



Tribute

Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJsCS & Services Chiefs pay glowing tribute to Sower Muhammad Hussain Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider on his 52nd Shaha-dat Anniversary today. Sower Muhammad Hussain's martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to defend the motherland.



Kenya, Pakistan have long-standing ties, envoy says

Jamhuri is the Swahili word for "republic" and the holiday officially marks the date when Kenya became an independent country on 12 December 1963, six months after gaining internal self-rule on 1 June 1963 (Madaraka Day) from the United Kingdom. Jamhuri Day has such historical significance, virtually every Kenyan celebrates the holiday to some extent. Celebrations include feasts, political speeches, parades, and dancing. In this

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Annual Conference

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the 7th Annual Conference of Association of Former Inspector Generals of Police titled "Navigating the Complexities of State Responses in the Criminal Justice System" on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Measures indispensable for developing PID on modern lines: Solangi



Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Saturday said that the Press Information Department (PID) was an important institution and measures were indispensable to develop it on modern lines to ensure fast dissemination of information. The minister who paid a detailed visit to PID in

Quetta was given a detailed briefing by Director PID Abdul Manan Babar regarding the performance and infrastructure of PID. The minister also visited various sections of the PID office and met the employees and inquired about their problems.

The caretaker federal minister also visited the Pakistan Information Center, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Information, in PID Quetta, where the in-charge PIC Arsalan Qureshi informed the minister about the trainings given to journalists on various topics during the last one year. The federal minister expressed his satisfaction on the performance of the institution. APP/ask-umr

NAB recovers Rs. 2.3 trillion, saves \$10 billion: Chairman



PPA

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Chairman Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed, stated that the bureau has recovered an impressive amount of Rs. 2.3 trillion and generated over US \$10 billion in savings for the national exchequer.

Speaking at an event on Saturday at NAB Headquarters in Islamabad, commemorating "International Anti-Corruption Day" with the theme "Documented Economy Curbs Corruption," he emphasized that combating corruption requires collective effort. NAB is dedicated to ensuring that every instance of corruption faces consequences.

Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed, emphasized that the eradication of corruption requires collective efforts from all stakeholders, as no single institution can accomplish this task alone. He reaffirmed NAB's commitment to ensuring that every instance of corruption faces consequences.

ment to ensuring that every instance of corruption faces consequences.

Prominent economist and Director General of NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan and Country Representative of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) Pakistan Jermy Milson, attended the event as guest speakers.

Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan, in his keynote speech, stated that it is the responsibility of every citizen to get registered in the taxation system so that they can get welfare benefits from the State.

He mentioned that individuals in the informal/unregistered economy often experience poverty due to a lack of access to banking incentives, including loans. He stressed that restructuring the tax system to provide incentives would be more advantageous than relying on punitive measures.

PM Kakar underlines need for attitudinal change to improve police force image

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday lauded the contributions and sacrifices of the police force for maintaining law and order in the country and stressed upon the need of change in attitude to improve upon the image of force. He was addressing the 7th annual conference of former Inspector Generals of Police (AFIGP) who had served the police force for decades. The annual event was organized by the Association of Former Inspectors General of Police (AFIGP).

The prime minister while expressing his deep appreciation for the police force for maintaining internal order, said that it was a sacrosanct duty and no society could afford chaos as anarchy was unacceptable.

PM Kakar underlines need for attitudinal change to improve police force image. He said the police force was the custodian to protect them from that anarchy and had been serving as the frontline force from sepoy to officer to protect the society. The caretaker prime minister referring to the functioning of the force, suggested that they required deep introspection as to how to further improve the situation and the image of force.

"Changes can come with change in attitude and not by mere changing the uniform," he opined. PM Kakar underlines need for attitudinal change to improve police force image. Appreciating the sacrifices of police force, the prime minister said that they owed a lot for this force and particularly referred to the sacrifices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan police besides other provinces.

Recollecting the sacrifice of Shaheed Commandant FC and IGP KP Safwat Ghayur, he said that he had hardly seen an iconic figure like Safwat in the country. "If he had been alive, he would have been my leader and

I would have been his follower," he added.

The caretaker prime minister also emphasized upon the need to understand the local challenges and discourse over the effective legal framework. He said about 90,000 people had been killed in the country in the fight against terrorism and highlighted the importance of effective legislation to counter the security issues.

The prime minister said that with a state of confusion, you ought to falter and fail and clarity in carrying out any business was important.

The prime minister also suggested strengthening of

institutional bondage within the police force and further increasing of welfare programmes for the police force. Earlier, former IGP Kaleem Imam said that the association was formed in 2015 with 250 members.

A total of 7800 personnel laid down their lives for the peace and security of the country. About 15 allied departments of the police force were serving the people.

Other speakers said that rapid changes of security posed a challenge for the police force. Terrorism was posing an existential threat which should be countered by utilizing the latest technological gadgets.

PTI Chairman urges ECP to issue PTI poll certificate sans any delay

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has called upon Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to publish PTI poll certificate without delay, as our legal and constitutional right.

PTI Chairman said: "Free and fair election in any constitutional democracy means participation of all political parties in the process and election Symbol of a political party signifies that process."

Barrister Gohar Khan stressed that PTI must not be discriminated against other parties. "This is our legal and constitutional right. I, therefore, call upon ECP to publish our Certificate without delay," he demanded.

Gaza death toll reached 17,700 with 48,780 wounded

Mentoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The death toll in Gaza has risen to at least 17,700 in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory, the health ministry says. Another 48,780 people have been wounded in Israeli attacks.

"The crimes and genocide against the people of Gaza are beyond any description ... Ending Palestinian existence with American and European support is inhuman," ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qudra said.

Two hospitals in central and southern Gaza received 133 bodies of people killed in Israeli bombings over the past 24 hours.

A general view of the destroyed buildings following Israeli attacks hit Jabalia Camp as residents and civil defense teams conduct search and rescue operations in the rubble of the buildings in Jabalia, Gaza.

The health ministry said 71 bodies were brought to the Al-Aqsa Hospital in the central city of Deir el-Balah. The hospital also received 160 wounded people.

Dozens of people were holding funeral prayers in the hospital's courtyard before taking the bodies for burial - a scene that has become routine over the past two months of war.



In the southern city of Khan Younis, Nasser Hospital received the bodies of 62 people, the ministry said. The hospital, which is one of the main medical facilities still operating in southern Gaza, also received 99 wounded people.

United States (US) vetoed a United Nations (UN) resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza, despite it being backed by the vast majority of Security Council members and many other nations.

Thirteen of the 15 Security Council members voted in favor of a draft resolution put forward by the United Arab Emirates with the co-sponsorship of 97 countries, including Pakistan, while Britain abstained.

Israel declared war on Hamas after the group's October 7 attacks that killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities, and saw around 240 hostages taken.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas and free 138 hostages still held after scores were freed during a short-lived truce.

Several Hamas commanders were killed in an air strike near the Indonesia Hospital, the Israeli military said early Wednesday on X.

Sources in Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian group, told AFP their fighters were battling Israeli troops in a bid to prevent them from breaking into Khan Younis and surrounding areas.

Minister assures journalists to arrest killers of Jan Muhammad Mahar

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: The Caretaker Sindh Minister for Information, Minority Affairs and Social Protection Muhammad Ahmad Shah on Saturday said the murder of journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar in Sukkur has caused anger and worry among the media community. Talking to the journalists at Hyderabad Press Club, Shah said the law enforcement agencies were trying to arrest the main culprit while the government had also announced head money.

He expressed hope that the culprits involved in Mahar's killing would be brought to the book. Shah apprised that he had requested all provincial ministers to brief the journalists about the performance of their respective ministries during the interim set-up. He said the government was continuing the development schemes which were related to the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people.

Pakistan expresses disappointment over UNSC's failure to call for a ceasefire in Gaza

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Saturday said that Pakistan was deeply disappointed that the UN Security Council once again failed to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, even in the face of a human tragedy of epic proportions taking place there. Despite the invocation of Article-99 of the UN Charter by the Secretary-General and his warnings of humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, the Council has failed to perform its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The collective punishment endured by the besieged people of Gaza is unprecedented and unacceptable," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

CM Mohsin Naqvi Decides To Contact PM to Ensure Availability of Urea

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has decided to contact Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to ensure availability of urea fertiliser in Punjab. CM Mohsin Naqvi presided over a special meeting in which matters relating to wheat cultivation and availability of urea were reviewed. It was informed during the meeting that wheat cultivation per maund target can be affected due to urea shortage. CM in a special meeting directed the Commissioners on the app to ensure transportation of urea in the relevant districts. It was decided to take up all the administrative steps so as to ensure availability of urea fertiliser.

Scholarships & Awards Ceremony

Development of merged districts top priorities of provincial Govt: CM KP

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The 20th Annual Scholarships & Awards distribution Ceremony organized by Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) was held at IM Sciences University Hayatabad in Peshawar on Saturday.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Retired Sayed Arshad Hussain Shah was the special guest.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education KP Mutasim Billah, tribal elders, Ullamas, students, social personalities and officers from various departments participated in large numbers.

Addressing the event, "WAWA" President Rehmat Ullah Wazir gave explained in detail on the aims and objectives of Wana Welfare Association and the measures taken by the organization for the promotion of education in Wana South Waziristan Lower and the welfare of orphans and deserving

students there.

He demanded the provincial government to ensure the functioning of dysfunctional educational institutions in Lower South Waziristan, and attendance of absent teachers.

He said, Promote agriculture sectors along with bringing transparency in development projects, and demanded to take effective measures for the construction of small dams in Wana.

Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education KP Mutasim Billah said while addressing the ceremony that the provincial government is taking steps to promote education in the whole province and especially in the merged districts, to ensure the functioning of dysfunctional schools and the attendance of teachers.

He said, while it is working on priority basis to admit children outside the schools.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry also addressed the event.

He said that the efforts made by "WAWA" for the promotion of quality

education in Lower South Waziristan are commendable.

He further said that the provincial government is using all resources for the promotion of education in the merged districts and especially in Waziristan.

He also said that he will visit Wana soon and there will review the development projects and the steps taken for the promotion of education.

At the end, in his speech at the ceremony, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice Retired Sayed Arshad Hussain Shah announced Rs. 50 lakh for "WAWA" and said that he himself will go to Lower Waziristan to review the deprivations of the people there and remedy them.

He said that the development of the merged districts is one of the top priorities of the provincial government.

The Chief Minister appreciated the initiatives taken by WAWA for the promotion of education, that the provincial government will also support them in this good work.

Justice retired Sayed Arshad Hussain Shah said that measures will also be



taken to build small dams in Wana to save the continuously falling water level and promote the agriculture sector.

At the end of the ceremony, the caretaker Chief Minister and other guests distributed prizes and honors to the

talented students along with "Shamla War (turban) of the year" and other personalities.

Awareness walk

MUZZAFERABAD: Workers of Anti Corruption Department hold awareness walk regarding the World Day against Corruption, in the Capital of AJK.



Photo: Online

Nishtar Medical University to conduct awareness seminar on ending violence against women

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: An awareness seminar was organized yesterday at Nishtar Medical University under the auspices of Nishtar College of Nursing regarding the elimination of violence against women, with the aim of preventing psychological, physical and emotional violence against women. The chief guest of the seminar was Pro Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, while Principal College of Nursing Madam Rukhsana Parveen was the host. In the seminar, Registrar Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dean of Basic Sciences Professor Dr. Muhammad Abbas



Naqvi.

A large number of senior faculty members, nursing staff and doctors of Nishtar Medical University including

Prof. Dr. Azam Khan, Prof. Dr. Zahra Nazish, Prof. Dr. Ahmar Hussain, Dr. Hajra Min Saud and Dr. Khalid Chishty participated. Prof. Dr. Mehnaz

Khakwani, Dean of Basic Sciences Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abbas Naqvi, Principal College of Nursing Madam Rukhsana Parveen, Prof. Dr. Zahra Nazish spoke in the seminar and highlighted various aspects regarding violence against women. In the seminar, nursing students also presented different types of sketches which were highly appreciated by the participants. Pro Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani said on this occasion Every year thousands of women are killed Due to Domestic violence and every year thousands of women who are victims of domestic violence are divorced She Siad that men and women are important components of society.

Sindh institutions discuss ways of protecting small farmers from disaster

Qayoom Sarohi

TANDOJAM: Experts from national and international organizations have emphasized planning to protect small farmers from economic distress through insurance and small loans, due to floods, cyclones, famine, drought, and diseases in crops and animals, while Government, academia, private sector, and the social sector should work together for the rehabilitation and support of small farmers affected from possible risks in future. A meeting was held in connection with the discussion on the basic issues and problems of providing small and easy loans to farmers and insurance of crops and animals, which was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Dr. Fateh Marri at University Senate Hall. Mr. Michael J. McCord, Principal



Managing Director of Micro Insurance Center Milliman USA, Syed Sajjad Ali Shah, Managing Director of SAFCO, and heads of various departments were also present on this occasion. Addressing the occasion, Vc Dr. Fateh Marri said that small farmers and cattle owners in Sindh do not get advanced

information regarding climate changes during floods, cyclones, and disasters, due to which they are unable to save their crops and animals.

Michael J. McCord, principal managing director of the Micro Insurance Center Milliman USA said during a presentation on "Climate Resilient

Products and Services" in the Agriculture and Livestock sector that we are working with the province's academia, social, and private sectors to insure small farmers and their livestock in Sindh, in this context the purpose of consultation with the experts of Sindh Agriculture University is to collect the details of the losses during the calamities and exchange with research and academic experts.

Syed Sajjad Ali Shah, Managing Director of SAFCO said that through the resources and experts of the SAU and with the support of SAFCO, the objectives of supporting and rehabilitating local farmers will be achieved, which will play an important role in advancing climate resilience solutions in Sindh.

On the occasion, Dean Dr. Altaf Siyal said that apart from natural disas-

Pakistan People's Party chief says welcome Bilawal's move to bring new faces in PPP

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Ishrat Hasan, the leader of Pakistan People's Party Hyderabad has said that we welcome Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement about bringing new faces in PPP. With new people getting a chance in politics, the party will become stronger. People's Party leader Ishrat hasan said that there is no danger to People's Party by forming new alliances in Sindh, political competition is the gold of democracy, anti-PPP alliances have been forming before but they have been defeated. He said that People's Party is always in power with public power, people like PPP because people party is the only public party. PPP leader Ishrat Hasan said that some people want to keep power on a plate, this tradition has harmed the country, democratic process is in the interest of Pakistan. He further said that those who are looking for short cuts will have to come to the election ground, the decision has to be taken by the people, the PPP respects all the institutions including the judiciary and the army.

Thousands of students participated in the book fair exhibition

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A book fair held at Women's University Multan, according to the spokesperson of Women's University Multan, Ms. Anum Zahra Said a one-day book fair held at Women's University Multan, where thousands of books were exhibited on various topics, in which Oxford University Press, National Book Foundation and Beacon About 8000 books on various topics from well-known publishers including the books of The Book Fair was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Pracha and Registrar Prof. Dr. Maimona Khan. A large number of students, book lovers and faculty members showed interest in purchasing the books. Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha said that this is a very healthy event and such events should continue to be held.



Ghora Chowk Flyover Project in the Brink of Completion

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Ghora Chowk Flyover Project in Lahore is on the brink of successful completion, with 95% of the project work already accomplished. This significant milestone includes the completion of NJ barriers and drains on both slopes of the flyover. The project was initiated by Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab).

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, the project has been meticulously executed to ensure high quality. Chief Minister Punjab is actively overseeing the project to ensure it aligns with technical specifications and timely completion. The flyover is poised to open for traffic soon, marking a significant step forward in enhancing transportation infrastructure in Lahore.

Imran Amin, CEO of CBD Punjab, emphasized the commitment to quality standards during the project's development. While expressing his view he said "Ghora Chowk Flyover Project stands as a testament to our commitment to unwavering quality standards. As per the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, we've meticulously orchestrated every detail to ensure not just completion but a standard that exceeds expectations. This milestone marks a significant leap forward in elevating Lahore's infrastructure,

CS KP ordered HED to ban all appointments & selection boards in (GUD) Gomal varsity Dera

ADAM KHAN WAZIR

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Higher Education Department Peshawar has banned all types of appointment and selection board in (GUD) Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan.

In this regard, the Section Officer (U-IV) issued a formal declaration No. SO (U-V)HE/19-13/BKUC/SB/2021 issued.

According to which, the instructions of the Chief Secretary Nadeem Salam Choudry Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in those universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where the post of permanent vice chancellor has been advertised.

There should be no selection board of any kind and no appointment for any post in these universities.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:32 am
Zohr	12:00 pm
Asr	3:22 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
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
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

AIOU encourages budding entrepreneurs with research-based projects exhibition

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood, to foster innovative business ideas, the Department of Chemistry recently hosted an exhibition showcasing research-based projects and models/posters developed by BS Chemistry students.

The event, which saw participation from 71 students and 30 projects, aimed to provide academic support and encourage aspiring entrepreneurs, a public relations officer said on Sunday.

Dr Uzma Yunus, Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry, emphasized AIOU's commitment to empowering the younger generation through entrepreneurship, enabling them to contribute to their families and the nation's socio-economic development. She further highlighted that the exhibition forms part of the university's ongoing Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Dr Yunus expressed her gratitude to Prof. Dr Irshad Ahmed Arshad,

International Human Rights

Devastation in Gaza is a reality underreported: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that the ideologies espoused by fascists Modi and Netanyahu pose a significant threat to global peace. She asserted that freedom from Indian occupation is the rightful destiny of Jammu and Kashmir. She was addressing the International Human Rights Day Conference 2023 organized by the International Human Rights Observer.

Mushaal said that the dignity of the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was being compromised on daily basis through excessive use of force, arbitrary and unlawful detentions, political persecution, restrictions on movement, enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings and use of rape as a weapon.

Speaking about her husband and the Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader, Mohammad Yasin Malik, Mushaal lamented that



Yasin, recognized globally as the Gandhi of Kashmir for his non-violent pursuit of freedom, endured the most heinous torture in Indian jails, resulting in the loss of sight in one eye and partial paralysis of his body. Mushaal said that she and her infant daughter were physically and mentally tortured while they were on a visit to IIOJK. She expressed deep concern, questioning the feasibility of an amicable resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir issue when the peaceful political leadership of the region is unjustly imprisoned.



Mushaal underscored that through information and communication blockade in IIOJK, India is actively manipulating the demographic landscape. This move is designed to obstruct the rightful demand for self-determination by the people of IIOJK.

Mushaal also enlightened the audience about the ongoing initiatives within the 100-day plan initiated by the Ministry of Human Rights. Emphasizing inclusivity, she highlighted that the input from all segments of society had been integrated into this comprehensive plan.

Marathon

ISLAMABAD: Participants are participating in the "Margalla Ultra Marathon" at Fatima Jinnah Park F-9 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Speakers of a seminar remind int'l obligations on Kashmir issue

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Addressing a seminar at the European headquarters in Brussels, the speakers said that the international community should fulfill its responsibilities regarding the Kashmir issue and put pressure on India for the rights of Kashmiris facing the state terrorism for a long time.

A seminar titled "Rights of the Kashmiris and Obligations of the International Community" was organized at European Press Club by the Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) in connection with its ongoing "Annual Kashmir EU-Week" in Brussels.

The seminar which held at the European Press Club was presided by Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed.



Former Member of Brussels Assembly Dr. Manzoor Zahoor, Human rights activist Arsalan Agha, senior Kashmiri leaders Sardar Siddique, Chaudhry Khalid Joshi and Sardar Mahmood and European intellectuals Andre Bares and Hafiz UneeB Rashid and other personalities spoke on the

occasion. Human rights activist and Chairman of International Forum for Justice/ Human Rights Jammu and Kashmir Ahsan Untoo also addressed the seminar through a communication link from the Occupied Kashmir.

The speakers also emphasized that the freedom move-

ment of Kashmiris should be highlighted effectively and more voices should be raised in their favor.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said that many Kashmiri leaders and human rights activists are currently imprisoned in Indian jails. These personalities include Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Musrat Alam Butt, Khuram Parvez, Sajjad Gul and Waqar Shah. He demanded that the cases against the Kashmiri prisoners should be dropped and they should be released immediately.

Ali Raza Syed said the Indian government is involved in serious crimes against humanity in Occupied Kashmir and it wants to keep the world unaware of its crimes.

SCO Emerges as Top Performer in PTA's QoS Survey

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a recent Independent Quality of Service (QoS) Survey conducted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) across seven cities in Gilgit Baltistan during the third quarter of 2023 (July to September), SCO (Special Communications Organization) has reaffirmed its position as the region's fastest 3G/4G network provider.



In the realm of Mobile Broadband Service, SCO showcased dominance by recording the highest throughput in 4G/LTE networks across all surveyed cities.

When it comes to Voice Service, SCO's excellence stood out with the highest compliance among all operators, boasting 49 compliant Voice QoS KPIs. Ufone and Telenor closely followed, tied for the second position, while ZonG secured third place, and Jazz followed suit.

SCO's consistent excellence across Network Coverage and Mobile Broadband Service reflects its commitment to providing top-notch services. In Voice Service, they maintained their lead, with Telenor and Ufone in close pursuit.

Notably, while private telcos primarily focus on revenue generation in main cities, SCO, being a government entity, aims to provide advanced telecom services on a non-profit basis in both served and underserved areas. Beyond service provision, SCO actively engages in social welfare programs for the region, supporting initiatives like incubation centers fostering entrepreneurship, establishment of Software Parks, and Free Lancing Hubs empowering the youth economically.

Commenting on the Results, DG SCO Major General Umar Ahmad Shah, expressed, "We are immensely proud of SCO's consistent excellence in delivering top-tier mobile network services. This recognition reaffirms our commitment to providing reliable, fast, and high-quality services to our consumers across the region."

SCO's outstanding performance in the QoS survey reiterates its dedication to setting industry benchmarks in reliability, excellence, and consumer satisfaction.

Successful closing ceremony marks the end of Pakistan Water Week 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The curtain fell on the highly successful Pakistan Water Week 2023 in a grand closing ceremony held on December 8th, 2023, at Islamabad. The event, organized by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), in collaboration with UNICEF, IWMI and esteemed partner organizations, concluded with a celebration of accomplishments and recognition for participants and contributors.

The closing ceremony was a conclusion of a week-long series of events that brought together experts, researchers, and enthusiasts to address critical water-related issues and explore innovative solutions. Distinguished guests and key figures in the water sector graced the ceremony, including Mr. Hailey Gashaw, Chief WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) UNICEF, Mr. Arif Jabbar Khan, Country Director, Water Aid, Mr. Asif Ali Sherazi, Country Director, Islamic Relief, Mr. Jahanzeb Masood Cheema, International Researcher at IWMI (International Water Management Institute), and Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Former Chairman of PCRWR.

Dr. Hifza Rasheed expressed gratitude to all participants and contributors for their valuable contributions to the success of Pakistan Water Week 2023.



ISLAMABAD: President Non-Gazetted Welfare Association Malik Tahir Mehmoood Awan, former press secretary Tanveer Nowshahi, and others presenting souvenir to Joint Executive Director PIMS Dr. Farrukh Kamal on his retirement during a ceremony at PIMS Hospital. Photo: INP

Thalassemia center inaugurated in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza formally inaugurates the Thalassemia center in Government Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital on Saturday. Chief executive district health authority Dr Asad Ismail, Medical Superintendent of Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital Dr Jawad Elahi, deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Irfan Ali Raza, President of League of Human Welfare Prof. Maqsood Elahi and other related persons were also present on this occasion.

The centre established an allocation of Rs 6 million and completed in a short span of eight months which spreads over one kanal of land. The center also have other facilities like blood bank, lab and kids center while eight to 10 doctors would be deputed in the centre.

Role of Communities in the development of Society Discussed at Seminar in Sujawal

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Members of civil society, heads of different government organizations, and representatives of World Health Organization and noted people of locality shed light on the role of communities in developing civil society at a seminar organized in village Hussainabad of district Sujawal by Village development organization the other day. They said that low-lying areas of Sindh could be put on the path of persistent development only through communal harmony and joint strategies.

The seminar commenced with a free-medical camp at the community hall of the village where as many as 1500 patients

were examined by a 15-member team of specialist doctors and paramedics that was followed by a health awareness session and tree plantation drive.

During the health awareness session initiated by district health department Sujawal and Aga Khan Health Board for Thatta and Shahbunder participants were apprised about the tips of maintaining a healthy lifestyle to avoid onslaught of non-communicable disease such as Hypertension, diabetes and angina.

Doctors also stressed on reducing substance abuse that has been increasing the threat of cancer and other fatal diseases.

District Health Officer Dr Haneef Memon despite ill health visited the camps and discussed

projects of his department with common masses.

The tree plantation drive was launched by District Commissioner Sujawal Abdul Wahid Sheikh and Senior Superintendent of Police Sujawal Ms Shahela Qureshi.

Addressing the seminar DC Sujawal extolled the contribution of the Village Development Organization that had made Hussainabad a model village of district Sujawal.

He said that it was satisfying that villagers were aware of their rights and duties towards the society and they have left a message for people of Sindh that communities had always played a vital role in the development of countries.

He said that he was glad to see exemplary work of villagers in village Hussainabad where they had been maintaining several projects without getting any aid from the authorities concerned.

Imdad Acharani, a local community leader, said that the village is inhabited by the Shia Ismaili Muslim community that held the status of a global community led by Prince Karim Aga Khan. He further said that they had been facilitating local communities through several projects for several years that included vocational training, medical camps, facility of water supply and educational seminars.

Representative of Village Development Organization Khamiso Muhammad Khan



during his speech filled with hope and sensation urged heads of different communities to quell differences for the uplift of society we are living in. He said that the world was on the path of development and to be in the

race communal harmony would be one of the essential mechanisms.

He said that their community-The Shia Ismaili community for centuries had been working for the development of Pakistan.

"We have over the years encouraged women leadership and motivated girls to seek quality education in our areas"; he said and added that the support of concerned authorities of Sujawal district would help them further stretch their network.

SSP Sujawal emphasized the importance of environmental development and urged local communities to support the complete eradication of crime from the district.

DC visited projects launched by the villagers' in coordination with the government and vowed more projects in future.

Mooruludin Muhammad Saleh Ashraf Akber and other local leaders also addressed the seminar.

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Is Israel losing the war against Hamas? - I

The situation in the conflict between Israel and Palestinians has resulted in a tragic loss of life and a humanitarian crisis. The violence has led to the deaths of 17500 and wounding of 46,000 innocent civilians, including children, elderly individuals, women, and unarmed young people. A significant number of Palestinians have been displaced, lacking access to essential necessities like food, water, medical assistance, fuel, and secure shelter. This ongoing crisis is exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation for the 2.3 million affected individuals.

But the question is how many Hamas, Hizb and Houthis fighters have been neutralized so far? The answer is almost negligible, whereas an unprecedented 418 armed to the teeth Israeli soldiers have been killed by Hamas resistance. In fact, laden with protective gears, having the world's finest and most powerful airforce at their beck and call, world's most feared spies agencies on their back, the world's most sophisticated military technology at their disposal have failed to make any dent into the prowess of Hamas, Hezbollah or Houthis which prompted the French President Emmanuel Macron to say that if Israel continue to pursue its war mongering policies in Palestine, the war would go as far as for ten years without any end in sight and added that Israel has erred to set the target to continue war until Hamas's military capabilities are eliminated, and said that it will take longer than Western societies are prepared to accept, longer than what

their leaders, and above all U.S. President Joe Biden, a close friend of Israel, is willing to tolerate it.

Did Israel achieve its prime objective of securing the release of hostages? Answer is a big No. Israel has miserably failed to liberate even a single hostage by the combined forces and might of world dreading Israeli Mossad, USA's CIA and UK IM-6 and India infamous Raw agencies. They failed to get even a slightest trail of the whereabouts of the hostages and all their reconnaissance apparatus were blunted completely. Instead the indiscriminate aerial bombing by Israeli air force, guns and tanks on the civilian targets put the lives of the hostages in greater danger than the threat imposed by Hamas.

Has Israel succeeded in stopping the missiles launched by Hamas, Hezbollah attacks from the north and Houthis attack from the south on Israeli cities and settlements? The reply is a big No. Have Israel neutralized the threat of full scale attacks from Iran? The answer is a big No. Hezbollah's arsenal includes roughly 150,000 offensive rockets and missiles, including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. Its weapons have been employed to a limited degree since Oct. 7, but in full force they could be catastrophic.

Direct conflict with Iran would be equally or more catastrophic for Israel. Iran has a highly sophisticated stockpile of

short-, medium-, and long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads to Israel and beyond. Its program poses a threat to both Israel and other American allies. The new kinds of indigenous missiles used by the Hizb and Hamas have broken the formidable "Iron Dome" air defense system and have successfully been hitting the intended targets.

Have Israel won the media war? A big No. Even Israel's own media, US, UK and the media of almost the entire world disapproved of the senseless, brute inhumane and insensitive killing spree by the Israeli air force which completely dominates the skies of Gaza and West Bank without any resistance. Even the obvious, highly calibrated and biased coverage and reporting by US and European media could not stop the

turning of the public opinions in US and European countries against Israel's insensible war crimes against unarmed civilians.

The demonstrators in huge numbers around the world are expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian People and condemning Israel's war on Gaza and calling for a permanent ceasefire. Large scale protests were held New York, London, Paris, Manila, Tunis, Tehran, Karachi, Beirut, Harare, Tokyo, Stockholm, Johannesburg, Quezon City, Milan and elsewhere putting pressure on their respective government to change their rhetoric and condemn Israel's senseless

killing spree and support and aid of Palestinians stressed civilians, and to pursue permanent peace by implementing UN Resolution 181, passed by the UN General Assembly in 1947 calling for partition of Palestine into two states.

The world leaders with a view to pacify their agitated publics which are appalled by the horrific images and videos coming out of Gaza in large number depicting the horror inflicted upon civilians especially children are now calling upon Israel to offer a political horizon for the end of the military campaign, announce the beginning of talks with the Palestinian Authority based on a two-state solution—offering stability, cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians, and cooperation between Israel and the moderate Arab states within the framework of the Arab League peace initiative.

Did Israeli justification for attacking hospitals, refugee camps, offices and storage facilities of international organizations as hideouts of Hamas proven right? The Big reply is No. The Israeli occupying soldiers had nothing to offer after the capturing of Al Shifa Hospital but to stage only a few army boots, a few rounds of ammunition and some outdated rifles of almost no significance as a proof of using hospitals as hideouts by Hamas. This proved Israel and its master US wrong in the same manner as the narrative injected by the USA in the media to wage war in the middle east was proven baseless, immoral, excessive and false.

To be continued

Analysis



Qamar Bashir

Pakistan's exports to South China surge by 65% from July to October

Pakistan has witnessed an extraordinary 65% increase in its exports to South China from July 2022 to October 2023, showcasing the nation's growing influence in the region, said Muhammad Irfan Trade & Investment Counsellor at Pakistan Consulate in Guangzhou. The surge in trade is particularly notable in key provinces, including Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Hunan, which experienced remarkable growth rates of 194%, 3%, 64%, 53%, and 117%, respectively.

He said that from July 2022 to Oct 2023 Pakistan exports to the south region were \$334.88 million whereas last year in the same period it was USD 202.71 million which increased by 65% year on year. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. "Fujian Province, renowned for its robust economy and strategic location on China's southeastern coast, witnessed an impressive 194% surge in imports from Pakistan during this period. This remarkable growth can be attributed to the strengthening economic ties between the two nations and the increasing demand for Pakistani products in Fujian. The main products imported from Pakistan are Uncombed single cotton yarn, Sesamum seeds, and seafood", he added. He further said that overall Pakistan's exports to China also increased 41% from July 2022 to Oct 2023 worth USD 1.23 billion whereas last year in the same period it was USD 876.8 million. Guangdong, a key economic powerhouse and a major player in China's export landscape, saw a steady 3% rise in imports from Pakistan.

This growth is a testament to the resilience of the trade relationship between the two regions, emphasizing the mutual benefits derived from their economic collaboration. Irfan said that the province of Guangxi experienced a substantial 64% increase in imports from Pakistan, highlighting the diversification of trade avenues and the effectiveness of bilateral trade agreements. The strategic positioning of Guangxi, bordering Vietnam and serving as a gateway to Southeast Asia, further amplifies its role as a pivotal partner for Pakistan. "Hainan Province, known for its tropical climate and burgeoning tourism industry, witnessed a commendable 53% surge in imports from Pakistan.

This growth is indicative of the expanding market for Pakistani goods in this southernmost province, showcasing the versatility and appeal of Pakistani products in diverse sectors. Hunan Province, located in south-central China, recorded an impressive 117% increase in imports from Pakistan during this period", Irfan stated. Irfan said that the overall spike in exports to South China reflects the success of Pakistan's strategic trade policies, its commitment to fostering economic partnerships, and the quality of its export commodities. As both nations continue to strengthen their economic ties, the surge in trade with these key provinces underscores the potential for further collaboration, positioning Pakistan as an integral player in the dynamic South Chinese market. He added that the top products imported from Pakistan to China are cotton yarn, Sesamum seeds, Zinc Chromium ores, and seafood.

Women have dominate the HR world

HR professionals need to be empathetic and good at multitasking, and women take this role naturally, which makes them a better fit for the HR function, says a recent report by Spectrum Talent Management.

The effectiveness of an HR department is not determined by gender but by the skills, experience, and leadership qualities of the individual managing it. Success depends on the ability to understand and address diverse needs within the organization. Gender should not be a factor in assessing someone's capability to lead an HR department; it's about competence and interpersonal skills.

That women are better at detecting and identifying emotions from facial expressions, which presumably give us an advantage and make us better communicators, given that HR involves lots of communication and personal interactions with people, women often excel in HR due to their strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and organizational abilities, stating definitively that "no doubt, a woman can perform best in the HR department" is inaccurate and exclusionary.

Firstly, it disregards the contributions and potential of excellent male HR professionals who bring their unique skills and perspectives to the field. It's important to acknowledge the diversity of talent and expertise within the HR profession and avoid perpetuating gender stereotypes.

Secondly, focusing solely on one gender can limit the talent pool and hinder the pursuit of a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. By stating that women perform best, we potentially discourage men from pursuing careers in HR, which can be detrimental to the overall talent pool and innovation in the field.

Instead of focusing on gender as the sole determinant of success in HR, it's more productive to evaluate individuals based on their individual

skills, experience, and qualifications. This ensures a fair and meritocratic approach to hiring and promoting within the HR department.

Furthermore, promoting gender equality in the workplace requires actively dismantling stereotypes and biases, not reinforcing them. By recognizing the strengths and contributions of individuals regardless of their gender, we can create a more inclusive and equitable environment for everyone.

Therefore, while acknowledging the strengths that women often bring to the HR field, it's crucial to move beyond generalizations and create opportunities for individuals of all genders to thrive in the profession. There are many excellent HR professionals of all genders, it's worth exploring if there are specific factors that might contribute to women excelling in this field. Here are some potential reasons:

Empathy and Emotional Intelligence: HR heavily relies on understanding and responding to human emotions. Women typically score higher on tests of emotional intelligence, allowing them to better connect with employees, build trust, and resolve conflicts effectively.

Communication and Interpersonal Skills: HR professionals need to communicate clearly and persuasively with diverse stakeholders. Women often possess strong communication and interpersonal skills, enabling them to build rapport, negotiate effectively, and deliver complex information in a clear and engaging manner.

Organization and Attention to Detail: HR requires meticulous attention to detail and a strong organizational sense. Women often demonstrate these qualities, allowing them to efficiently handle administrative tasks, manage employee records, and ensure compliance with regulations.

Multitasking and Prioritization: HR professionals juggle multiple tasks simultaneously,

from managing payroll to resolving employee disputes. Women typically excel at multitasking and prioritizing tasks under pressure, which are crucial skills for effectively managing complex HR functions.

Proactive and Solution-Oriented Approach: HR often involves proactive problem-solving and anticipating future needs. Women tend to be more proactive and solution-oriented in their approach, allowing them to identify potential issues early and develop effective solutions.

Resilience and Adaptability: HR can be a demanding and challenging field. Women often demonstrate resilience and adaptability, enabling them to handle stress effectively, navigate complex situations, and adapt to changing circumstances.

Collaborative and Team-Oriented: Building a positive work environment requires collaboration and teamwork. Women often value collaboration and team work, allowing them to build effective relationships with colleagues, foster a positive work environment, and achieve shared goals.

Despite this debate, men are equally capable of running an HR department. It is important to keep in mind that there is no single key to success.

It's important to remember that these are general trends and not definitive statements about individuals. High-performing HR professionals come in all genders, and each person brings their unique strengths and talents to the field. Instead of focusing on potential gender differences, it's more productive to celebrate the diverse skills and experiences that contribute to successful HR practices.

According to a research, a general reason cited for more female representation in HR is that women are better in soft skills with a higher emotional intelligence compared to the male alternatives. Last year a report published in September, the hiring ratio of men v/s women in human resources (HR) has been historically higher and currently stands at a 40:60 ratio, in favour of women, says a recent report by Spectrum Talent Management, a one-stop solution for global-local human talent management.

Analysis



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Analysis



Khaled Abu Zahr



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

Nuclear power deserves a place in the clean energy mix - II

The same questions on carbon neutrality apply to the production and transport of renewable materials. This is also something that impacts electric batteries, from their manufacturing to their disposal. Environmental pundits focus on attacking and trying to cancel other sources of energy instead of answering these simple questions.

Questions also arise on the geopolitical level, as the US and China are flitting between competition and confrontation. There are a growing number of voices in the US that state that solar and wind energy are reinforcing China within the great power competition. This is because, in 2022, China accounted for 77.8 percent of global photovoltaic module production. The country with the second-largest share was Vietnam, which accounted for just 6.4 percent. With the supply chain being centralized in China, this raises questions regarding energy dependency. This is also why many are stating that the fact the World Bank does not finance nuclear power projects puts China at an advantage, as it does finance solar and other renewable energy projects.

The debate on nuclear energy also sinks deep into domestic politics. France, which has been a pioneer of nuclear power, is a good example. Henri Proglio, the former CEO of EDF, discussed a few months ago France's loss of energy independence in a think tank seminar. He highlighted historical efforts to achieve energy independence, blaming recent challenges on a shift in public opinion and European regulations favoring competition. He highlighted the historical success of the French nuclear industry, symbolized by it becoming an electricity exporter with competitive prices. Proglio also advocated for extending the lifespan of existing nucle-

ar plants, considering them a base for energy production, and raised doubts about the viability and cost-effectiveness of offshore wind projects.

Yet the bombshell he dropped was that he accused Germany of sabotaging French energy independence via the EU because it presented an industrial threat. He rightly criticized the challenges posed by the shift to renewables, particularly citing the German Energiewende and the substantial investments in wind energy. He stated that Berlin was concerned because its

electricity relied heavily on coal and especially lignite, which is particularly bad for the environment. Germany has invested €600 billion (\$646 billion) of the total €1 trillion invested in renewables by European countries, according to Proglio. This hefty investment led to the near-bankruptcy of major power companies E.ON and RWE, which were only saved by the federal government.

The reality is that it is simply impossible and unrealistic to shift to 100 percent renewable energies tomorrow, with Germany serving as a good example. This would simply mean the collapse of the global economy and security. Even the advocates of this solution know this is the case. It is now clear their real goal lies elsewhere.

This is why there is an urgent need to actively push nuclear power's place in the energy mix. Yet, after years of global bashing, the ability to turn this industry around is still hampered by a lack of funds, expertise and viable partnerships. Maybe the pledge made at COP28 will support the finding of a solution and promote collaboration instead of the petty settling of accounts.

Khaled Abu Zahr is the founder of Space Quest Ventures, a space-focused investment platform. He is chief executive of Eurabia Media and editor of Al-Watan Al-Arabi.

60th Jamhuri Day

Kenya, Pakistan have long-standing ties, envoy says

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Jamhuri is the Swahili word for "republic" and the holiday officially marks the date when Kenya became an independent country on 12 December 1963, six months after gaining internal self-rule on 1 June 1963 (Madaraka Day) from the United Kingdom.

Jamhuri Day has such historical significance, virtually every Kenyan celebrates the holiday to some extent. Celebrations include feasts, political speeches, parades, and dancing. In this regards The Kenyan High Commission in Pakistan commemorated the 60th Jamhuri Day (Independence Day) on Friday in a local hotel.

Prominent representatives of the authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, businessmen and civilians took part in the reception and admired the decor of the event. Mohammed Karmoune, Dean of the African Corps and Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan also pres-

ent on the occasion. National anthem of Kenya and Pakistan were played and a cake was also cut by the African Corps ambassadors collectively.

In her speech on the occasion, Kenya's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mary Nyambura Kamau, highlighted the nation's resilience and progress over the past six decades.

She acknowledged the sacrifices made by freedom fighters during the painful quest for independence, culminating in the achievement of sovereignty on December 12, 1963. Since then, Kenya has embarked on a path of self-determination and active participation in the international arena.

The High Commissioner emphasized the warm and cordial relations between Kenya and Pakistan, dating back to the independence period. Diplomatic missions were established in 1964 and 1984, fostering strong bonds of friendship, people-to-people relations, and robust trade connections.



Highlighting the significant contributions from Pakistanis, Kamau noted substantial investments in healthcare, education, tourism, hospitals, charity, and media sectors. The African Hospital, a prominent healthcare institution with branches all over the country, stands as a testament to this collaboration.

Trade ties between Kenya and Pakistan have flourished, with popular products like Cannetti gaining popularity in Pakistan,

and Pakistani products becoming a preferred choice in Kenyan households. Both countries are actively exploring opportunities to expand their trade portfolios, with a focus on health, manufacturing, textile, surgical equipment, pharmaceuticals, technology, and agriculture.

As a member of the East African Community and the Common Market for East and Central Africa, Kenya stands united with its regional partners, offering a popu-



lation of 300 million people and valuable opportunities for collaboration. Kamau urged continued partnership and collaboration between Kenya and Pakistan, recognizing the untapped poten-

tial in various sectors.

Inviting Pakistanis to explore Kenya's diverse tourist attractions, including national game drives, sun-soaked beaches, and rich cultural experiences, Kamau

expressed gratitude to sponsors, including Lipton Tea, for their contributions to the event's success.

Photo by Raja Farid

Second China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Cooperation kicks off

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The second China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Cooperation kicked off in Kunming, the capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province. Xiao Jie, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech.

Chairman Luo Zhaohui of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and Governor Wang Yubo of Yunnan province delivered speeches respectively. They pointed out that it is our common responsibility to boost blue economy cooperation, an integral part of global cooperation.

Since President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative and three major global initiatives, namely, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, China has been doing its utmost to promote the implementation of these important



concepts and initiatives, as well as the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) initiative, which has achieved important results.

China will continue to invest more resources in global development cooperation and work with countries in the region to advance blue economy cooperation. Yunnan will continue to

leverage its geographical advantages as a gateway for China's opening up to South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region, to provide an important platform for sustainable development in the region.

More than 350 representatives from over 30 countries, international organizations, think tanks, foundations, and enterprises attended the event, virtually and in person. Among them were Mohamed Saeed, Minister of Econom-

ic Development and Trade of Maldives, Mohammed Warsama Dirieh, Minister of Trade and Tourism of Djibouti, Sihle Zikalala, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure of South Africa, and Moctar Ould Dada Hamdane, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Comoros. Representatives of the four parallel sessions' organizers, namely, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and Ocean University of China, presented the forum results respectively.

Themed "Boosting Sustainable Blue Economy to Build Together a Maritime Community with a Shared Future," the forum was co-organized by the CIDCA and the People's Government of Yunnan Province. It features four parallel sessions on China-Indian Ocean Region Blue Economy Cooperation, Blue Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Cooperation, Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Eco-Environmental Protection, and Sustainable Development of the Island Countries in the Indian Ocean.

Putin says he will run for re-election in 2024

AFP

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Friday that he would run for re-election in 2024, allowing the Kremlin leader to extend his decades-long grip on power into the 2030s.

The 71-year-old has led Russia since the turn of the century, winning four presidential ballots and briefly serving as prime minister in a system where opposition has become virtually non-existent.

The announcement came at a set-piece Kremlin event for army personnel, including those who have fought in the military offensive in Ukraine that Putin ordered in Febru-



ary last year. "I won't hide it: I've had different thoughts at different times. But this is a time when a decision has to be made," Putin said at the ceremony.

"I will run for the office of president of the Russian Federation."

He was speaking to Lieutenant Colonel Artyom Zhoga, a Russian military officer, who had moments before urged

him to run.

"Thanks to your actions, your decisions, we have gained freedom," Zhoga said, adding: "We need you. Russia needs you."

Putin's seemingly off-the-cuff announcement at a ceremony for veterans was unusual but laden with symbolism, political analyst Tatiana Stanovaya said.

"The (military) heroes — 'fathers of the Donbas' — want to see Putin as president again," she said.

Putin will not face any major challengers in his bid for a fifth term and is likely to seek as large a mandate as possible in order to conceal domestic discord over the Ukraine conflict, analysts say.

Ukraine condemns Russia's plan for elections



Reuters

KYIV: Ukraine on Saturday strongly condemned Russian plans to hold presidential elections next spring on conquered territory, declaring them "null and void" and pledging to prosecute any observers sent to monitor them.

Russia's upper house set the country's presidential election this week for next March, and chairwoman Valentina Matviyenko said residents in four occupied Ukrainian regions would be able to vote for the first time.

Russia claims to have annexed the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya and Kherson regions in the east and south of Ukraine during referenda last year dismissed by Kyiv and the West as a sham, but does not fully control any of them.

It also seized the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

"We call on the international community to resolutely condemn Russia's intention to hold presidential elections in the occupied Ukrainian territories, and to impose sanctions on those involved in their organization and conduct," Ukraine's foreign ministry said in a statement.

It also warned countries against sending observers to the "pseudo-elections", saying offenders would "face criminal responsibility." "Any election in Russia has nothing to do with democracy. They serve only as a tool to keep the Russian regime in power," the ministry said. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he would run for president again, a move expected to keep him in power until at least 2030.

Amna Baloch meets Pakistani students in Brussels



Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Amna Baloch on Friday met with the Pakistani students of KU Leuven—one of the top universities in Belgium. During the interaction, she appreciated the innovative projects of Pakistani scholars.

She also offered the embassy's support in future endeavors. The ambassador emphasized the importance of building knowledge partnerships.

Iran says reviving nuclear deal 'useless'

AFP

TEHRAN: Iran said Saturday that attempting to revive its landmark nuclear deal with world powers that was effectively scrapped by former US president Donald Trump was increasingly "useless."

"Today, the more we advance, the more the JCPOA becomes useless," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a speech to students at the University of Tehran, using the initials of the official name of the nuclear deal.

In 2015, Iran agreed to curbs on its nuclear programme in exchange for a lifting of sanctions.

But while the deal was signed with several world powers — including China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — it was rendered effectively useless when the United States unilaterally withdrew under Trump in 2018.

With the US reimposing sanctions, international banks and businesses have stayed away from Iran for fear of falling foul of US regulators. Tentative efforts to revive the deal by Trump's successor, Joe Biden, have been at a standstill since mid-2022.

"Because (Iran's) red lines have sometimes been ignored by the other side, we are not currently on the path to return to the agreement," Amir-Abdollahian said.

KSrelief projects help people in Pakistan, Lebanon, Sudan

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Vulnerable communities in Pakistan, Lebanon and Sudan are benefiting from assistance provided by the Saudi aid organization KSrelief, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

KSrelief distributed 514 winter bags in the Gupis-Yasin District of the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan, helping 3,598 members of the most vulnerable families in the flood-affected areas.

The distribution is part of the second phase of the project to secure and distribute shelter materials and winter bags in Pakistan for 2023-2024.

The program comes as part of the relief efforts provided by Saudi Arabia to help people and countries in need around the world.

In Lebanon, the center distributed 1,289 shopping vouchers to Syrian refugees and host community members in the northern city of Tripoli, and in the Arsal and Ash-Shouf regions, as part of the second phase of the Winter Clothes Distribution Project for 2023.

The coupons allow refugees and other vulnerable segments from host communities to buy winter clothing at designated stores.

The assistance comes within the framework of the humanitarian and relief projects provided by Saudi Arabia for vulnerable and needy segments around the world.

KSrelief recently signed a cooperation agreement with a civil society organization to equip intensive-care units for children and adults, emergency departments, and surgery



sections in seven main hospitals in Sudan's Gezira, Nile River, White Nile and North states at a total value of SR5 million.

The agreement was signed by KSrelief Assistant Supervisor General for Operations and Programs Ahmed bin Ali

Al-Baiz at the center's headquarters in Riyadh.

The agreement aims to provide medical equipment, such as emergency devices, anesthesia machines, ventilators, automatic injectors, vital-signs monitoring devices, intensive-care beds and

operating beds, to selected departments that will ensure a high-quality health service to 7 million people.

The assistance is part of the Kingdom's efforts to support the health sector in Sudan amid the humanitarian crisis.

Since its inception in 2015, KSrelief has implemented 2,625 projects worth more than \$6.4 billion in 94 countries, in cooperation with 175 local, regional and international partners.

According to a report by the agency, the bulk of the support has gone to Yemen (\$4.3 billion), Syria (\$384 million), Palestine (\$370 million) and Somalia (\$227 million).

KSrelief's programs cover food security, health, sanitation, shelter, nutrition, education, telecommunications and logistics.

FPCCI Presidential Candidate

BMP makes best use of FPCCI platform to resolve business matters

PPA



ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's presidential candidate for 2024 election Muhammad Ali Sheikh has observed that the Businessmen Panel (BMP) has been playing its best use of the platform of the FPCCI for the resolution of the trade and industry issues, and for getting maximum incentives and facilities to boost the industrial growth and exports of the country under the leadership of Mian Anjum Nisar.

Ali Sheikh said that the country is passing through critical times and a true business leadership at every tier could help pull the country out of these economic issues. They said that the government would be asked to rationalize the energy prices in the larger interests of the manufacturing sector and the trading community. They said that they are fully satisfied with the performance of the BMP.

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 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 Mian Anjum Nisar 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.

He declared the names of other candidates, who are contesting the elections of the apex trade body on platform of the BMP.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh observed that his group, for the last three years of victory, has been very actively engaged with the federal as well as the provincial governments in formulation of the policies on trade and industry including the annual budgets making.

ADB's IED rates \$800m 'TCP' as 'successful'

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Independent Evaluation Department (IED) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has rated "Pakistan: Trade and Competitiveness Program -TCP (Subprograms 1 and 2)" worth \$800 million, successful, relevant, and likely sustainable.

The IED in its validation report also stated that among the many issues that Pakistan faces are the country's increasing fiscal deficit, large balance-of-payments gap, and low foreign exchange reserves as a result of low competitiveness and lack of export diversification.

The need for fiscal reform to reduce the fiscal deficit and to generate fiscal space for productivity-enhancing capital spending is critical to improve macro-economic management in Pakistan and pave the way for the country's economic recovery.

Pakistan's export performance has lagged behind competitive countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia the past decade. While Pakistan has the potential for economic growth, it has been unable to leverage export trade as an engine of growth.

The report noted that the bank's support to the government of Pakistan through the Trade and Competitiveness Program (TCP) aimed to improve Pakistan's export competitiveness and trade performance. This aligned with the government's Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF), which envisioned a dynamic and efficient domestic market and a globally competitive, export-driven economy.

From 2021-2025, ADB prioritised support for three pillars, one of which is boosting competitiveness and private sector development to create jobs and expand economic opportunities. The ADB's assistance for industry and trade in Pakistan amounts to \$4.2 billion in 2022.

The PCR rated the program successful having rated it as highly relevant, effective, efficient, and likely sustainable based on all the policy actions being implemented. This validation assesses the program relevant, effective, efficient, and likely sustainable and overall successful. The program was aligned with ADB's CPS and the Government of Pakistan's objectives under Vision 2025. All policy actions were implemented with subprograms 1 and 2 presented to the ADB Board ahead of schedule.

2,234 new companies registered in November 2023

PPA



ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,234 new companies in November 2023, showing a growth of 8% during first 05 months of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of last financial year. The total number of registered companies now stands at 207,654. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs. 7.74 billion.

About 58% companies were registered as private limited companies, while 39% were registered as single member companies. The remaining 03% were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, trade organizations and limited liability partnerships (LLP) and Foreign Companies. Two foreign

companies have also established place of business in Pakistan. Almost 99.6 percent companies were registered online while 0.4% were incorporated offline. Around 116 foreign applicants were registered from overseas through eServices.

The information technology and trading sectors took the lead with incorporation of 313 companies each, services with 271, real estate development & construction with 243, tourism with 106, food & beverages with 83, education with 76, mining & quarrying with 67, marketing & advertisement with 56, corporate agricultural farming with 52, transport and engineering with 51 each, e-commerce and power generation with 48 each, pharmaceutical with 41, textile with 38, chemical with 35, fuel and energy with 32, healthcare with 29, broadcasting & telecasting with 26, lodging with 25, cosmetics & toiletries with 19, communications and paper & board with 12 each, cables & electrical goods with 11 and 176 companies were registered in other sectors.

As a result of integration of SECP with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,169 companies were registered with FBR for regis-

tration of NTN, 57 companies with EOBI, 39 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 38 companies with excise and taxation department.

Foreign investment has been reported in 72 new companies, having foreign investors from Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UAE, UK, and the USA. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 44 companies, Turkey with 04, Azerbaijan with 03, Afghanistan, Germany, Malaysia, Netherlands and US with 02 each, and in 11 companies from other countries.

The SECP has also a dedicated WhatsApp facility for instant resolution of the queries pertaining to name availability and incorporation process and during this month, around 1,172 queries were responded.

NAB working on a three-pronged strategy to curb corruption: DG NAB

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) observed the International Anti-Corruption Day. DG NAB Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig was the chief guest. Director NAB Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Faheem Qureshi and other officers were also present on the occasion. A large number of the business community attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig, Director General NAB said that his institution is working on a three-pronged strategy to curb corruption in Pakistan. It includes creating better awareness among the people about the harmful effects of corruption, taking preventive measures against corruption, and improving the NAB laws to ensure their strong enforcement. He said that the situation of corruption in Pakistan is not as bad as it is highlighted. The majority of officers in Pakistan want to avoid corruption, while a few officers benefit from it. As a whole, Pakistani society is not corrupt, which is promising.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that corruption always



keeps countries underdeveloped, so corruption has to be eradicated to make Pakistan a developed, prosperous, and great country. He urged the business community to always discourage speed money. Societies invested in corruption cannot attract investment, so to make Pakistan an attractive country for investment, corruption must be eradicated.

Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Faheem Qureshi, Director NAB said that it is easy to criticize NAB, but this agency has collected 600 to 800 billion rupees and deposited it in the national treasury. NAB will continue its efforts to eradicate corruption from society for which it needs the support of all stakeholders.

Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that if society boycotts corrupt people, it can be discouraged in the country.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that one of the reasons for the spread of corruption is that people don't hate corruption. He said that the development and prosperity of Pakistan is related to the elimination of corruption, so NAB should conduct awareness campaigns about corruption in collaboration with the important chambers of commerce of the country to eliminate it from society and put Pakistan on the path of rapid development.

Economy stuck in low growth trap with poor human development outcome: APBF



PNP

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum has said that the economy is stuck in low growth trap with poor human development outcome and increasing poverty, as economic conditions leave Pakistan highly vulnerable to climate shocks with insufficient public resources to finance development and that international experience suggests that domestic debt re-profiling did not always work unless associated with sharp and sustained structural reforms identified over

four decades ago but remain pending to this day.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, while referring to a report, observed that business community has long been urging the government to reform the power sector, since decades ago when circular debt was in millions of rupees which today is a whopping 2.5 trillion rupees, to reform the tax structure that continues to rely heavily on indirect taxes whose incidence on the poor is greater than on the rich, a major contributory factor in poverty levels reaching a high of 40 percent today, to continuing the policy of steadily raising the budgeted current expenditure, thereby shrinking the available fiscal space annually and, last but not least, warning the government of an impending water scarcity decades ago that went unheeded resulting in the country's current status of a water-stressed country.

Haresa

MUZAFFERABAD: A vendor is preparing traditional famous dish "Haresa" at his hotel for customers in the Capital of AJK.



Photo: Online

Second meeting of SIFC working group on development of special economic zones

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad on Saturday chaired the second and final meeting of the Working Group on Development of Special Economic Zones of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The working group suggested the creation of a single authority for managing all types of economic, technology and industrial zones for the facilitation of investment and development of industry, said a press release.

A working paper based on the recommendations of the working group will be submitted to the SIFC executive committee in its next meeting.



The meeting was attended by representatives of all key stakeholders at the federal and provincial levels. It was highlighted that the existing frameworks allow for different types of special zones offering different sets of incentives which is counterproductive for industrialization.

Commerce minister leaves for China along with high-profile trade delegation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Saturday left for China with a high-profiled trade delegation as part of the 'Vision Pakistan USD 100 billion'. This is the first visit by any Commerce Minister to the Chinese Silicon Valley and Suzhou City, said a press release issued here.

The visit is a follow-up to the visit of the Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar in October this year. The sectors covered in the delegation's visit include Agricultural, Electric Vehicles, Marble, Cement, Fertiliser, Fruit and Vegetable, Home Appliances, Glass, Chemicals and Textiles. This multi-segmental delegation representing the business sector of Pakistan will hold meetings with their counterparts in China for trade and investment and formation of joint ventures. On the sidelines of the Official visit, B2B meetings have been arranged for the members of the delegation.

In Beijing, the meetings are scheduled to be held with the officials of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, various product associations and China Chamber of Commerce for Import and

Export. He will also meet with the CEO of the COFCO Group, a state-owned food processing holding company and China's largest food processor, manufacturer and trader and Asia's leading agribusinesses group.

A delegation from the Weifang Steel Group will also call on the minister. The company specializes in agritech, food processing, fertilizers and edible oil.

The delegation will also visit Zhongguancun which is a major technology hub near Beijing and is also known as the China's Silicon Valley.

The minister is set to meet the management of Chengdu Century Intending Investment Management (CENTINCO) which is a comprehensive industrial investment management corporation. CENTINCO has shown interest in development of an Export Processing Zone in Gwadar.

Apart from the meetings, the delegation would visit the Changshu Garments Town at Suzhou. Mr. Ejaz would also take part in the unveiling of the Changshu 'One Belt and One Road' Centre.

Speaking to media before leaving, Minister Ejaz highlighted the importance of private sector collaboration as the next step in strength-



ening the Pak-China relationship. "SMEs are the key to Pakistan's prosperity and progress" said Dr. Ejaz.

The commerce minister will also brief the Chinese investors about the crucial role of the

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in streamlining their investments. "Pakistan is focusing on sectors such as agriculture, mining, new energy, and IT under the framework of the SIFC" said Dr. Ejaz.

Media Briefing

Opening Ceremony of 13th CJCSC Open Golf Championship held at Karachi Golf Club

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Opening Ceremony and Media Brief of 13th Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Open Golf Championship was held today at Karachi Golf Club

(KGC). Commander Karachi, Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem graced the occasion as Chief Guest and formally inaugurated the championship. During the ceremony, President Services Sports Control Board, Rear Admiral Abdul Basit

apprised on significance of the championship scheduled from 09 to 12 Dec 23 and its conduct in various categories. This year the Golf Championship will be played in professionals, senior professionals, junior professionals,



amateurs, seniors, ladies and juniors categories. Such events provide a unique opportunity to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world as a sports loving nation. This

also helps to generate healthy activities in the society. Regular conduct of this event is the manifestation of PN's commitment towards the promotion of golf at national and

international levels. The Opening Ceremony was attended by civil & military dignitaries, sponsors, golf players and media representatives.

Asif Ali, Kieron Pollard help New York Strikers clinch maiden Abu Dhabi T10 League title

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Asif Ali and Kieron Pollard's blistering partnership helped New York Strikers edge Deccan Gladiators by seven wickets to win their maiden Abu Dhabi T10 League title at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Deccan Gladiators were invited to bat first and they scripted a good start with 24 runs in two overs.

However, the New York Strikers pulled them back with three quick wickets and slipped the Gladiators to 41-4 in six overs.

Andre Russell along with David Weise then took control and helped the Gladiators recover to finish at a total of 91-5 in their allocated 10 overs.

Russell played a quick-fire knock of 30 runs from 18 balls, laced with two boundaries and as many boundaries, while Weise scored 20 off 11 with the help of two sixes.

Sunil Narine topped the bowling charts for the Strik-



ers with bowling figures of 2-6, while Akeal Hosein, Muhammad Jawadullah and George Scrimshaw picked one wicket each.

In response, New York Strikers lost their opening batters with a mere seven runs on the board, as Trent Boult and Nuwan Thushara picked one wicket each.

Niroshan Dickwella (14) and Asif Ali attempted to rebuild the innings with a brief 31-run partnership before Russell dismissed the former.

Ali was joined by skipper Kieron Pollard and together they attacked the Gladiators' bowling line-up to chase the total with four balls to spare

and win the Abu Dhabi T10 League title for the first time.

Ali scored an unbeaten 48 from 25 balls with the help of two boundaries and four sixes, while Pollard struck 21 off 13.

Trent Boult, Nuwan Thushara and Russell picked one wicket each for Deccan Gladiators.

Fakhar Zaman, Shahab Khan lead Abbottabad to National T20 Cup final

A Sports

KARACHI: Shahab Khan picked up a five-wicket haul, followed by Fakhar Zaman's quick-fire 79 to help Abbottabad thump Peshawar by seven wickets in the first semi-final and secure a berth in the final of the National T20 Cup.

Peshawar's 10-match winning streak finally came to an end as they faced a crushing defeat at the hands of Yasir Shah-led Abbottabad with 13 balls to spare.

Abbottabad's chase was built around immaculate striking by openers Fakhar Zaman and Sajjad Ali Jnr, both of whom hit a combined 12 sixes.

The first-wicket stand yielded 113 runs in quick time, putting the pressure on the Peshawar bowlers.

Sajjad smashed his third



fifty on the trot, taking a special liking to Peshawar captain Iftikhar Ahmed's bowling as he deposited him for four maximums in one over.

Mohammad Imran ended his stay at the crease after he accumulated 57 in 29 balls with seven sixes and a solitary four.

The next batter in, Kamran Ghulam, was dismissed cheaply for four

but Fakhar continued to unleash lusty blows to motor the chase.

The star batter finished with an unbeaten 79 off 46 deliveries, studded with five maximums and eight boundaries.

Abbottabad's winning runs also came off a six that Afaq Ahmed struck Abbas Ali over long-off, emblematic of the team's dominance today.

Imran was the only Peshawar bowler who threatened the opposition as he gave away 18 runs in his four overs including one wicket.

Earlier in the day, Abbottabad's decision to bowl first reaped rewards as the leading run-getter of the tournament Sahibzada Farhan (15, 10b, 3x4s) was removed early by Aqib Khan.

Left-arm pacer Shahab Khan then got the big wickets of Mohammad Haris (16, 21b, 1x4, 1x6) and Iftikhar Ahmed (0, 2b) in his first over to leave Peshawar four down for 75.

Israrullah then launched a brilliant counterattack, smoking 10 fours and three sixes in his 34-ball 73 at a strike rate of over 210.

However, Israrullah found little support at the other end as no other batter crossed the 20-run mark.

Pakistan draw with Belgium to qualify for Junior World Cup quarter-final



A Sports

KUALA LUMPUR: The Pakistan hockey team registered a comeback draw against Belgium at Malaysia National Hockey Stadium to qualify for the quarter-final match of the ongoing Junior World Cup.

Belgium gained an early advantage with the first goal in the third minute to put the Pakistan team under pressure.

However, the Pakistan team made a resounding comeback in the third quarter with Arbaz Ahmad scoring from the penalty corner to level the scores.

Both teams battled hard to get the lead, but could not succeed as the scoreboard read 1-1 until the final whistle.

Pakistan will play their Junior Hockey World Cup quarter-final match against Spain.

The Pakistan hockey team kicked off their Junior World Cup campaign with an impressive draw against the Netherlands 3-3 on December 06.

The Netherlands started the game on high with two field goals in the 21st and 30th minutes to end the first half with a massive advantage over Pakistan.

Pakistan then decreased the deficit by one goal in the third quarter courtesy of midfielder Arshad Liaqat's field goal to bring the scores down to 2-1.

The Green Shirts then earned a penalty in the 36th minute of the third quarter, which was successfully converted by Sufian Khan to level the scores.

However, the Netherlands did not slow down and took the lead again in the 47th minute with a field goal by Olivier Hortensius.

Their lead did not last long as Pakistan's Arbaz Ahmed helped his side level the scores with an equalizing penalty corner.

Pakistan team followed the first match draw with a thumping 4-0 victory over New Zealand courtesy of Arshad Liaqat's hat-trick in the next match.

Pakistan started the game on high and earned an early advantage with a 19th-minute goal by Liaqat, who extended the lead further in the 30th minute.

Pakistan captain Abdul Hanan Shahid then scored their third goal two minutes later with a goal from a penalty corner.

Liaqat got on the scoresheet and completed his hat-trick in the 54th minute to keep the Green shirts in a commanding position until the final whistle.

Pakistan won the inaugural Junior World Cup in 1979 and then claimed bronze medals in the next three editions before getting a silver in the 1993 edition.



Asher Gill receives the trophy of Best Player of the Tournament from Chairman Agape Assemblies of Pakistan Rev. Pas. Shoukat Sharon and Iram Sharon. The Agape basketball team won the All-Pakistan Agape Basketball Championship played at Model Town.

Alyssa Healy appointed Australia women's team full-time captain

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Star wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy was Saturday appointed Australia's women's cricket captain across all three formats after the retirement of long-time skipper Meg Lanning.

The 33-year-old has led Australia since June in series against England, Ireland and West Indies, and has now been handed the role full-time.

Tahlia McGrath, fresh from leading the Adelaide Strikers to consecutive women's Big Bash League titles, was named vice-captain and at 28 is positioned to eventually take over from Healy.

"I am honoured to accept the role of captain and am grateful for the opportunity to lead our team," said Alyssa Healy, who is married to Australian men's pace spearhead Mitchell Starc.

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel "I've really enjoyed the support of the players over the past few months and their encouragement to continue to be who I am and lead the group like I normally would from within."

"It's an exciting time to be involved with this team, we're seeing the emergence of incredible young talent and are challenging ourselves to continually evolve as a group," she added.

Lanning retired from the international game last month after almost a decade in charge, leading Australia to four Twenty20 World Cup titles, one 50-over World Cup triumph and a Commonwealth Games gold.

"Alyssa brings a wealth of experience to the role, and we have great confidence in her ability to successfully lead the Australian women's team in tandem with Tahlia as vice-captain," said Cricket Australia's executive general manager Ben Oliver.

Lanning will continue to play in domestic competitions.

Friendship through Sports



ISLAMABAD: Players are posing for a group photo graph after "Friendship Through Sports" match Oval Cricket Ground in Federal Capital. Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Salah's 200th Liverpool goal inspires fightback to beat Crystal Palace

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Mohamed Salah scored his 200th goal for Liverpool before Harvey Elliott's last-gasp winner sealed a dramatic 2-1 victory against Crystal Palace that sent the Reds to the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side were in danger of a damaging defeat in the title race after Jean-Philippe Mateta's penalty put Palace ahead in the second half at Selhurst Park.

But Palace's Jordan Ayew was sent off with 15 minutes left and Liverpool took full advantage to erase a previously spluttering performance with a blistering finale.

Salah's 14th goal this term made him the fifth player to score 200 for Liverpool in all competitions after Ian Rush (346), Roger Hunt (285), Gordon Hodgson (241) and Billy Liddell (228).

In his 247th Premier League appearance, the Egypt star also reached 150

goals in the competition, including two scored for Chelsea, putting him in the all-time top-10 list level alongside Michael Owen.

Despite Salah's landmark, a point would have been a disappointing result for Liverpool, but young midfielder Elliott came off the bench to seal the points in stoppage time.

Liverpool's third successive league win moved them one point above second-placed Arsenal ahead of the Gunners' trip to third-placed Aston Villa later on Saturday.

With home games against Manchester United and Arsenal looming before Christmas, the Reds have a golden opportunity to cement their title credentials heading into the new year.

Klopp had called a television presenter "ignorant" for joking that the 1230 GMT Saturday kick-off was the German's "favourite" time to play.

The Reds boss has made a habit of complaining about the schedule when-

ever Liverpool have a match in the early Saturday slot after playing the previous Wednesday.

Initially, it seemed Klopp's dislike for the kick-off time would be renewed as Liverpool struggled to find any rhythm in wet and windy conditions in south London.

Liverpool were fortunate not to fall behind when Jefferson Lerma's close-range effort forced a superb save from Alisson Becker, with the rebound hitting the post before it was hacked off the line by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Palace were awarded a penalty when Odsonne Edouard was bundled over Virgil van Dijk, but Will Hughes had fouled Wataru Endo before passing to the forward.

Referee Andy Madley was told to consult the pitchside monitor and overturned his penalty decision.

For the first time in the league this season, Klopp's side failed to muster a single shot on target in a dismal first-half

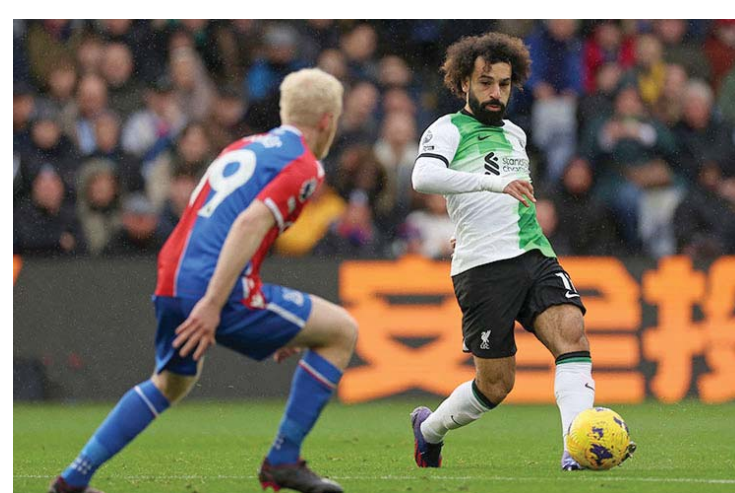
display that ended fittingly with Alexander-Arnold misplacing a simple pass.

Palace deservedly took the lead in the 57th minute as Jarell Quansah's challenge on Mateta was deemed worthy of a penalty after Madley checked the monitor. To Klopp's bewilderment, VAR only intervened to prompt the decision several moments after the foul.

Liverpool were furious but Mateta was unfazed, barely taking a run-up as he dispatched the spot-kick past Alisson with ease.

But luck was on Liverpool's side as Palace forward Ayew was dismissed for a soft second booking in the 75th minute and within 60 seconds the visitors were level.

If the sending-off had an element of good fortune for Liverpool, there was more to come as Cody Gakpo's cross was only cleared to Salah, whose shot from 10 yards took a wicked deflection as it flashed past wrong-footed keeper Sam Johnstone.



Liverpool finally had some momentum and their late siege produced a winner in the first minute of stoppage time.

Elliott took possession 30 yards from goal and swerved away from his marker

before unleashing a superb strike that beat Palace substitute keeper Remi Matthews at his near post.

In the final seconds, Alisson had to save from Joachim Andersen to preserve Liverpool's hard-fought success.

'Fajar Al Sharq-V'

Group Photo Special Forces of Pakistan, Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait participated in the Multinational joint special forces exercise 'Fajar Al Sharq-V'.



Photo: ISPR

Caretaker PM says govt continuing its efforts to promote, safeguard human rights

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that the Government of Pakistan would continue its efforts to promote and safeguard human rights, both domestically and internationally.

He reiterated Pakistan's unflinching resolve to further advance respect for and protection of the rights and freedoms of all our citizens as enshrined in the Constitution as well as in the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. "Pakistan has consistently demonstrated its commitment to this cause, evident through various initiatives and policies aimed at protecting the dignity and rights of its citizens," the caretaker prime minister said in a message on the occasion of International Human Rights Day being observed on December 10.

The prime minister said that this year's theme "Freedom, Equality and Justice for All" was very apt and relevant. Pakistan joined the

international community in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The historic declaration enshrined the inalienable rights to which all individuals were entitled—regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The prime minister said that some key initiatives taken by the government of Pakistan

included ratification of core human rights conventions, incorporation of fundamental rights in the constitution of Pakistan, enactment of human rights laws and establishment of institutions for prevention and protection of rights.

Special laws have been enacted for the protection of the rights of vulnerable population including women, children, minorities, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and transgender, he added.

To ensure implementation of these laws, the prime

minister said the government had established the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) with the power to take cognizance of the violation of human rights, the National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) with the mandate to inquire into violations of women rights, and the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) with the mandate to take all necessary measures for protection of child rights including inquiry into cases of violation.

ECP's inordinate delay to issue PTI electoral symbol 'bat' deplorable: PTI spokesperson

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson expressed serious reservations over the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) unnecessary dillydallying tactics to allot PTI its elections symbol "Bat" despite submitting all the required documents to the commission after holding successful intra-party polls, demanding the electoral watchdog to issue the party polls symbol sans any

further delay.

PTI spokesperson appealed that keeping in view the sensitivity of the issue, Lahore High Court (LHC) should hear the petition of Barrister Ali Zafar challenging the ECP's order of November 23, 2023 at the earliest so as to avert the tragic death of democracy after the casualty of the constitution at the hands of the electoral body.

He lamented that said that PTI was on the target of the worst state repression and ongoing shameful polit-

ical engineering before the elections, adding that all the evidences and signs were enough to expose the state's ambitions to commit historical electoral fraud in the next polls.

He went on to say that the country's most popular political party having support of over three-fourths of the eligible voting population was being subjected to a heinous conspiracy like technical knockout.

PTI spokesperson said

that all unconstitutional, illegal and undemocratic tactics were repeatedly being used to sideline PTI Chairman-for-life Imran Khan, who had been unjustly imprisoned in Adiala Jail, and his party from the political arena.

He pointed out that there was unconstitutional, illegal, unrepresentative and undemocratic governments in the country, whose sole criminal mission was to deprive Imran Khan of the public mandate, adding that they were even

devoid of the basic constitutional requirement of elections.

PTI spokesperson said in the wake of May 9 incidents, all brutal tactics ranging from breaking up PTI, detaining thousands of innocent workers including the founding chairman and the blind and unlawful use of state power were being utilized; however, the stubborn and diarch supporters of Khan and PTI were a big challenge for the evil planners of the state.

China, UAE likely to invest \$500m in Pakistan's LNG projects

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: China and United Arab Emirates (UAE) are likely to invest \$500 million in two Liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Pakistan.

According to sources, the China National Chemical Engineering Company (CNCEC) and LNGFlex, a subsidiary company of Bison in the United Arab Emirates to invest in the construction of LNG terminals and supply.

Sources further said the companies have planned to invest in both virtual and non-virtual projects as they want to build a virtual LNG project, receiving terminal and storage facility at Karachi port.

Earlier, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed several multi-billion dollar MoUs in a range of areas here to boost economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

It is pertinent to mention here that in June, Bloomberg reported that Pakistan failed to secure liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market in its first attempt in about a year, as no supplier seems to budge to the cash-strapped nation's offer.

Traders, on the condition of anonymity, told the publication that Pakistan LNG Limited's (PLL) bid to purchase six shipments for October to December closed with no companies responding to the offer.

The report said that many overseas banks weren't accepting letters of credit Pakistani counterparts to purchase LNG shipments, making suppliers reluctant to offer cargoes, Bloomberg reported last week.

Continued failure to protect Palestinian civilians prejudices international law and the credibility of the Security Council

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine views with great seriousness the failure of the UN Security Council to adopt a humanitarian ceasefire resolution in the Gaza Strip for the second time since the war began due to the American veto, and considers it a failure to protect Palestinian civilians and an injustice to international law and its rules regarding wars. It is also an extension of miserable and discriminatory international double standards. Among civilians in the world, and selectivity in applications of international law according to the identity of the executioner and the victim, which means giving Israel more time to continue its aggression against our people without any regard to international law and the continuing international demands to protect civilians and provide their basic humanitarian needs in a sustainable manner.

The Ministry thanks all the countries that stood by the draft resolu-

tion and whose positions express an almost international consensus on stopping the war, and thanks more than one hundred countries that adopted this resolution from the brotherly and friendly countries that stood with an immedi-

Islamic group, non-aligned countries and all friendly countries to stop the genocidal war against our people, protect Palestinian civilians, secure their basic needs and prevent the displacement of our people, within the framework of



ate ceasefire.

The State of Palestine affirms that it will continue to exert its international political, diplomatic and legal efforts on all tracks and in full partnership with the sisterly Arab and

mobilizing a broader international pressure front. To end the occupation and unjust siege on our people and enable them to exercise their right to self-determination with complete freedom.

Fajar Al Sharq-V closing ceremony held at NCTC

City Desk

Closing ceremony of Multinational Joint Special Forces Exercise Fajar Al Sharq-V was held at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi. Troops from Special Forces of Pakistan, Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait participated in the exercise.

Two weeks long exercise commenced on 27 November 2023 at NCTC, Pabbi with participation of Special Forces contingents from the brotherly countries in Counter Terrorism domain.

Besides the Exercising troops, officers from the brotherly countries of Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait also witnessed the Closing Ceremony.

Special Forces of participating countries, displayed their professional excellence on the final day.

The exercise was aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations amongst brotherly countries and helped nurture joint employment concepts against counter terrorism, besides identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.

SC to hear intra-court pleas against military trial verdict on Dec 13

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will take up from Dec 13 (Wednesday) a set of intra-court appeals (ICAs) moved to challenge the Oct 23 apex court verdict against trials of civilians in the military courts.

On October 23, the Supreme Court (SC) announced its verdict by 4-1 in pleas against civilian trials in the military courts. The PTI chairman and others moved the top court challenging the military trial of civilians named in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

A six-member bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq will hear the petitions moved by the federal government, defence ministry, the Punjab, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan governments requesting the suspension of the operation of Oct 23 short order during the ICAs pendency.

The petitioners pleaded with the superior court to nullify its verdict

until the decision on the review plea as the accused demanded their trial in the military courts.

The government, in a report to SC, said that 102 individuals were arrested after May 09 and 10 incidents in its plea to the court.

According to the application, a total of 102 persons were taken into custody for their involvement



in the attacks on military installations, including GHQ Rawalpindi, Corps Commander House Lahore, PAF Base Mianwali, ISI Establishment Civil Lines Faisalabad, Sialkot Cantonment, Hamza Camp, Gujranwala Cantonment, and Bannu Cantonment.

The accused have been taken into custody under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, read with the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Azam Khan, others among witnesses in NCA £190m scandal

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former principal secretary Azam Khan and others are among witnesses in National Crime Agency (NCA) £190 million scandal.

As per details, National Accountability Bureau has compiled the list of witnesses in NCA £190 million scandal which includes former defense minister Pervaiz Khattak, Zubaida Jalal, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Azam Khan.

The witnesses list also includes Asset Recovery Unit, Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) and cabinet division office.

Earlier today, former PTI Minister Zubaida Jalal made startling revelations before National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in National Crime Agency (NCA) £190 million scandal.

Zubaida Jalal told NAB in her statement that she urged the cabinet for investigation into this matter but former prime minister Imran Khan didn't listen to her.

She further revealed that the NCA £190 million was approved despite objections from cabinet members and the minutes of the meeting were kept secret.

It is important to mention here that former principal secretary Azam Khan had recorded his statement in the NCA £190m scandal before NAB. Azam Khan remained the principal secretary of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan.

NAB has so far summoned several cabinet members of PTI government and other party leaders in connection with the £190m scandal.