FTA is expected to boost trade and investment between Pakistan and the GCC.

The agreement is also expected to create new jobs and opportunities for businesses in both regions.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of holding a joint business forum shortly and to promote trade and investment between Pakistan and the GCC.

Mr. Gohar Ejaz thanked the GCC for its warm hospitality.

LESCO rewards well-performing employees

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider has rewarded the company's employees who performed exceptionally well during the anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman said here Thursday that the CEO presented Rs 50,000 cash reward each to two officials, Meter Reader Kashif Hameed Butt of Shahdara Sub-Division and Lineman Grade-II Masoodur Rehman of Muridke Sub-Division, for showing best performance. LESCO Director (Customer Services) Rai Muhammad Asghar, Director (Admin)

Zameer Hussain Kalachi, Director (Safety) Fawad Khalid, Deputy Manager (Admin) Salman Haider, X-En Ravi Road and X-En Muridke were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that hard-working and honest officers and officials are the asset of LESCO, and the organization also values such officials. He added that the purpose of giving cash reward to the two officials is to appreciate their services so that other officials would also serve the institution and the nation like them. It may be noted that Meter Reader Kashif Hameed Butt, was seriously injured in the attack of electricity thieves.

Controversial appointment in PCB Selection Committee revoked on PM's notice

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A controversial appointment in Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Selection Committee was immediately rescinded upon the direction of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who is the Patron-in-Chief of PCB. The prime minister has taken a serious notice over the appointment of Salman Butt, a controversial former cricket player, PM Office Media



Wing said in a press release on Saturday.

The caretaker prime minister observed that there was no dearth of talent in Pakistan. And in cricket which was the most popular and favorite game of Pakistanis, the selection committee should be free from any controversy.

He directed for inclusion of non-controversial and well reputed selectors as members in the PCB Selection Committee.

EduCare Academy lift first Students Girls Kho Kho Championship title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Educare Academy Clinched first Students Girls Kho Kho Championship at Al Noor Girls College FB area.

The tournament is being organized by Govt. Degree Girls College Al Noor in Collaboration with Sindh Kho Kho Association at Al Noor Girls College FB area.

Organizing Secretary DPE Batool Kazim said that seven educational institutions participated in the tournament, including Govt Girls Degree College Alnoor, Apwa Govt Girls College, Govt Girls Degree College Block M, Govt Girls Degree Block K, H I Osmania Girls College, The EduCare Academy and Al Mustafa Academy are included. Batool Kazim said that I am deeply grateful to the Sindh Kho Kho Association for the incredible support and guidance provided by the college principals, teachers and students of the college. Your efforts in promoting the game of Kho Kho, organizing tournaments, providing training opportunities are truly remarkable and you have also preserved the cultural heritage associated with this beautiful game.

Madam Asma Ali Shah attended as Chief Guest and showed great enthusiasm regarding the tournament. He said that I am surprised as well as very happy to see the skill of girls in such a fast game



at school and college level.

I think that if basic facilities are provided to this game, we can make Pakistan famous at the international level as well.

Principal Dr. Rizwana Siddiqui presented the shield on behalf of the college and thanked Madam Asma Ali Shah for her presence. He also thanked Sindh Kho Kho Association for organizing such a beautiful tournament.

On this occasion, founder of Pakistan Kho Kho Federation Noushad Ahmed, President of Sindh Kho Kho Association Dr. Muhammad Arif Hafeez, Chairman Arif Waheed, Sohail Ahmed Bhut-

to Assistant Director Gulberg SSWMB, Senior Journalist Shakil Yameen Kanga, Shahroz Alvi Secretary Karachi Kho Kho Association, Wasim Majid, National Athlete Jonty, Prof. Sadia Kazmi, Prof. Sheeba, Prof. Ayesha, Prof. Sana Nasir, Prof. Zobia Basit, Miss Hasan Fatima, Madam Amber Butt, Madam Eram Khan, Sir Aneeq and others were also present. On this occasion, an exhibition match was also played between the teachers which the teachers enjoyed a lot and relived their childhood memories.

In the semi-final matches, Educare Academy defeated Al Noor College by

7-6 after an interesting match, while Al Mustafa Academy defeated Block M College by 11-7. However, in the match played for the third position, Al-noor College won by defeating Block M.

In the end, the chief guest Mrs. Asma Ali Shah along with principal Dr. Rizwana Siddiqui, Dr. Arif Hafeez, Batool Kazim and Arif Waheed distributed prizes among the players.

Sarosh Gulbaz Khan of EduCare Academy, Sadia Younis of Al Mustafa Academy and Maliha Khan of Al Noor College were declared the best players of the tournament.

Pak-NZ women T20I series commences on Sunday

Sports Desk

DUNEDIN: Pakistan women's team are all set to take on New Zealand in their own backyard when both sides meet in the first of the three T20I match series at the University of Otago Oval in Dunedin on Sunday afternoon.

The second T20I will also be staged at the same venue on Tuesday, while the third T20I will be played at the Sir John Davies Oval in Queenstown on Saturday, Dec 9. All three T20Is will start at 1300 local time.

At the conclusion of T20I series on the tour, both sides are scheduled to play three ODIs - part of the ICC Women's Championship. These matches will take place from Dec 12-18 in Queenstown and Christchurch.

Since arriving in New Zealand on Nov 25, Pakistan women's team had a couple of training sessions and practice games in Christchurch before traveling to Dunedin on Friday afternoon. The team also had a three-hour training session on Saturday under the supervision of coaching staff at the University of Otago Oval in Dunedin.

New Zealand, at present, maintain a 100 per cent winning record against Pakistan women in eight head-to-head outings.

Pakistan left-arm spinners Nashra Sundhu and Sadia Iqbal are posi-



tioned at the fifth and seventh spots, respectively, in the ICC Women's T20I rankings and are looking forward to performing well for the team in the upcoming series.

Nashra is one match shy of completing 50 T20I appearances for Pakistan. In the all-rounder category, captain Nida Dar is placed on the fifth position in the ICC T20I rankings.

Talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the start of the T20I series, Nida Dar said, "New Zealand are known for their cricketing excellence, and we respect that. However, we are here to compete,

and I have faith in the players who can do good for the team in the series.

"We see the forthcoming T20I series as an opportunity for our players to perform against one of the most formidable sides in the world. In the recent past, a lot of young players have been given opportunities, with five players making their debut this year and being a part of the touring squad.

"We are looking ahead to next year's T20 World Cup, and with a minimum of nine T20Is to be played before the mega event, the series against New Zealand provides us with a chance to

work on the combination of the team for next year's event.

"The series against New Zealand also allows us to assess our strengths and areas of improvement. It's a valuable experience, and I am sure the players have now got a good idea of the conditions here after playing practice matches and also undergoing training sessions."

Pakistan squad: Nida Dar (captain), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali (wk), Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaidha Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Series schedule:

3 Dec - 1st T20I, Dunedin (1pm local time)
5 Dec - 2nd T20I, Dunedin (1pm local time)
9 Dec - 3rd T20I, Queenstown (1pm local time)
12 Dec - 1st ODI, Queenstown (11am local time) (ICC Women's Championship)
15 Dec - 2nd ODI, Christchurch (2pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)
18 Dec - 3rd ODI, Christchurch (2pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

Fletcher's blitz powers Deccan Gladiators to a dominant win over Team Abu Dhabi

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Andre Fletcher played a blistering 41-run knock to power Deccan Gladiators to a dominant 63-run victory over bottom-ranked Team Abu Dhabi in the 12th Abu Dhabi T10 League match at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Team Abu Dhabi invited Gladiators to bat first, who raced to 35 runs in the fourth over courtesy of Nicholas Pooran's 17-ball 30.

However, Rumman Raees halted their progress with back-to-back wickets of Nicholas Pooran and Andre Russell.

Tom Kohler-Cadmore was then joined by Fletcher and together they added 79 runs from 24 balls.

The partnership ended with Noor Ahmed removing Fletcher at a total of 114 in the eighth over after the batter had scored 41 runs from 12 balls laced with five sixes and one boundary.



Cadmore was then dismissed in the next over by Tymal Mills after scoring 35 off 17 with the help of two boundaries

and as many sixes.

David Wiese then played a 15-run cameo off 6 balls including two sixes in

the last over to push Gladiators total to a mammoth 141-6 in ten overs.

Raees and Mills picked two wickets each, while Noor Ahmed and Roelof van der Merwe picked one each.

In response, Team Abu Dhabi lost their first three wickets with only 16 runs on the board in the fifth over.

Leus du Plooy and Colin Ingram (19) then knitted a partnership of 41 runs from 20 balls before the latter was dismissed by Nuwan Thushara.

Plooy scored 25 off 18 with the help of three boundaries before getting out in the final over.

Team Abu Dhabi ended up scoring only 78-5 in their ten overs, succumbing to a massive 63-run loss, extending their losing streak to four games.

Nuwan Thushara picked up two wickets and gave away only five runs, while Imad Wasim, Trent Boult and Zahoor Khan picked one wicket each.

PSL 9: Naseem Shah joins Islamabad United



Sports Desk

He came to Islamabad United in exchange for Abrar Ahmed and Muhammad Wasim Junior, while Abrar Ahmed and Muhammad Wasim Junior joined Quetta Gladiators.

In this regard, Naseem Shah also shared a picture of himself on Instagram, captioning it as: Destination, Islamabad.

Quetta also got Islamabad's first round platinum pick, while Islamabad got Quetta's third round platinum pick.

Multan Sultans appoints Drikus Saaiman as fielding and S&C coach

Sports Desk

MULTAN: Multan Sultans have appointed Drikus Saaiman as the fielding and strength and conditioning coach for the upcoming edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Saaiman, who was born in Bloemfontein, brings in heaps of experience to the franchise. He is currently working with the Pakistan men's team and has been part of the Pakistan women's and South Africa men's coaching staffs.

He was strength and conditioning and fielding coach with Nelson Mandela Bay Giants, an Mzansi Super League franchise, in 2018 and has had stints with South Africa's A and emerging sides.

Drikus Saaiman stated that "I am very excited to be joining Multan Sultans and looking forward to my time at what will be my first stint at an HBL PSL franchise.

"Multan Sultans boast some of the best T20 cricketers and a fantastic coaching staff. I am eager to join this dressing room, and play my role in helping this wonderful team through my experience. I am sure that being here will also help me further grow as a coach."

General Manager Hijab Zahid said that "Drikus Saaiman was a highly-reputable coach and it gives me great pleasure to welcome him on board. It is pertinent to provide your players with the best facilities if you expect them to win your competitions and this is another step in that direction. With this announcement, we have now completed a highly knowledgeable, skilled and respected coaching team that will definitely benefit our players across all rungs."

Multan Sultans coaching staff included Head coach - Abdul Rehman, Team Mentor/Spin bowling coach - Saqlain Mush-taq, Assistant and development coach - Muhammad Wasim, Fast bowling coach - Catherine Dalton, Assistant spin bowling coach - Alex Hartley and Strength and condition and fielding coach - Drikus Saaiman.



Gleeson, Powell help Delhi Bulls thump Bangla Tigers in Abu Dhabi T10 League

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Delhi Bulls' Richard Gleeson returned with figures of 3-4, followed by their skipper Rovman Powell's quick 37 guided their side to a seven-wicket victory over Bangla Tigers in the 13th Abu Dhabi T10 League match at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Bulls struck in the first over after opting to bowl, as Fazal-haq Farooqi bowled Chris Lynn on the third ball of the innings.

Naveen-ul-Haq castled Kusal Mendis in the next over, while Gleeson dismissed David Miller, Dasun Shanaka and Jordan Cox in one over to reduce the Tigers to 29-5.

Jordan Cox was the only notable contributor among the top five batters, scoring 19 runs off nine balls with the help of two boundaries and one six.

Daniel Sams then added 30 runs with Carlos Brathwaite for the seventh wicket before the latter was dismissed by Dwayne Bravo after scoring 21 off 17.

Sams scored an unbeaten 20 runs from 15 balls with the help of two sixes to drag his team's total to 81-7 in their 10 overs.

Other than Gleeson's three wickets, Fazal-haq Farooqi picked two wickets.

While chasing a small target of 82, the Bulls lost three wickets in three overs with 22 runs on the board.

However, Rilee Rossouw and Powell helped their side stabilize after early blows from the Tigers and chased the total in only six overs without losing any other wicket.

Rossouw scored 21 runs from 11 balls, featuring one boundary and one six, while Powell scored a blistering 37 off 11, laced with four sixes and two boundaries.

Josh Little picked two wickets for the losing side.

Italy script Spain's first loss since World Cup win

Sports Desk

PONTEVEDRA: Spain suffered their first defeat since August's World Cup triumph as Italy edged them 3-2 in the Women's Nations League A in Pontevedra on Friday.

Early second-half goals by Valentina Giacinti, Michela Cambi-aghini and Elena Linari helped Italy offset Group 4 topper Spain's 12th-minute goal through Athenea del Castillo.

Italy weathered a late Esther Gonzalez strike to end Spain's eight-match winning streak.

Spain coach Montse Tome had made six changes to the side that beat bottom side Switzerland 7-1 in October to ensure a Nations League semi-final berth.

Nations League finalists also qualify for next year's summer Olympics in Paris.

Italy have equalled second-placed Sweden at seven points from five games in a race to avoid a relegation play-off.

Sweden will visit Spain on Dec. 5 while Italy will host already-relegated Switzerland in their last group fixtures.

52nd Union Day of UAE

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, holds a reception to celebrate the 52nd Union Day in the presence of members of the Embassy and representative offices, Emirati citizens studying in Pakistani universities, and representatives of UAE companies.



Photo: X

Pakistan, Maldives agree to advance cooperation in combating climate change

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar and President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on Saturday agreed to advance mutual cooperation in combating climate change. The two leaders held a bilat-

eral meeting here on the sidelines of COP 28 and emphasized the need of progress on result-oriented outcomes in the domain of climate action and justice.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed sharing of expertise in the realm of plantation of mangroves and other

climate resistance floras.

The prime minister assured the President of Maldives of Pakistan's full support to the Government and people of Maldives.

PM Kakar felicitated Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on assumption of the office of the President of Maldives.

He also expressed his desire to promote peace and development in South Asia through enhanced regional cooperation.

The two leaders resolved to further strengthen Pakistan-Maldives bilateral relations and capitalize on the immense goodwill between the people of the two countries.

They agreed to enhance high-level dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation especially in economic, trade, cultural and tourism sectors.

The President of Maldives thanked the prime minister for conveying warm sentiments on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan.

Cipher case

Qureshi requests special court to summon President Alvi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As the cipher trial proceedings resumed at Adiala Jail on Saturday, former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi requested the special court to summon President Dr Arif Alvi to determine whether or not he had assented to the changes in the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Back in August, while President Alvi maintained he had not approved any changes to the Secrets Act and Pakistan Army Act, the Law Ministry censured his statement, asking him to take responsibility for his actions.

The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic cable which according to the charge-sheet of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was never returned by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, who had alleged it contained a threat from the United States to oust



him as the prime minister of Pakistan.

Both the former premier and former foreign minister were indicted in the case on Oct 23.

While their trial was ongoing at Adiala Jail in which they pleaded not guilty, the Islamabad High Court scrapped the entire proceedings, ruling that the very notification for the "jail trial" released by the government was "erroneous".

At the time, four witnesses had already testified, while

the fifth witness was being cross-examined.

Following the high court's decision, the special court has to begin a fresh trial now.

In this respect, Special Court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain earlier this week ruled that the trial would continue at Adiala Jail, but in an open court.

Nevertheless, even today (Saturday) media professionals were barred from entering the jail, when the hearing got underway. Only three report-

ers from news televisions were allowed inside the jail.

During the hearing, the counsels for both the PTI leaders, as well as their family members, appeared before the court.

Later, the attendance of the two PTI chief whips was marked, after which the judge adjourned the hearing till Dec 4 (Monday).

At the commencement of the proceedings, former foreign minister Qureshi inquired whether their trial was being conducted under the Official Secrets Act of 1923 or its amended version.

Stating that the jail administration had violated court orders, he emphasised, "We never had security risks. I used to travel alone in my car."

Describing the case as unfounded, the PTI leader reminded that President Arif Alvi had expressed his non-assent to the bills amending the

Secrets Act. Qureshi urged the court to summon the president, stating, "He should testify in court whether he has assented to these amendments or not."

Qureshi mentioned that well-known lawyers were prepared to advocate for the PTI chief. Responding to Qureshi, Judge Zulqarnain indicated that his objection had been addressed as "media and the public are present".

Highlighting that the trials of both PTI leaders couldn't be conducted separately due to the interconnected nature of the case, the judge recalled that Qureshi had not been presented due to security concerns.

Addressing Qureshi, the judge assured, "No section of the law amended by Arif Alvi will apply to you. Your trial will be conducted according to sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act. We will proceed with the proceedings based on merit."

At least 8 killed, scores injured as passenger bus fired upon in Chilas

CHILAS: At least eight people were killed and 16 injured after unidentified assailants opened fire on a passenger bus on Karakoram Highway in Chilas, police said on Saturday.

Following the attack, the driver of the bus lost control and collided with a truck which ignited fire and burnt the truck.

The bus was traveling from Ghizar district of Gilgit-Baltistan to Rawalpindi, the police added.

The deputy commissioner of Chilas said the injured and bodies were being shifted to a nearby hospital.

DC Ahmad said the bus bearing registration number BLN-4647 was owned by a private company.

He said the "cowards" indiscriminately fired on the bus. "There are a total of eight bodies, out of which five have been identified and the rest are under process," he added.

In response to PTI letter, Supreme Court says chief justice can't be pressured

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday made it clear that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa could neither be pressured nor would he show partiality – a day after receiving an application sent by the PTI.

"Everyone should have faith [in the fact] that Justice Faez Isa, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, understands his constitutional responsibilities, and he can neither be pressured nor will he show partiality," reads a press release issued by the secretary to the chief justice.

"And with the grace of Almighty Allah, he will continue performing his duties and adhering to the oath he took for his office," it added.

The remarks came as the Supreme

Court also expressed its surprise that the document sealed in an envelope was shared with media even before it was received by the office.

The press release began with sharing when and how the letter was



received. "At 12:25pm on December 1, the office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan received a seven-page application including 77 [other] attached pages [the document]". However, the document contain-

ing 84 pages in total – application, appendices and copies – did not mention the name and contact details of the lawyer who drafted it, says the press release.

According to the Supreme Court, the document is seemingly sent by a political party, although it has been represented well by lawyers. Some of them recently appeared before the apex court in important cases involving military court trials and elections.

Earlier, the imprisoned former PTI chairman in the letter had requested the chief justice to protect his party's fundamental rights and alleged that those backing him were being prosecuted and arrested in a blatant attempt to "engineer and skew the political landscape of the country".

President underlines need for special efforts to include PWDs in all walks of life

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the government organizations and civil society to make special efforts for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of life. "We need to create an enabling and friendly environment for PWDs by providing them inclusive education, healthcare facilities, employment based on their skills and abilities, and implementing job quotas," the president said in a message on the occasion of 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities', being observed on December 3.

The president said that they commemorated a day dedicated to honouring the inherent dignity and impactful contributions of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The United Nations' theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, "United in Action to Rescue and Achieve the SDGs For, With, and By Persons with Disabilities," advocated for dedicating ourselves to building an inclusive society," he added. On the day, they acknowledged the exceptional strength and unwavering resilience of persons with disabilities who had progressed in life despite their disability, he added. The president opined that almost 15% of the world's population suffered from some form of disability. "Unfortunately, 80% of its population lives in developing countries, including Pakistan, where the population of PWDs is estimated to be almost 12%, an alarming



figure. Pakistan remains committed to its mission to eliminate societal barriers that obstruct their journey to success. Our goal is to facilitate them to achieve their utmost potential through equitable access to opportunities in life," a press release of President Secretariat Press Wing quoted the president as saying.

Together, they aimed for progress, empowerment, and holistic support for persons with disabilities, he said adding "This entails providing education, training, rehabilitation, and access to information and communication technologies, meeting the demands of the contemporary world." Through these initiatives, the president said they strived to protect the sanctity of life for PWDs, cultivating a culture that values the inherent worth and capabilities of each individual.

No one should be deprived of the opportunities to live a fulfilling life, receive proper care, and pursue economic prosperity irrespective of any disability, he stressed. The president also called upon media to play its role in raising awareness about the rights and issues faced by PWDs and discouraging negative attitudes towards them.

Hamas rules out prisoner exchange with Israel until Gaza bombardment over



Reuters

GAZA: Deputy Hamas chief Saleh Al-Arouri has told the pan-Arab Al Jazeera TV that there will be no more prisoners exchanged with Israel until

the bombardment of Gaza is over, Reuters reports.

Arouri said the hostages still being held captive by Hamas were Israeli soldiers and civilian men who had previously served in the Israeli army.

Mushaal urges world to wake up to thwart Indian bid to replicate Gaza model in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick called upon the world powers and UN bodies to wake up of their sweet slumber to circumvent the Indian initiative of implementing the Gaza model in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a focused talk on "Analysis of Indian Kashmir Policy-Implications and Way Forward for Pakistan" organized by Naitonal Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) as a Guest of Honor, Mushaal stated that the fascist Indian government turned the scenic valley into a world largest tortured cell and garrison city especially after revocation of article 370 and 35-A of constitution on August 5, 2019.

Admiral (Retd) Muhammad Zakaullah NI(M) attended the focused talk as Chief Guest. Other Participants included Ms. Sabien Hussein Mullick (Focal Person to SAPM), Dr. Adam Saud (Dean H&SS BU), Mr. Syed Muhammad Ali (Security Analyst), and Amb (Retd) Nadeem Riyaz (President IRS).

Mushaal Mullick noted that the brutal occupation forces unleashed a wave of terrorism and barbarity to stifle the just dissenting voices in the



occupied valley, adding that supremacist Indian government fundamentally altered the geopolitical and social fabric of the region, which remained one of the most enduring and complex disputes in South Asia, causing a constant threat for regional stability and international peace.

Mushaal urged that the world powers, international community and UN bodies should take prompt notice of world worst human rights abuses in IIOJK and take practical measures to resolve the decades-old dispute as per the aspirations of Kashmiri people and the UN agreed formula.