



Kashmiris reject the decision of the Indian Supreme Court: Chaudhry Anwar Haq

The Prime Minister of the AJ & K Chaudhry Anwar Haq has said that the decision of the Indian Supreme Court is a continuation of the decision of August 5, 2019, Kashmiris reject the decision of the Indian Supreme Court. The Prime Minister of Pakistan will address the AJK Lajislative Assembly session here today. (Details on Page 2)



Kazakhstan Embassy organized round table on Asian cooperation in SCO & CICA

The Embassy of Kazakhstan in Pakistan organized a Round table on the topic "The Asian factor of multilateral cooperation in the global and regional agenda: current state and future prospects", dedicated to the priorities of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Visit

Participants of 6th Maritime Security Workshop during their visit to JMICC on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Fight against terrorism to continue till its complete eradication: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday vowed to continue the fight against terrorism till its complete elimination from the country's soil. "We will fight back till the menace of terrorism is eliminated from our motherland," he posted on the social media platform, X.



The prime minister paid tribute to the valiant security forces for their successful operations in the Darazanda, Daraban, and Kolachi areas of district Dera Ismail Khan in which 27 terrorists were killed. "The soldiers' dedication, sacrifice, and valor in the face of terror is unparalleled and a beacon of hope for our nation," he said. He expressed his deepest sympathies with the families of the martyrs. PM Kakar said the government was steadfast in eliminating terrorism and extremism from the country. He said such acts could not deter the resolve of the security forces to fight terrorism. The prime minister directed the best medical treatment to the injured in the terrorist attack.

Army honors twenty three killed in Kohat during 'barbaric' attack



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of twenty three brave soldiers who embraced Shahadat while fighting terrorists' attack in Daraban area today, was offered in Dera Ismail Khan Garrison.

of serving officers, soldiers, civil officials and public attended the funeral.

Shuhada will be laid to rest with full military honour in their respective hometowns.

Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all cost.

Corps Commander Peshawar along with large number

Interior Minister condemns terrorist attack on Police Station in D. I. Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the police station in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

attack and prayed for the high status of martyrs.

The minister said that the government stands with the families of the martyrs at the time of grief.

He vowed that the terrorists can never succeed in their nefarious aims and the entire nation stands with the security forces in the war against terrorism.

In his message, the minister expressed deep sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of the soldiers in the terrorist

Australian HC meets PTI Chairman

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins called on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan here on Tuesday.



economic situation of the country, bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest.

Moreover, they also discussed the current environment for the general elections in Pakistan, opportunities for political parties to take part in elections and the overall impacts of the polls on the progress and prosperity of the country.

They shed light on the constitutional role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding holding free, fair and transparent elections, and the ground situation.

During the meeting, they discussed the country's overall political and economic situation, bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest in detail.

PTI parliamentary leader in the Upper House, Barrister Ali Zafar and PTI Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan also participated in the meeting.

Senior Australian diplomat Mairi Robertson was present on the occasion as well.

During the meeting, they held a detailed discussion on the overall prevailing political and

Security forces kill 27 terrorists in DI Khan operations: ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: At least 23 Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred after a group of terrorists attacked a security forces' post in Dera Ismail Khan's (DI Khan) Daraban area, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement on Tuesday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said heightened terror activities were witnessed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's DI Khan district on the night of December 11-12, wherein a total of 27 terrorists "were sent to hell during various operations".

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), six terrorists attacked the security post in the early hours of Decem-



ber 12.

"The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive laden vehicle into the post, followed by a suicide bombing attack."

"The resulting blasts led to the

collapse of the building, causing multiple casualties; 23 brave soldiers embraced shahadat, while all six terrorists were effectively engaged and sent to hell," the ISPR said.

It further added that sanitization operations are being

conducted to eliminate any other terrorists present in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthens our resolve."

Separately, 17 terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation in the Darazinda area of Dera Ismail Khan on the night of Dec 11 and Dec 12.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Darazinda on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, terrorists' hideout was busted and 17 terrorists were sent to hell."

In another intelligence-based operation in the general area

Kulachi, security forces effectively engaged terrorists' location as a result of which four terrorists were sent to hell. However, after an intense exchange of fire, two brave sons of soil, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom, the ISPR said.

The military's media wing said that killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered during the operations.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the "terrorist attack on the police station" and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives.

PML-N, JUI-F agree on seat adjustment in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed on the seat adjustment in Punjab in upcoming general elections.

As per details, meeting was held between the consultative committees of JUI-F and PML-N where both the parties agreed on seat adjustment in Punjab.

JUI-F leader said that the committees will hold next meeting after finalizing the list of election candidates.

Kashmir issue should be resolved under UN charter, UNSC resolution: China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: China on Tuesday strongly reacted to the Indian top court's decision to revoke the special status of Kashmir and called for settlement of the Kashmir issue in peaceful means according to the United Nations Charter, Security Council resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan.

"On Kashmir issue, China's position is consistent and clear. This is a dispute left from the past between India and Pakistan and it should be properly addressed in peaceful means according to UN charter, UNSC resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing held at Interna-



tional Press Center (IPC).

On December 11, Indian Supreme Court announced a decision endorsing BJP Govt's unilateral step to change the status of Jammu and Kashmir region in a clear violation of UNSC resolution 122 which decided that final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue could only take place by UN supervised plebiscite.

"The relevant parties need to settle this dispute through dialogue and

consultations and safeguard peace and stability in the region," Mao Ning said in response to a question asked by APP.

Kashmiri leaders have already rejected the decision by the Indian Supreme Court and see the move as an attempt to dilute the demographics of Muslim majority with Hindu settlers.

Pakistan has strongly condemned the move and vowed to exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps taken by India.

On August 5, 2019, in a move to tighten its grip on the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir region, India dropped a constitutional provision that allowed the country's only Muslim-majority region to make its own laws.

In another major relief, IHC acquits Nawaz Sharif in Al Azizia reference

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In another massive relief for the PML-N, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday acquitted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills reference.

IHC division bench, consisting of Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb announced the reserved verdict on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif's appeal against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference.

The former prime minister appeared before the court along with his legal team.

SC adjourns ZAB's death sentence hearing

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned hearing a long-pending presidential reference seeking to revisit the 1979 controversial death sentence awarded to former prime

minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

A nine-member larger apex court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and including Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afidi, Justice Aminud Din Khan,

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Musarrat Hilali took up the case.

The case proceedings were broadcast live. Previously, former chief justice

Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, had conducted five hearings on the presidential reference — whose last hearing was held on November 11, 2012.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari had approached the Supreme Court in 2011 through a Presiden-

tial Reference under Article 186 of the Constitution, seeking to revisit the trial of the PPP Founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was handed a death sentence during former military ruler General (retired) Ziaul Haq's regime.

Kashmiris reject the decision of the Indian Supreme Court: Chaudhry Anwar Haq

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq has said that the decision of the Indian Supreme Court is a continuation of the decision of August 5, 2019, Kashmiris reject the decision of the Indian Supreme Court.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan will address the AJK Legislative Assembly session here today.

If India tries to create a Gaza-like situation in Occupied Kashmir, then the LoC will not exist, the patience of the Kashmiris has now been exhausted.

The way the Indian court hanged Afzal Gaur. Kashmiris expected the same verdict. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq expressed these views in a crowded press at Jammu Kashmir House Islamabad with Hurriyat leaders under the leadership of All-Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Kashmir Branch Convener Mahmood Ahmed Sagar and Secretary General Sheikh Mateen.

Speaking at the conference, the most senior minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Azhar Sadiq, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Sardar Amjad Yusuf were also present

on this occasion.

It was understood that they want to separate the parts of Kashmir and divide it into divisions and then they want to create a pretense of fake elections there.

A concrete plan of action will be adopted on the decision of the Indian government. He said that Kashmiris will strongly protest against this cowardly decision of India.

They will fail this cowardly decision of India. In response to a question, the Prime Minister said that the members who are not in the House of Azad Kashmir are also sitting with us.

Yes, all the resources of Azad Kashmir will be diverted to the Azadi Kashmir movement.

In response to another question, the Prime Minister said that we should not be disappointed by what happened in the past.

Come, the government of Pakistan and all the political leadership of Azad Kashmir will be brought together, in the next forty-eight hours, all the Kashmiri political and Hurriyat leadership will meet the Prime Minister of Pakistan

in Muzaffarabad, this time steps will be taken with full preparation.

In response to a question, the Prime Minister Said that Kashmiris should trust their leadership as long as Hurriyat leadership is there and as long as my soul and body are there I will associate myself with this movement, you will have to see my actions.

That the ideological training of the new generation will be done, a large-scale campaign will be started in Azad Kashmir in connection with the freedom movement.

He said that the freedom movement cannot be left behind.

In response to another question, the Prime Minister said that I have guarded the tax money of the people, in which case the government got a lot of time to correct it.

24 billion rupees were spent and by the grace of Allah, there is no corruption of five paise.

In response to another question, the Prime Minister said that the Indian Supreme Court has advanced the agenda of Hindutva.

Kashmiris will fail this process of



India, God willing.

In the next five days, we will move forward with a complete strategy. He said that an all-party conference will be called soon in this regard, in which all the political leaders, including the nationalists, will reiterate the struggle for self-determination of Kashmiris. He said that opportunities have to be taken advantage of in freedom movements.

The Hurriyat is steadfastly sticking to its position. The government will

achieve its goal under the leadership of Hurriyat leaders. He said that if India decides to repeat the history of Gaza in Kashmir. If any effort is made, then the LoC will not exist and it will not take long to cross it. Yesterday, the convenor of Hurriyat Conference Mahmood Ahmad Sagar said that the Indian Supreme together with the government of Azad Kashmir, the government of Pakistan and the political leadership along with the diaspora.

Concrete measures will be taken against the decision. He said that there are ups and downs in the movements, but Kashmiris have not bowed down to India.

We have not recognized India and we will not. He said that we all Mulkar will make the freedom movement stronger and stronger.

He said that India is building a prison at the cost of billions of rupees, in which only Kashmiris will be imprisoned.

He said that despite all the usurping actions of India, the courage of Kashmiris is It is high that we will fight every move of India together with the government led by Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq and make it fail.

He said that India also wants to hang Yasin Malik. It will happen soon, no matter what tactics BHART tries, it cannot deprive the Kashmiris of their right to self-determination.

Earlier, a delegation of the Hurriyat Conference led by All-Party Hurriyat Conference convener Mehmood Ahmad Sagar met Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq.

Preparation for Christmas

KARACHI: A stunning view of the Christmas tree illuminated with beautiful lights at St Patrick's Church for the celebrations of Christmas in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Dottani tribe protest over mobile signal, internet service, Wana Zhob Road closed.

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Tuesday, Dottani tribe staged a protest in Toi Khullha Tehsil of Lower South Waziristan regarding the restoration of mobile signal and internet service.

The protestors have closed the Wana Zhob road for all types of traffic.

On this occasion elders and youths of the area participated in large numbers in the demonstration.

The protestors said that the main reason for the road closure was that there is signal and internet service in the whole of Pakistan but Tehsil Toi Khullha is the only unfortunate area whose people are deprived of this basic facility even in this modern era.



The protestors said that Toi Khullha is the only tehsil which is peaceful and free from terrorism, yet the government

is treating us like a stepmother. The protestors said that most of our people are living in foreign countries and other

cities of Pakistan we have to go to remote areas to make these contacts. The protestors demand-

ed from Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Corps Commander Peshawar, IGFC South KP and Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower, that we are also Pakistani citizens, we should be provided facilities like other cities of Pakistan.

In the end, they said that the protest will continue for the restoration of signal and internet service in Toi Khullha.

They also threatened to boycott the polio campaign unless signal and internet service is provided, however, the road will be closed for all traffic.

Indian SC followed Hindutava policy

Govt Pakistan should withdraw from Shimla agreement immediately: Sardar Attique



Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, while reacting to the decision of the Indian Supreme Court, said that the decision of the Indian Supreme Court is very disappointing and sad. The people of Kashmir are protesting all over the world today. The Indian Supreme Court has also followed the Hindutva policy.

He further said that no disrespectful Kashmiri can support India's actions related to Kashmir. The recent decision of the Indian Supreme Court is a slap in the face of the United Nations. The United Nations should clarify its position on this situation without delay. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Indian Supreme Court has shown extreme partiality on the issue of Afzal Guru and Babri Masjid. Blocking the peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue means inviting the new generation to militancy. The former prime minister further said that the government of Pakistan should take the matter to the Security Council without delay. And withdraw from the Shimla agreement in the first phase. Indian institutions are pushing the situation towards war by blocking all the ways of peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue.

DPO's visit to various areas to review security arrangements during polio campaign

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farmanullah visited different areas on Tuesday to review the security arrangements during the polio campaign across the district.

The DPO took a detailed review of all the arrangements and took a detailed briefing from all the SHO's about the security arrangements and issued further instructions.

DPO started polio campaign by giving polio drops to children. The DPO also met the police personnel on duty and issued strict instructions regarding security duties, but instructions were also issued to SDPOs to ensure full proof security of polio teams in their respective circles, any negligence regarding security will not be tolerated.

The DPO instructed the police personnel to be alert and vigilant during duty, for your safety, use a belt-proof helmet, jacket and ensure your safety with the safety of polio teams, so stay with the teams until the end of the anti-polio campaign.

The DPO said that police officers should avoid using smart phones while on duty and keep your full attention on duty.

Along with polio duty, keep a close eye on the surrounding environment and anti-social elements and ensure the safety of people's lives and property.



Hyderabad (Qayoom Sarohi) In connection of International Human rights day a rally was carried out by District Administration Hyderabad in supervision of ADC Hyderabad Mahwish Bashir Burro from Shehbaz Building to post master general Hyderabad. While talking to the media she said that " we strive to ensure equality among the masses and the availability of human rights in written constitution of Pakistan is the evidence that our society respect the International humanitarian law. She said that we are against the violation of human rights and wherever the human rights are being violated in world we play our role as responsible state. On the occasion, AC Rural Hyderabad, Ahsan Morai, stated that December 10th is observed as International Human Rights Day worldwide.

Karandaaz and Bank Alfalah Join Hands to Scale up Female Agent Network

PPA

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, one of the largest commercial banks in Pakistan signed an agreement with Karandaaz to expand the female agent network in Pakistan. This partnership was signed in the presence of Karandaaz Chairperson Salim Raza, Bank Alfalah President and CEO Atif Bajwa, Karandaaz CEO Waqas ul Hasan, Group Head Digital Banking Group Muhammad Yahya Khan and other senior members of Bank Alfalah and Karandaaz.

Karandaaz CEO Waqas ul Hasan added, "Our collaboration with Bank Alfalah underscores Karandaaz's dedication to digitalization and financial inclusion with a gender lens. This network expansion contributes to the broader objectives of the State Bank of Pakistan's Banking on Equality poli-



cy, while also setting a precedent for other financial institutions to follow suit. This partnership not only reinforces Karandaaz's commitment to gender equality in the financial sector but also positions Pakistan as a torchbearer for innovative approaches to

financial inclusion on the global stage." "This collaboration marks a significant milestone in advancing financial inclusion," said Bank Alfalah President and CEO Atif Bajwa. "We are dedicated to supporting and empowering female agents, driving digital banking

success, and fostering financial inclusion for women across Pakistan. This partnership aligns with our mission to create a more inclusive and accessible financial ecosystem in Pakistan."

Commenting on this landmark collaboration, the Director Digital Financial Services at Karandaaz, Sharjeel Murtaza expressed, "Female agents are an essential instrument for forwarding the agenda of women's financial inclusion. However, currently the base of female agents is negligible in the country. Through this partnership with Bank Alfalah, Karandaaz aims to scale the female agent network and keep it active which would certainly lead to increased ownership of digital accounts, usage of financial services and most importantly women's economic autonomy and agency."



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:34 am
Zohr12:01 pm
Asr3:22 pm
Maghrib5:00 pm
Isha6:29 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

AIOU conducts Cooperative Learning training for teachers

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has focused on faculty development to promote teaching and research culture in the university," said Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel while addressing the opening session of two-day 'Cooperative Learning Training Workshop'. She said that as per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Education conducts training workshop regularly to equip teachers with contemporary requirements, increase their technical and professional skills.

This training workshop was organized by the Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education (Faculty of Education). Dr. Zaheer Ahmed was the trainer, while Dr. Tahira Bibi was the coordinator of this workshop. Chairman, Department of Early Child Education and Elementary Teacher Education, Prof. Dr. Fazal-Ur-Rahman presided over both the sessions. Explaining the aims and objectives of the training workshop, Dr. Fazal and Dr. Tahira Bibi said that cooperative learning training was essential because this faculty provides training to teachers across the country and there is no school, college or university in Pakistan that does not have our trained teacher. Dr. Tahira Bibi thanked the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and the Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel for their support and patronage in organizing the training workshop.

Indian SC decision akin to death sentence for all Kashmiris: Mushaal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has expressed her deep concern over the India Supreme Court's decision to uphold the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it is akin to death sentence for all Kashmiris. She was addressing a seminar to commemorate International Human Rights Day organized by Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights in collaboration with International Islamic University Islamabad.

Mr. Shafique Chaudhry (Executive Director, PCHR), Dr. Raheem Awan (DG Legal Aid and Justice Authority), Dr. Sameena Malik (Rector, IIUI), Dr. Noor Fatima and Syed Muhammad

Anwar were among the participant of the Seminar.

Mushaal asserted that the ongoing human rights violations by India underscore the shortcomings of the United Nations. She emphasized the necessity for the UN to go beyond mere resolutions and actively pursue their implementation. She pointed out that resolutions related to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute have remained unresolved for 75 years. Mushaal emphasized that amidst the conspicuous silence of the UN and international organizations, the alarming situations of genocide were unfolding in Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. She urged global bodies to break their silence and take proactive measures to address the escalating humanitarian crises in those regions.

Mushaal highlighted that International



International Human Rights Day stands as a global reminder of the fundamental principles that uphold human dignity, equality, and justice. She emphasized the importance

of utilizing this day as an opportunity for individuals, communities, and nations to reflect on the strides made in safeguarding human rights and to address persisting challenges. She called for collective action to protect and promote the rights and freedoms of every individual, regardless of race, gender, religion, or nationality.

In discussing the 100-day plan initiated by the Ministry of Human Rights to enhance the state of human rights in Pakistan, she underscored that the plan was more than just a plan—it was a comprehensive human rights charter. She highlighted the plan's particular emphasis on eradicating gender-based violence and empowering women in society through microfinance schemes. She further stressed the significance of establishing day care centers in prisons, workplaces and educational institutions.

Cleaning

ISLAMABAD: A view of the massive garbage in nullah along the Express Way, which needs the attention of concern authority.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers' Conference



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi chaired the 37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers' Conference (IPEMC) today on 12th December, 2023.

The Meeting has been specially called on by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi in order to deliberate on:

"Formulation of Uniform National Strategy to cater the issue of Out of School Children (OOSC)"

Madad Ali Sindhi said that all the provinces need to work together with the federal government to resolve all the education related problems.

He said that Out of School Children is the biggest challenge we face in addition with quality of education. Madad said that these issues have been given top priority. He said that quality of education needs to be improved at all levels including schools, colleges and universities. Madad said that we have enough resources to make a difference, we just need to work hard with honesty.

Secretary Education, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary welcomed the participants and provided an introduction to IPEMC and an overview of the core agenda of the meeting. He said that the Federal Government intends to extend special focus on the OOSC agenda by

allowing all provinces to participate and brief regarding their statistics, strategies and challenges while working on catering the problem of out of school children.

Education Minister Punjab Mr. Mansoor Qadir, Education Minister Balochistan Dr. Qadir Bux Baloch, Education Minister GB Mr. Ghulam Shahzad attended the meeting in person. Education Secretaries of all provinces and Federal Education Secretary Mr. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary in addition with representatives from FBlSE, HEC department Lahore, PMDIU Lahore, Foundation Hub, ASPIRE, PPDU, HEC, PIE and PTCL also attended the meeting.

ChildLife wins 'Best Research Award'

ABC

ISLAMABAD: The Emirates Society of Emergency Medicine conference has evolved into a premier international platform over the years acknowledging emergency physicians with contributions towards Research in Emergency Medicine. ChildLife Foundation's recognition reflects its outstanding contributions to emergency medicine research and its dedication to improving children's health in Pakistan.

"We are honored to receive the Best Research Award at ESEM Conference 2023, recognizing our unwavering commitment to contribute towards advancing emergency care for children. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and commitment to make Pakistan a child-safe country", said Dr. Ahson Rabbani, CEO of ChildLife Foundation.



Landmark Collaboration

PTDC and University of Baltistan Join Forces for Center of Excellence in Mountain Tourism



PNP

ISLAMABAD: A historic Memorandum of Understanding was inked between the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and the University of Baltistan, Skardu, solidifying their commitment to establishing a Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism in Skardu. The momentous event was graced by the presence of Minister of State for Tourism and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Youth Affairs, Wasi Shah.

Minister Wasi Shah, speaking passionately at the occasion, affirmed the government's dedication to the welfare of porters, vowing to allocate resources and modern facilities for their benefit. He emphasized the significance of prioritizing human life and expressed gratitude for the realization of his dream—the establishment of this Center of Excellence.

The initiative, credited to the collaborative efforts of Vice Chancellor Baltistan University and PTDC's Managing Director, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, holds the promise of boosting global confidence in Pakistani climbers.

Ten accomplished mountaineers, who scaled 8,000-meter peaks, proudly participated in the event, contributing to the celebration of Pakistan's mountaineering prowess. Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Vice Chancellor Baltistan University, Dr. Naem Khan, and Chairman Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, Rania Saeed, added their voices to the significant occasion.

The festivities concluded with an eco-hike at Margalla Hills, symbolizing the commitment to environmental conservation. Minister Wasi Shah personally distributed certificates to participants, marking a symbolic step towards fostering a community dedicated to the responsible exploration and preservation of Pakistan's majestic mountainous landscapes.

PEC-PPDC- FYDP Financing 23-24 Launching Ceremony

PPA

ISLAMABAD: PEC Pakistan Development committee will hold "PEC Final Year Design Project Financing 2023-24" launching ceremony at Iqbal Auditorium, University Of Agriculture (UOA), Faisalabad, Pakistan on Wednesday, 13th Dec'2023. Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon (Chairman PEC) will be the chief guest.

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is a national apex regulatory body constituted through an enactment of the Parliament (PEC Act 1976) to regulate the engineering profession. The Council as per its Act has also special mandate to act as a "Think Tank to the Federal Government" to aid in all matters pertaining to engineering profession and policies required for the socio-economic development of the country.

BISP Reinforces Commitment to Ensure Transparent Payment Mechanism

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has emphasized the need for a transparent payment system and announced plans to include the services of more than 15 banks to ensure efficient and transparent payments to the registered beneficiaries.

In a significant visit to Karachi, Chairperson BISP conducted a thorough assessment of the payment disbursement center and the BISP regional headquarters in the city. The visit included a high-level meeting attended by BISP board members, including Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Mr. Haris Gazdar, Barrister Ayesha Tammy Haq (via Zoom), DG NSER Naveed Akbar, DG Sindh Riaz Soomro, and DG MCO Zulfiqar Sheikh, among other officers.

Dr. Amjad Saqib proposed the initiation of training programs for staff and officers to enhance their individual performance and contribute to the program's overall efficiency. Several proposals were considered during the meeting, aligning with the future vision of BISP. "BISP is the largest social safety net program of Pakistan, and we are committed to ensure that the benefits reach the deserving recipients with transparency", he said.

DG NSER Naveed Akbar provided insights into Kafaalat and Nasonuma programs, emphasizing the Dynamic Registry procedure. He said that around 6 million people across the country have been surveyed through dynamic registration centers.

Director General Sindh Riaz Soomro briefed the board on the Kafaalat program benefiting more than 2.3 million women in the province. He also noted that quarterly stipends are being provided to approximately one lac 74 thousand deserving individuals in Karachi alone.

ICCI calls for slaughterhouse and a separate market for the poultry sector

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that a new slaughterhouse is a longstanding demand of the business community of the meat sector and stressed that the CDA in consultation with the stakeholders should establish a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse in the vicinity of the federal capital to promote trade and exports of meat products. He further said that CDA should consider establishing a separate market for the poultry sector to boost its business activities. He said this while addressing a delegation of the All-Pakistan Jamiat Ul Quresh Meat Welfare Association that visited ICCI led by its President Khurshed Ahmed Qureshi. Javed Qureshi Senior Vice President, Sardar Zaheer



Ahmed Secretary General, and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has good potential to export Halal meat products to the Gulf region and many other countries and stressed that

the business community should focus on the value-addition of products to improve exports. He assured that the ICCI would cooperate with the Meat Welfare Association to address the key issues of the business community of

their sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Khurshed Ahmed Qureshi, President, All-Pakistan Jamiat Ul Quresh Meat Welfare Association briefed the President ICCI about the key issues being faced by the business community of the meat sector and hoped that ICCI would take up them with relevant authorities for redress. He stressed the need for a new slaughterhouse for the federal capital and urged that the government should focus on resolving the issues of the poultry sector.

Ajmal Baloch, President, All-Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajirun, and others also spoke on the occasion and emphasized that the government should focus on resolving the issues of livestock and poultry sectors to facilitate better growth of their business activities and exports.

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Minister Dr. Malki delivers the State of Palestine's speech at the high-level event

Spokesman Report

We're here today to mark 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to look 25 years ahead, and to discuss recommendations on promoting peace through a human rights lens. There are many dark ironies in our discussions today, not the least of which is that I represent a people whose fundamental rights to life, dignity, and self-determination among many others have been denied for 75 years.

As we speak, at least 1 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, half of them children, are starving – not because of a natural disaster or lack of generous assistance waiting at the border. No, they're starving because of Israel's deliberate use of starvation as a weapon of war against the people it occupied. Rather than condemning this atrocious crime, states have accommodated it and accepted Israel's criminal terms for how much food, water, fuel, and medicine can enter Gaza and to whom this essential aid can be supplied. Rather than insisting on respecting the Palestinian people's basic right to eat and drink water, we are living through this dystopian reality that excludes Palestinians from the most basic rights afforded to all human beings.

I understand the importance and value of this discussion in theory, but it is difficult for me as a Palestinian – as a

human – to comprehend it during this dark hour of utter international failure towards the most basic rights of an entire people- my people. Events have unfortunately made such a discussion moot. Because if human rights are trampled on so pervasively, so audaciously, so publicly, and so arrogantly today, and if such objectionable behavior is excused, supported, and protected – how can we sit here, in all seriousness and except that the international system can survive 25 years down the line? The answer is, it simply cannot.

When human rights are not universal, this declaration and all the progress we thought we achieved globally over the decades, become irrelevant and unconvincing. When schools, markets, hospitals, and open fields turn into mass graves in Gaza – when more than 8 thousand children are slaughtered and thousands more are injured and made orphans – and when one single state can torpedo the will of the world to stop these massacres, how can we dare say that human rights are universal?

Rather than pontificating about our rules-based international system and the universal values of human rights, we must have the courage to say that our system is failing and failing miserably. This system is broken and we have a historic responsibility to fix it or else resign to being complicit in its catastrophic demise and humanity devolving into a new normal of brutality, unchecked powers, and savagery. We must admit that our system has tolerated the selective application of the responsibility to

respect human rights and international humanitarian law for far too long and at the cost of far too many innocent lives.

The structure of the system that allows a few states to leverage their enormous power over humanity must change – because it has also allowed for far too long the exceptional treatment of rogue states like Israel as states above international law and beyond the reach of accountability. This is intolerable and unacceptable because it undermines the values, we as states uphold and the accomplishments each of us achieves at the national level. The universality of human rights must mean that our national and foreign policies align – that we treat all human life with respect and dignity regardless of color, nationality, gender, or creed. Period.

Looking forward, we must commit to the principle that human rights cannot be a privilege of a select group, as they are today. We must do that in action, not hollow statements and carefully crafted eloquence that entrench injustices and produce no change.

For us to look hungry, terrified, and displaced Palestinian children in Gaza in the eye, we have to commit to doing things differently; to promise them a life where there is no veto on his or her right to live and to enjoy freedom, safety, and dignity; to pledge that they would never again be dehumanized and called "human animals" or excluded from humanity so that they could be killed, maimed, and orphaned in their thousands as is happening today. And we must make good on that promise today.

After 75 years of the Palestinian Nakba and as Israel commits another Nakba before our eyes, the need for global solidarity and action has never been greater. The Palestinian people must enjoy their fundamental rights to life, justice, dignity, and self-determination. They must be freed from the monstrosities committed against them to maintain an illegal regime of colonial control, domination, and persecution by way of apartheid. This abomination must end.

So what do we do? How do we break free from this dark hour of agony and immeasurable suffering? The answer is simple: We listen to the roaring cries for peace and human rights that have filled the streets of cities worldwide. We heed their calls that Never Again means Never Again for everybody. We not only call for a ceasefire – we actively work to achieve it. We not only call for respect for human rights and international law – we sanction Israel for violating these international obligations without hesitation. In short, we reject and end Israeli exceptionalism.

As a proud State Party to seven UN human rights treaties and an additional seven protocols, Palestine remains committed to these international standards. We believe they are not mere words and we know that we are not alone in that. But as a family of nations, we must do better, much better to uphold the universality of these values and standards so that they survive the indignities and double standards we are witnessing now in Gaza.

Pakistan seeks stronger ties with China

Pakistan's desire for stronger ties with China reflects the mutual benefits and shared interests that exist between the two nations. This strategic partnership encompasses various areas such as economic cooperation, infrastructure development, renewable energy, and cultural exchanges, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

In an interview with China Economic Net, Hashmi elaborated the flourishing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), emphasizing the need for enhanced industrial cooperation, trade, and investment between the two nations.

The Ambassador identified the key areas of focus, including agriculture, information technology, livelihood, and green development, aligning with the priorities outlined during Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's recent visit to Pakistan from July 30 to August 1, 2023. "We need to quickly improve our productive capacity because the Phase-1 of CPEC was primarily to develop infrastructure and energy. In terms of the next phase of CPEC, it is the establishment of five corridors, the corridor of growth, innovation, green development, livelihoods, and inclusiveness.

These are all areas which are in alignment with our priorities", he stated. Khalil Hashmi said that the recent trade protocols signed between China and Pakistan opened up around \$30 billion market for Pakistan, covering items such as heated beef, dried chili, Pakistani dairy products, and animal skins.

The Ambassador commended China's efforts for creating & enabling conditions for trade, including regulatory adjustments and the provision of dedicated officers in the Chinese embassy to assist Pakistani exporters.

"We spent a lot of effort organizing a very successful agriculture exhibition in Pakistan, in which many Chinese and Pakistani companies and individuals participated. B2B exchanges are another tool to promote bilateral trade," Hashmi said. Addressing Pakistan's commitment to green and sustainable development, the Ambassador outlined the nation's efforts in the renewable energy sector.

He highlighted projects such as hydroelectric power generation and collaborations with China to expand solar energy capacity. The Ambassador stressed the importance of international support and financing to achieve these ambitious goals. As for RMB settlement in China-Pakistan trade and how to strengthen cooperation in banking and financial industries between the two countries, he said the currency swap that Pakistan had with China was very positive for trade settlement.



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

Real Face of India - IV

Tradeau conveyed that Canadian security agencies are actively pursuing credible allegations pointing to a potential connection between government agents from India and Nijjar's death. He mentioned raising the murder issue directly with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 summit in New Delhi and urged the Indian government to cooperate with Canada in thoroughly investigating the matter. In response to these developments, Canada also took the unprecedented step of expelling India's top intelligence agent stationed in the country.

Recently, a court in Qatar sentenced eight former Indian navy personnel to death, accusing them of espionage on behalf of Israel. Among those sentenced are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasishth, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Rajesh. All these ex-naval personnel were employed by Al Dabra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private company owned by a former officer of the Oman Air Force. This firm was responsible for providing training and various services to Qatar's armed forces and security agencies.

The true nature of India is evident not only to its domestic population but also to its diaspora. Sikhs, for instance, are acutely aware of India's reality and express a desire for a separate existence. India's influence extends to Sikhs abroad, and they are responding resolutely to these perceived hostile actions. In a recent incident, a senior Indian diplomat, Taranjit Sandhu, encountered confrontation from pro-Khalistan Sikhs at a Gurdwara in New York, leading to his abrupt departure from the place of worship.

During the encounter, activists questioned Ambassador Taranjit Sandhu about his alleged involvement in a failed Indian state plot to assassinate Sikh leader Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. Pannun is a key figure associated with Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) and the global Khalistan Referendum campaign. Pro-Khalistan Sikhs, led by Himmat Singh at Hicksville Gurdwara in New York, also accused Sandhu of India's role in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the President of Surrey Gurdwara and the coordinator for the Canadian Chapter of the Khalistan Referendum.

The public questioning agitated the diplomat, prompting him to abruptly leave the Gurdwara without providing any answers. Despite the confrontation, the pro-Khalistan Sikhs emphasized their right, as U.S. citizens, to peacefully question anyone, regardless of their government affiliation. Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, the SFJ General Counsel targeted in the foiled Indian assassination plot, asserted that despite India's attempts to thwart the Khalistan Referendum, the voting would continue, with the American phase scheduled to commence on January 28, 2024, in San Francisco, California.

This incident follows the recent revelation of a thwarted Indian conspiracy to assassinate Gurbatwant Singh Pannun on American soil. The U.S. authorities issued a warning to the Indian government over its alleged involvement in the plot, as reported by the Financial Times (FT). The FT disclosed that the Indian government was behind the scheme, which targeted Pannun, a leading figure in the Khalistan Referendum campaign. The U.S. Department is considering whether to unseal the indictment and make the allegations public or await the completion of Canada's investigation into Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder, a Canadian

Sikh separatist linked to the case. Furthermore, India's premier intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), has reportedly ceased operations at its North American stations for the first time since its inception in 1968. This decision comes in anticipation of impending criminal charges against an Indian citizen accused of conspiring to assassinate a pro-Sikh activist in New York.

The global condemnation following the assassination of a Sikh leader by the Indian intelligence agency Raw (RAW) in India had barely subsided when the notorious agency found itself embroiled in another controversy. In Germany, an Indian couple now faces accusations of spying on the Sikh and Kashmiri communities. The couple is set to stand trial, confronting the possibility of a 10-year prison sentence. As per reports from the World News Agency, 50-year-old Manmohan and his wife stand accused of engaging in espionage on Sikhs and Kashmiris residing in Germany on behalf of the Indian intelligence agency Raw (RAW). This act is deemed a punishable offense under German secrecy laws. The legal proceedings for this case are unfolding in a Frankfurt court. "In early 2023, prosecutors revealed that Manmohan had willingly supplied information about the Sikh and Kashmiri communities in Germany and the Kashmiri freedom movement to an employee of the Indian intelligence agency Raw (RAW)," stated the prosecutors in an official statement. Furthermore, it was disclosed that Manmohan's wife had conducted numerous meetings with an Indian intelligence officer from July to December 2017, receiving \$8,100 as compensation for her involvement in this covert operation.

Readers, in light of these realities, the true face of India is becoming increasingly apparent to the global community. It is now imperative to exert pressure on India to ensure the protection of human rights for minorities within its borders and to cease interference in the affairs of other nations.

The year 2024, new disasters, new exams - I

In January of this year, the managing director of the World Economic Forum, Jeremy Jurgen, said that a cyber attack is expected on the whole world in 2024, but the exact words were as follows.

"This attack will happen before 2025 anyway". Previous in this case

Some things have come out clearly from Michael Shellenberger's CIL files leaks. Many people may be aware that the World Economic Forum simulations are also used to deal with future cyber-attacks.

This operation has been named as Cyber Polygon.

The World Economic Forum's partners in these exercises include the Russian government, major Russian national and commercial banks, the Bank of America, the Federal Reserve Bank, the US National Security Agency, multinational companies, Microsoft, Amazon, and hacker groups. International media, especially financial people, will be aware of the situation of American banks, especially Wall Street. General readers also know that last month, three or four big banks of Silicon Valley went bankrupt. A cyber attack on banks means the whole world.

The financial system will collapse at once, which will cause chaos throughout the world.

It is currently impossible to estimate the value of loss in case of stock market crash/shutdown. The time between bank closures and system restoration can be (three days to three weeks) a critical life procurement crisis that will hit systems and societies hard.

Such a cyber attack is necessary so that The World Economic Forum's policies on cyber security can be implemented across the

world, including control over the Internet. A digital ID system is to be implemented to achieve this control.

Through this digital ID, the security agencies will be able to monitor your every move on the Internet, not only they will be able to check what you are reading and watching on the Internet, but they will also know what you tweet or Post are writing.

A digital ID will also give the government control over your finances, meaning that the bank accounts of a person with a digital ID will have access to the funds and transactions made at all times. The government will be able to impoverish anyone whenever it wants.

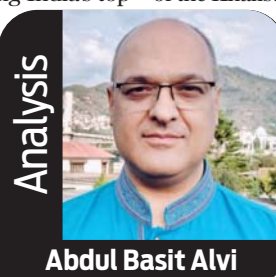
Side note:- Experimentally, this system has been implemented in some cities of China and Russia. In which breaking the law, for example breaking the traffic signal, the fine is deducted from the person's bank account at the same time as per the law.

Second example: _ As today company is on crush PTI mission, bank accounts of any small to big person supporting PTI will be emptied in seconds lockers will be in custody of Govt.

The World Economic Forum has public-private partnerships with all the world's major agencies. Countries including Iran, Russia, China, and South Korea have fingerprints of individuals that have undoubtedly been hacked or bought from corrupt traitors.

Everyone also remembers that NADRA data was stolen (sold) from Pakistan. It means that if any kind of cyber attack takes place on the digital systems of the whole world, the attackers can blame it on any country in the world.

To be continued



Analysis **Abdul Basit Alvi**



Analysis **Kiran Asim**

Kazakhstan Embassy organized round table on Asian cooperation in SCO and CICA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Kazakhstan in Pakistan organized a Round table on the topic "The Asian factor of multilateral cooperation in the global and regional agenda: current state and future prospects", dedicated to the priorities of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Chairman of the Defense Committee of the Senate of Pakistan, former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, former Minister of Communication Mushahid Hussain Syed was invited to the event as a Chief Guest. The moderator was Bahria University Professor Dr. Hasan Daud Butt.

On behalf of the Kazakh side, the Round Table was attended by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, an expert in the military-political dimension of the CICA Doulat Kuanyshiev, the National Coordinator for SCO activities from the Republic of Kazakhstan Murat Mukushev, analysts from the KazISS, FPRI, the Center for Trade and Economic strategies.

The event was attended by senators, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, heads of the capital's leading universities and think tanks, journalists from reputable media and



international relations students.

In his welcoming speech, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, outlined the main milestones in the formation of CICA and the SCO, emphasized the common goals and objectives of the two organizations, and noted their growing role and relevance in the light of events taking place in the international arena.

Expressed his opinion on the need to further increase cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, incl. within the framework of the mentioned organizations in order to strengthen interaction in various fields, as well as jointly confront current challenges and

threats. In turn, Senator Mushahid Hussein Syed stated the importance of Kazakh-Pakistani cooperation, incl. within the framework of CICA and the SCO. He emphasized the relevance for Pakistan of the tasks and priorities identified by Kazakhstan as the presiding country in CICA and the SCO.

Ambassador Y. Kistafin expresses personal gratitude to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed; Senator Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral Asif Khaliq, Pro-Rector National University of Modern Languages Dr. Zubair Iqbal, Prof. Dr. Hassan Daud; Vice-Chancel-



lor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Dr. Nadeem U1 Haque; Director General of the Islamic Research Institute, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia U1 Haq; Director of the China-Pakistan Study Center of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Dr. Talat Shabbir; President of the Institute of Regional Studies, Amba-

sador Nadeem Riyaz; President of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Ambassador Dr. Raza Muhammad; Executive Director of Diplomatic Insight Group, Muhammad Asif Noor; Professor of the Area Study Center of the University of Peshawar, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Stud-

ies, Dr. Farhat Asif; Director of the School of Politics and International Relations of Quaid-i-Azam University, Prof. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal; Executive Director of the Center for a Community with a Shared Future, Khalid Taimur Akram, President of the Center for Pakistan and International Relations, Amna Malik.

Celebrating Academic Achievements of Pearson Edexcel Learners



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pearson and British Council Pakistan hosted the Outstanding Pearson Learners Award Ceremony (OPLA) in Islamabad to reward learners for their outstanding results. OPLAs are awarded to learners worldwide, and in Pakistan were awarded to those who took Pearson Edexcel iPrimary, iLowerSecondary, International GCSE, GCSE, International A level and O level examinations in the October 2022, January 2023 or May/June 2023 exam series and achieved outstanding results.

The award categories that recognized over 100 learners for their Pearson qualifications were for The Highest Mark in the World, The Highest Mark in Asia, The Highest Mark in the Country, The Highest Mark in the Province and Highest Subject Marks.

The Pearson High Achievers award ceremony was attended by Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director, Pearson School Qualifications Pearson Middle East, on the occasion shared, "It's an honour to be in Pakistan to join this year's Outstanding Pearson Learners' ceremony. The High Achievers Award Ceremony is always special and memorable day for Pearson Qualifications, and I am delighted to be part of this event recognising the hard work and perseverance of the high achievers."

North Africa, Pakistan, and Turkey, Ms. Ayesha Zaheer, Head Business Development Pakistan, Pearson, Fareed Shaikh, Regional Development Manager Pakistan Pearson, Abdullah Lateef Khan, Regional Development Manager Pakistan, Pearson and Amanda Ingram, Exams Director, Pakistan, British Council alongside Pearson Edexcel partner schools' leadership, principals, teachers, parents and distinguished guests.

Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director, Pearson School Qualifications Pearson Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan, on the occasion shared, "It's an honour to be in Pakistan to join this year's Outstanding Pearson Learners' ceremony. The High Achievers Award Ceremony is always special and memorable day for Pearson Qualifications, and I am delighted to be part of this event recognising the hard work and perseverance of the high achievers."

Amanda Ingram, Exams Director, Pakistan, British Council, addressed, "I am delighted that through our

world-class examination experience, students are able to excel in their exams and make Pakistan proud globally. The High Achievers Awards Ceremony is an important annual event whereby Pearson and the British Council are able to recognise and celebrate these achievements in the best possible way."

Ms. Ayesha Zaheer, Head Business Development Pakistan, Pearson said, "It's just amazing to acknowledge the award winners that we have today. The parents, the teachers, the heads of schools and even the non-teaching staff matter, everyone contributing to ensure that we impact the lives of these learners positively."

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, serving customers in nearly 200 countries with digital content, assessments, qualifications, and data. Pearson Edexcel qualifications are modern, progressive qualifications recognized worldwide for academic excellence and rated grade-for-grade equivalent to Pakistani marks by IBCC.

Aramco to acquire a 40% stake in Gas & Oil Pakistan

Spokesman Report

DHAHRAN: Aramco, one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies, today signed definitive agreements to acquire a 40% equity stake in Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd. ("GO").

GO, a diversified downstream fuels, lubricants and convenience stores operator, is one of the largest retail and storage companies in Pakistan. The transaction is subject to certain customary conditions, including regulatory approvals.

The planned acquisition is Aramco's first entry into the Pakistani fuels retail market, advancing the Company's strategy to strengthen its downstream value chain internationally.

This transaction would enable Aramco to secure additional outlets for its refined products and further provide new market opportunities for Valvoline-branded lubricants, following Aramco's acquisition of the Valvoline Inc. global products business in February 2023.

Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, Aramco Downstream President, said: "Our second planned retail acquisition this year aligns with Aramco's downstream expansion strategy, with a clear path ahead for growing an integrated refining, marketing, lubricants, trading and chemicals portfolio worldwide. GO has a significant storage capacity, high-quality assets and growth potential, which will help launch the Aramco brand in Pakistan."

Moscow, Iran discuss Palestinian-Israeli conflict in telephone conversation

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: On December 11, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.



The two Foreign Ministers had a detailed discussion on current issues related to bilateral cooperation in the follow-up to the extensive talks between the presidents of the two countries that took place in Moscow on December 7. They agreed to expedite the work on completing the coordination of a new grand interstate treaty, which has reached a high degree of readiness.

A particular focus was on current developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone. The Ministers expressed shared concern over the conflict's ongoing escalation and the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Gaza. They also stressed the importance of brokering an immediate ceasefire and providing emergency assistance to the civilian victims of hostilities, as well as urging the UN to use its influence in this regard.

Pakistan Embassy of Brussels hosts Science Diplomacy Networking Event to boost ties with EU

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels hosted a Science Diplomacy Networking Event, featuring distinguished representatives from the scientific and diplomatic communities in the EU. The event provided an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions, exploring avenues for collaborative initiatives that transcend borders. The event showcased Pakistan's commitment to leveraging scientific cooperation as a catalyst for diplomatic relations.



Ambassador Amna Baloch emphasized the vital role of science diplomacy in today's interconnected world. She also highlighted that Pakistan had a very sizeable science diplomacy interface with the presence of international and inter-governmental scientific organizations including COMSTech (Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC), COMSATS (The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South) and ECO-Science Foundation. It was the need of the hour to use science diplomacy platforms to further the impact of ongoing activities and engage in capacity building of budding scientists.

She also noted that technological progress and society driven innovation were extremely vital as the world increasingly faced global challenges of food security and climate change.

Transforming Pakistan on UHC: Trans fats-link to diabetes, cardiovascular disease

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, the collaborators of the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign issued a press release emphasizing the correlation between the intake of industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA) and the prevalence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's and other chronic health issues.

Pakistan is presently facing a troubling upswing in health challenges, with one in three adult Pakistanis living with diabetes. "Industrially produced trans fats have become ubiquitous in the processed foods that fill our grocery store shelves, and pose a significant threat to cardiovascular health," said Dr. Saba of Heartfile.

Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director of CPDI, highlighted the current progress regarding iTFA regulations in Pakistan, stating, "Earlier this year, the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) with the support of MoNHSR&C updated standards for various food items like banaspati ghee, cooking oils, and bakery goods such as biscuits and rusks."

4th Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards

Best mountain development practitioners get PAPMA

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The 13th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival concluded with awarding 28 best mountain development practitioners and conservationists with 4th Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAPMA) Monday late evening. The International Mountain Day flagship events are annually organized by Devcom-Pakistan in collaboration with different partners. The closing ceremony was partnered by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The guests of honour on the occasion included the ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisasarski, EvK2CNR cofounder Maurizo Gallo, EvK2CNR scientific advisor Ashiq Ahmad Khan, well-known mountaineering icon Nazir Sabir, artist Raja Changez Sultan, and MD Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Aftab ur Rehman Rana.

Italian ambassador Andreas Ferrarese was the chief guest of the photo exhibition "The Colours of the Ice" that was jointly organized by the Italian embassy, Italian Agency for Development



Cooperation (AICS), UNDP, EvK2CNR, IUCN and Devcom-Pakistan.

The country representative Snow Leopard Foundation Dr. Jaffar Uddin won the Agostino Da Polenza Mountain Conservation award for his dedicated efforts to the conservation of snow leopard and some other mountain biodiversity. Husool Begum from upper Chitral, Saira Bano from Nagar, and Maryam Batool Ainee from Skardu received Shoaib Sultan Khan Mountain Community Development Award. The young energetic mountaineer Sajid Ali Sadpara won the Nazir Sabir Moun-

tainee Award. Well-known tourism expert Najib A Khan conferred upon the Ashraf Aman Sustainable Tourism Award while the popular Chitrali singer Manoor Ali Shabab won the Ustad Jan Ali Mountain Music Award this year again.

Devcom-Pakistan has added this year Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan Odyssey Award for Fine Arts to recognize services of the artist who has been painting mountains consistently for four decades. This award will be given to one artist who will be promoting mountains through the visual arts.

As many as 20 received Friends of Mountain Awards (FOMA). They included professionals and citizens from different sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival and Pakistan Mountain Pride Awards Munir Ahmed said mountains are the lifeline of the planet earth. The mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. As the water towers of the world, they supply freshwater to an estimated half of humanity. Mountains are home to an extraordinary range of plants and animals, and to many culturally diverse communities with different languages and traditions. From climate regulation and water provisioning services, to soil maintenance and conservation, mountains are key to our lives and livelihoods.

Speaking on the occasion, Nazir Sabir urged for waste-free mountaineering and asked the Gilgit-Baltistan government to take necessary measures in this regard. He appreciated the young mountaineers who scaled the new height in mountaineering and projecting Pakistan's image.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
66,426.78	66,012.32
Day's High	Day's Low
66,604.04	66,121.13
Index Value	Change
19,792,315,863	+414.46
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	12 Dec, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,542.77	-2.12
Percentage	Time
-0.028%	12 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
36,552.34	+147.41
Percentage	Time
+0.40%	12 Dec, 12:42 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,843.70	+51.90
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	12 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.2	189
Bahrain Dinar	755.82	763.82
Canadian Dollar	209	211
China Yuan	39.68	40.08
Danish Krone	40.99	41.39
Euro	306	309
Hong Kong Dollar	36.35	36.7
Indian Rupee	3.41	3.52
Japanese Yen	1.39	1.45
Kuwaiti Dinar	921.04	930.04
Malaysian Ringgit	60.86	61.46
New Zealand \$	173.88	175.88
Norwegians Krone	26.02	26.32
Omani Riyal	737.31	745.31
Qatari Riyal	77.98	78.68
Saudi Riyal	76.1	76.9
Singapore Dollar	211	213
Swedish Korona	27.11	27.41
Swiss Franc	323.13	325.63
Thai Bhat	7.94	8.09
U.A.E Dirham	77.4	78.2
UK Pound Sterling	358	361.5
US Dollar	283.9	286

Securing the OIC Scientific Future with Huawei

Huawei and COMSTECH forms a strategic partnership in Cyber security, AI and 5G advancement

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Huawei Technologies Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to raise awareness of national cyber security and build the capabilities of OIC member states in cyber security.

With the rapid transformation of industries and sectors into online or digital solutions providers, cyber security is integral to the continuity, stability and growth of the economy. Cyber security expertise is needed across all industries, most urgently in government, financial services, and health care.

COMSTECH and Huawei would concentrate on the enhancement of OIC's cyber security professional capability, such as security management, security incident response, vulnerability management, and insight of external new security technologies and oversight security requirements;

Huawei is a leader in digital transformation, networking and communication technologies in Pakistan and across the world. The digital economy globally is the engine of economic growth and a driver for sustainable development. As more and more essential services make use of digital transformation, science and technology will determine the economic future of countries. Huawei works closely with governments, communities and people to expand the frontiers of science and technology, transcend engineering bottlenecks and bring responsible and secure ICT technology



to all industries.

COMSTECH was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981 with the core mandate of strengthening cooperation among OIC Member States in science and technology, and enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC, and to draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology. The ultimate aim is to build and nourish a scientific culture and contribute to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.

Ethan Sun, CEO of Huawei Pakistan, said, "The MoU will lay the foundations for the OIC member states to access opportunities

to promote cyber security awareness through knowledge sharing and cyber security training courses for governmental entities. Huawei is ideally positioned to share experiences and global best practices, and share expertise and methodologies that have proven successful."

Huawei would support COMSTECH to host cyber security training based on Huawei cyber security practices and experience sharing, to systematically promote the cyber security awareness and capacity building for COMSTECH selected OIC governmental employees and officers, and participate in some influential regional cyber security events and activities, such as GISEC and GITEX.

As the leading global ICT solution provider, Huawei has established the first Huawei Global Cyber security Transparent Centre, which provides a platform to enhance communica-

tion and joint innovation with all stakeholders, public and private. Under the MoU, the COMSTECH members will engage with and at the Cyber security Transparency Centre to help build an environment to support the digital economy.

COMSTECH and Huawei would work together to catalyze cyber security innovation and create knowledge products such as white papers or technical guidelines to showcase OIC cyber security advancements and contribute to the industry.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC. OIC can extend its support to Huawei to reach out universities not just in Pakistan but in all OIC member countries, by using the OIC platform Huawei can be introduced to all the OIC member countries including African countries where there is a fast pace of technological advancements with great potential.

As the ink dries on the signed MoU, the journey toward a future defined by robust cyber security, cutting-edge AI applications, and the seamless integration of 5G technologies takes a significant step forward. This collaboration stands as a testament to the power of partnerships in shaping the trajectory of technological progress and ensuring a brighter, digitally empowered future for all. Huawei and COMSTECH will cooperate on ICT talent. Young people in OIC member country can get new ICT technology training and enhance their skills for future.

Mobilink Bank, Unikrew Solutions join forces to drive women's financial inclusion in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has joined forces with a prominent fintech player, Unikrew Solutions, to drive women's financial inclusion in the country through a project funded by USAID. Qurat-ulain Chaudhary, Executive Manager Women Financial Services (WFS) Mobilink Bank, and Muhammad Naveed Sharif, Director Unikrew Solutions, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Islamabad, alongside Project Leads to set the collaboration in motion.

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Mobilink Bank, strongly supported the recent partnership, emphasizing its potential to advance women's financial inclusion and address the widespread gender disparities across various sectors. He highlighted that "Mobilink Bank has been a front-runner in promoting gender inclusivity within the banking and finance industry. Our dynamic women's empowerment initiative, Women Inspirational Network (WIN), is crucial in enhancing women's economic engagement. By joining forces with partners who align with our vision, we are committed to amplifying the reach



and effectiveness of our programs." "USAID is committed to women's empowerment and continues to design new programs consciously investing in women's success and focus on assisting women to play a major role in facilitating Pakistan's transition to a prosperous and stable

country. We believe that access to finance is a lynchpin for women in Pakistan to realize their full economic potential", said USAID Acting Mission Director, Maura O'Brien. "This collaboration marks a significant step towards enhancing women's financial empowerment

in Pakistan," stated Muhammad Naveed Sharif, Director of Unikrew Solutions. "We are committed to working alongside Mobilink Bank and USAID to create meaningful opportunities for women's economic participation and growth."

With a rich history of empowering women entrepreneurs through skill development and convenient access to finance, WIN is well-equipped to contribute to the success of this USAID-funded initiative. The project will also provide the impetus for Mobilink Bank to enhance its women-focused initiatives in the future.

Insults of humanity

ISLAMABAD: Deserving people gathers outside Benazir Income Support Programme at Sector G-7 as such people are suffering due to lack of any kind of shelter or sitting facility, which is the insult of humanity, needs the attention of concern authority.



Photo: Online

SECP all set to host Int'l InsureImpact Conference 2023

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) will be hosting the International InsureImpact Conference 2023 in Karachi on December 13 and 14, 2023. The broad theme underpinning the conference is "Journey to an Insured Pakistan." The Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, will kick off the two-day conference.

While speaking to the media, SECP Chairman Akif Saeed stated that the insurance industry is an important component of Pakistan's financial sector and that the sector needs to be reenergized and steered to meet the future needs of the modern insurance industry. According to Akif, the vast unexplored market is a tremendous opportunity, and the International Insure Impact Conference provides critical insights into the most recent global strategies, solutions, and innovations.

SECP Commissioner Insurance, Mr. Aamir Khan, said that the SECP, through its five-year plan, aims to boost insurance penetration in Pakistan by utilizing technology, raising awareness about insurance products, and promoting crop and disaster risk insurance. Speaking about the insurance sector's enormous growth potential, Khan informed attendees that there are 42 insurance companies in Pakistan, with a total premium of Rs. 552 billion and 10 million active policies. Aamir cited data from SECP's studies on various insurance sectors, which revealed that out of 30 million registered vehicles in Pakistan, barely 3 percent are insured, and out of 241 million people, less than 8 million had life insurance. Crop insurance is used by less than 10% of the 8 million farmers, and less than 500 thousand of the 32 million registered properties are insured.

Mr. Waseem Khan, Director Insurance Division at

SECP, gave an overview of the draft 5-year strategic plan. He said that the plan is drawn to overcome major challenges being faced by insurance companies and policyholders and to develop and align the market with international standards by 2028.

Waseem said that through the 5-Year Strategic Plan, the number of lives covered will be raised to over 15 million individuals, insurance penetration is targeted at up to 1.5%, the share of digital distribution will rise to 5 percent, the share of Takaful in the overall insurance sector is targeted at above 30 percent, and motor third party insurance coverage will be above 20 percent.

Year in Search 2023

Google announces top trending searches in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: It's time to look back on the most interesting and memorable moments from Google's Year in Search of 2023 as the new year approaches. The top trending searches in 2023 demonstrated the varied interests and evolving tastes of the Pakistani audience, ranging from a passion for entertainment and cricket to newsworthy stories and happenings.

This year's top trending searches offer an enthralling glimpse into the distinct trends that captivated Pakistanis in 2023. Let us dive in and take a look at the searches that made it into the lists, this year.

Who are they searching for?

As a reflection of the public's varied interests, the top 10 trending searches for "people" in Pakistan for 2023 showcase a diverse range of personalities.

Hareem Shah and Aliza Sehar were among the top names people searched for this year. Third place went to Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff, who was extensively searched this year amidst rumors about his wellbeing.

Pakistani cricket fans were on the lookout for promising young players like Abdullah Shafique, Saud Shakeel and the emerging talent Haseebullah Khan. Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar, was also at the forefront of public interest, reflecting the nation's interest in politics. Additionally, Glenn Maxwell and Shubman Gill also secured their spots due to their impressive performances in the Cricket World Cup, while Usman Khan garnered attention for his standout innings in the Pakistan Super League.

On the Front Page:

War in Israel and Gaza has been at

the forefront of all news, hence reflecting as the most trending search this year. On the other hand, people also searched for the Ehsaas Program, which is the next most trending item on the list, reflecting the public's interest in the government's financial aid schemes.

News related to Fatima Tahir, Aliza Sehar, and Imran Riaz Khan, and the ever so popular Akshay Kumar, Kajol and Mohammad Amir were also among the trending searches this year.

Reasons to Celebrate:

In 2023, the top trending searches in this category offer keen and fascinating insights into the interests of Pakistanis, a mix of religious festivals, sporting events, and political milestones. The top five trending searches in this category exhibit the nation's unwavering enthusiasm for cricket, with major tournaments like the Pakistan Super

League, Cricket World Cup, Asia Cup 2023, Indian Premier League, and Ashes prominently taking up the top 5 spots featured. Whereas the Lanka Premier League took the 9th spot.

Film Buff Queries:

In Pakistan, the cinematic landscape is varied and ever-evolving which showed up in the top trending searches this year. Nolan's masterful depiction of Oppenheimer took the first spot in the trending list, followed by blockbuster movies Jawan and Pathan, featuring Bollywood star Shahrukh Khan. With its feminist outlook and an inspiring story of girl power, the global phenomenon, Barbie, was particularly popular in Pakistan, making it into the top 5.

Culinary Explorations:

The top 10 trending recipe searches explore a variety of flavors, techniques, and culinary traditions. The top three spots were taken by Samo-

sa, the most famous triangular food item in the sub-continent, the scrumptious Kaleji, and the king of all festival-related sweet dishes, Sheer Khurma. The meat-lovers in Pakistan helped Namkeen Gosht make it to the list, and of course, the usually searched recipe for homemade alternative to the packaged Tomato Ketchup.

The Cricket Fever:

In the exciting cricket world, the top most trending searched matches of 2023 in Pakistan reflect the nation's fervent passion for the sport. The top three searched matches; Pakistan vs New Zealand, Pakistan vs Afghanistan, and Pakistan vs Australia, were all highly interesting clashes. The much talked about, India vs New Zealand match in the final stages of the Cricket World Cup took the fourth spot.

Seeking Information:

Pakistanis also come to Google for

the rescue when they are in a pickle. The top 10 trending "How to" searches in Pakistan offer a glimpse into the queries that people actively searched for. When Whatsapp channels were launched this year, they drew a peak interest, making creating a WhatsApp channel the trendiest How To search this year.

Looking back at Google's Year in Search for 2023 reveals the rich fabric of Pakistani interests as we welcome the new year. The top trending searches cover a wide range of topics, from cricket's enduring popularity to the fascinating lives of prominent figures.

These search trends not only reflect the past but also provide a sneak peek at the changing interests that will enthral Pakistanis in the coming months as we enter the new year. Celebrating another year of learning, progress, and curiosity!

Muhammad Shabbir clinches the Title of 13th CJCS Open Golf Championship 2023

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Muhammad Shabbir won the title of 13th CJCS Open Golf Championship. The closing and prize distribution ceremony of Championship was held at Karachi Golf Club (KGC). Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While speaking at the ceremony, President Services Sports Control Board, Rear Admiral Abdul Basit commended untiring efforts of KGC staff and organizers for seamless conduct of championship and congratulated the winners for their remarkable success. He lauded the high standards of game that provided exciting and



quality entertainment to the participants. Rear Admiral Abdul Basit also appreciated sponsors in supporting game of golf and conduct of the cham-

pionship.

The four day long Golf championship held from 09 to 12 Dec 23 organized by Joint Staff HQs in collaboration with Pakistan Navy, has become a quintessential event in golfing circles. Categories included 72 holes for professionals, 36 holes each for senior & junior professionals, 54 holes for amateurs & ladies and 18 holes for juniors category. Event maintained the legacy of highest prize money golf event nationally wherein; more than 400 enthusiast golfers participated from across the country.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests from civil and military organizations including officers, organisers, sponsors, golfers and media fraternity.

PTCL Group, Peshawar Zalmi team up for PSL 9 to fortify Pakistan's sports landscape

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has signed a strategic partnership with prominent Pakistani cricket franchise, Peshawar Zalmi for the 9th installment of Pakistan Super League (PSL) to strengthen the country's sports landscape. The partnership was officially launched at a dazzling ceremony in Lahore, with senior management from both sides, cricketers and notable media and showbiz personalities.

The partnership signifies a resounding start of a long-term alliance between two dynamic entities, each embodying excellence in their respective fields. Their missions intersect at their shared commitment to helping engender a robust sports culture in the country to channel the talent and constructive energies of young boys and girls. The two organizations have significantly supplemented Pakistan's sports landscape with new talent by providing opportunities and platforms to promising players.

PTCL Group leverages sports as a potent enabler of socioeconomic and digital inclusion. The Group has a robust nationwide CSR program that contin-



ues to uplift the most underprivileged segments.

On the other hand, Peshawar Zalmi is a formidable contender of the annual HBL Pakistan Super League and boasts a worldwide die-hard fan following and immense brand value. Lovingly referred to as the 'Yellow Storm', the franchise continues to create a huge social impact through its CSR portfolio, including facilitating participation of communities as remote as the former FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan regions.

The brands will collaborate to usher in an exciting and memorable cricketing experience to the fans, besides using cricket as a force of good in society. Some

of the worthy initiatives under this partnership include a player development and talent hunt tournaments, the construction of pitches and facilities at school level in remote districts of Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and providing opportunities for women cricketers to develop and refine their cricketing skills.

Speaking about the partnership, Syed Atif Raza, Group Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "We are pleased to partner with Peshawar Zalmi, a beloved cricketing brand in Pakistan as well as worldwide. The partnership will help us jointly pursue our shared mission of youth empowerment through sports. Pakistan has immense talent in sports

that if explored can firmly position Pakistan as a prominent force in all international sporting arenas."

Also sharing his thoughts, Javed Afridi, Chairman, Peshawar Zalmi said, "We are excited to join forces with PTCL Group for PSL 9. The partnership will help us explore collaborative opportunities for fostering a healthy sports culture in the country, with a stronger focus on the inclusion of peripheral communities. PTCL Group and Peshawar Zalmi share a rich legacy of providing active platforms across remote regions, and we will make efforts to enhance our impact."

Pertinent to mention, Babar Azam, the captain of Peshawar Zalmi and the all-time leading run-scorer in the history of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) is a valued brand ambassador for Ufone 4G also, which underscores the aligned vision and shared direction of both brands. Beyond the excitement of PSL, this partnership aims to provide the people with a range of recreational and healthy activities, including fan parks and beach cricket events. Moreover, a range of customized and innovative products and services, coupled with exciting giveaways and captivating digital content are also forthcoming to deliver a comprehensive sports experience.

Pakistan thrash Afghanistan to reach U19 Asia Cup 2023 semi-finals

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan on Tuesday qualified for the ACC U19 Asia Cup 2023 semi-finals with an 83-run thrashing of Afghanistan in their group stage fixture at the ICC Academy in Dubai.

Pakistan, who are unbeaten in the U19 Asia Cup 2023, put on a daunting total of 303 in 48 overs courtesy of Shamyul Hussain, Shahzaib Khan and Riaz Ullah's fifties.

Opening batter Shahzaib Khan top-scored with 79 from 95 balls with nine boundaries and a six to his name. His opening part Shamyul Hussain struck seven fours and five maximums on his way to a 54-ball 75.

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

Riaz Ullah chipped in with his 73 off 69 deliveries. His knock included five boundaries and two sixes.



Azan Awais was the next-best run-getter for Pakistan with a 19-ball 20 while the rest made modest contributions.

Faridoon Dawoodzai and Bashir Ahmad led the bowling charge for Afghanistan with three wickets each

while Khaleel Ahmad and Naseer Khan Maroofkhalil bagged two wickets each.

In response, Afghanistan put on a hapless batting performance as the side were dismissed for 220 in 48.4 overs.

Wicketkeeper Numan Shah waged a lone battle for Pakistan against a ruthless Pakistan bowling attack as he struck a gritty half-century.

He top-scored for his side with 54 from 78 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six. Wafuallah Tarakhil chipped in with his 34-ball 32.

Ubaid Shah was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan at the back of his figures of 3/19 in seven overs. Tayyab Arif also dismissed three Afghanistan batters as well.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan started the U19 Asia Cup 2023 campaign with a seven-wicket win over Nepal. They beat arch-rivals India by the same margin as well in their following game.

Pakistan knocked out of Junior Hockey World Cup after Spain thrashing

A Sports

KUALA LUMPUR: The Pakistan hockey team's sensational run in the ongoing Junior Hockey World Cup came to an end with a disappointing 4-2 defeat against Spain on Tuesday.

The national team got off to a good start in their quarter-final clash against Spain as they were 1-0 up in the first quarter, courtesy of captain Hanan Shahid's goal.

Pakistan's narrow lead persisted till half-time but Spain made a sensational comeback in the third quarter. Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

The European side struck three goals from penalty corners and one field goal to attain a heavy lead over Pakistan.

Sufyan Khan pulled one back for Pakistan in the 43rd minute but his efforts were not enough as Spain registered a thumping 4-2



victory over Pakistan. Cabre Verdiell scored twice for Spain while Aleix Bozal and Pablo

Espino scored one each. Pakistan Hockey team had a successful run in the group stage

before falling short against Spain in the quarter-final. They made it to the knockouts after holding

Belgium for a 1-1 draw.

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

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 will now take on Australia in the 5th-place play-off match on December 14.

For the unversed, 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.

They have not been able to win any medal in the Junior World Cup since 1993 and finished at their lowest 11th position in the 2021 edition in Bhubaneswar, India.

ICC rates Bangladesh-NZ Test pitch 'unsatisfactory'



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The International Cricket Council (ICC) said Tuesday that a review of last week's second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand had found it found the pitch "unsatisfactory".

Fifteen wickets fell on the opening day of the match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, with neither side making more than 180 runs in an innings.

New Zealand won the Test to level the two-match series 1-1 on Saturday but captain Tim Southee afterwards criticised the pitch as the "worst wicket" he had come across in his long career.

The ICC said that match referee David Boon had also found the pitch was not up to scratch.

"It appeared that the pitch may have been under prepared, as it was not hard and was covered in grass clippings on day one," Boon's report to the ICC said.

"From the first session onwards, throughout the remainder of the match the bounce was inconsistent with numerous balls bursting the surface," it added.

"Deliveries from spin bowlers often went over the batter's shoulder when playing forward and then occasionally stayed very low."

The stadium was issued one demerit point by the ICC for garnering the "unsatisfactory" rating.

Demerit points stay valid for five years and if a venue gains six of them, it is banned from hosting international cricket matches for a year.

Pitches at the Mirpur stadium have been criticised numerous times over recent years for their slow and low characteristics.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has 14 days to appeal the sanction.

Sajid Khan reaches Australia, links up with Pakistan squad ahead of Perth Test

Sports Desk



PERTH: Right-arm off-spinner Sajid Khan on Tuesday evening, reached here to join the Pakistan squad ahead of the first Test of the three-match series against Australia, scheduled to commence on December 14.

Sajid Khan was added to the Pakistan squad after mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed was ruled out of the first Test.

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel. Notably, during Pakistan's four-day practice game against the Prime Minister XI, Abrar left the field of play due to severe pain in his right leg around his knee.

"During an assessment by the medical team, a provisional diagnosis was made - justifying an MRI scan, which was done on the same day," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared on Sunday.

"Abrar will undergo an intervention in Perth on Monday, after which conservative rehabilitation under the supervision of the team's medical staff, will continue his road to recovery," the statement added.

The cricket board further shared that Abrar Ahmed has not yet been ruled out of the entirety of the series and his availability in the second Test depends on his fitness and recovery.

"He has not been ruled out of the test series yet, but keeping the player's wellbeing in mind for this and future tours, further assessment before the second test will ascertain his availability on this tour," stated PCB.

Sajid Khan, who last represented Pakistan when Australia toured Pakistan in March last year, has thus far played seven Tests.

The off-spinner has 22 wickets to his name at an average of 37.81 with the best bowling figures of 8/22, which came against Bangladesh in December 2021.

Pakistan squad: Shan Masood (c), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafiq, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Nauman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Sarfaraz Ahmed

Schedule of Pakistan's Test tour of Australia

First Test: December 14-18, Perth Stadium

Second Test: December 26-30, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Third Test: January 3-7, Sydney Cricket Ground

Sidra Amin's century in vain as New Zealand thump Pakistan in first ODI

A Sports

LAHORE: Sidra Amin's fourth ODI century goes in vain as New Zealand women beat Pakistan women by 131 runs in the first ODI at the John Davies Oval in Queenstown on Tuesday.

Both sides will travel to Christchurch tomorrow to play the remaining two ODIs of the series at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on 15 and 18 December, respectively.

The ODIs are part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25.

Chasing a mammoth 366 to win, openers Muneeba Ali and Sidra gave Pakistan a strong start with a 110-run partnership.

This opening stand surpassed the previous record of 84 runs set by Ayesha Zafar and Nahida Khan against White Ferns in Nelson, New Zealand, in 2016.

Left-handed Muneeba was the first batter to return to the pavilion in the 19th over after scoring a 48-ball 44, hitting five fours.

After the departure of Muneeba, Sadaf Shamas (replacing Nida Dar, due to injury) and Bismah Maroof were soon dismissed with 158 runs on the board in the 34th over of the innings.

Aliya Riaz (14, 20b, 1x4) and stand-in-captain Fatima Sana (11, 10b, 2x4s) were the other batters to register a score in double figures.

Sidra, who is also the leading run-getter in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 with 852 runs from 16 matches, scored her third century in the ongoing championship.

She struck 12 boundaries in her 117-ball 105. The touring side were bowled out for 234 on the penultimate ball of the match.

For the hosts, Amelia Kerr bagged three wickets for 44, while Lea Tahuhu took two for 45 from seven overs.

Earlier, after being put into bat, White Ferns scored 365 for four in 50 overs. Opening pair of Suzie Bates and Bernadine Beuzidenhout added 165 runs for the first wicket.

Signing Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi signing the Instrument of Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty for the Visually Impaired Persons in a ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan joins Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access of visually impaired persons to published work

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday became the signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty aimed at providing access to published work for visually impaired persons.

President Dr Arif Alvi inked the instrument of accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) administered Marrakesh Treaty, at a special ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The Marrakesh Treaty aims to help the visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled people have access to books and literary works in accessi-

ble formats.

Signed in Morocco on June 27, 2013, and joined by a large number of countries in the world, the Treaty enables the reproduction of published materials into accessible formats, such as braille, large print, and audio editions.

President Alvi stressed the need to shun the taboo about persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusion in the mainstream life system.

"Accommodating such people does not tantamount to any favour, but it is their due right which the society owes to them," he said.

Pakistan, he said, made

"tremendous success" in recent times by stepping up efforts to shun taboos about the differently-abled persons.

He mentioned that the country was adhering to the guidelines of the World Health Organization regarding identifying the needs of differently-abled persons and providing them with opportunities for health, education, and jobs.

The president recalled that Pakistan's visually impaired diplomat Saima Saleem made the entire nation proud by giving a speech at the platform of the United Nations.

He expressed confidence that with the introduction of

artificial intelligence-based technology in assistive gadgets and smart devices, the future was bright for visually impaired persons to live an improved life.

Chairman Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Ambassador (ret'd) Farukh Amil said the Marrakesh Treaty was an important step forward on the global stage underlining the government's commitment to empower the visually impaired persons.

Secretary Commerce Muhammad Sualah Ahmad Faruqi said education was a fundamental right under the UN Charter and the Consti-

tution of Pakistan, adding that the Marrakesh Treaty would provide an enabling environment for the visually impaired community to fulfill their desire for education and thus bring themselves into the mainstream.

Shahana Shahid, a representative of the visually impaired persons acknowledged the efforts of the government in overcoming the concerns and difficulties of her community.

She said the signing of the Treaty would prove a crucial step in a long journey of acceptance and socio-economic inclusion of those at the periphery.

Finance Minister Akhtar, Ethiopian envoy discuss ways of boosting bilateral ties

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamsad Akhtar at Finance Division, today.

During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest i.e. connectivity, economic, financial and social cooperation.

Finance Minister Dr. Sham-



shad Akhtar welcomed Jemal Beker Abdula and appreciated his expertise and knowledge about Pakistan. She said that there are multiple avenues for both countries to explore

markets and investment opportunities. Finance Minister reiterated the need for early establishment of Joint Ministerial Commission between two countries. JCM would be a

platform where a wide range of investment options and issues can be discussed to enhance bilateral relations & economic cooperation.

Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula stated that Ethiopia is an attractive market for Pakistani financial sector, agricultural, pharmaceutical & technological products. He urged Pakistani financial institutions to explore Ethiopia's potentially lucrative markets. He extended invitation to Pakistani banks to open their branches in Ethiopia to improve confidence among investors. He informed that

Ethiopia would like to replicate Islamic banking system of Pakistan through learning and financial exchange program. He said that confidence-building measures would be taken for Pakistani traders to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

The Finance Minister thanked Jemal Beker Abdula and said that Ethiopian financial experts can visit Pakistan to interact with the financial sector of Pakistan. She also expressed the desire to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with Ethiopia.

DPRF to host global conference on digital rights

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Digital Threats and Building Resilience of Communities' will be host a conference in December. The conference will bring together experts from across the country to discuss digital safety, online religious freedoms building a safer Hamara Internet, and countering hate speech and disinformation for greater access to the internet for all.

The conference will have a line-up of panels that delve into DRF's engagements in Pakistan to discuss the unique challenges that at-risk communities face in online spaces.

The conference aims to bring digital rights issues relating to religious freedoms and communities to the mainstream and facilitate inter-community support in Pakistan.

Palestinians starve as Gaza war rages amid fears of exodus into Egypt

Reuters

GAZA/CAIRO: Israel on Monday denied it intended to push Palestinians seeking refuge from its bombardment of Gaza over the border into Egypt as international relief agencies said hunger was spreading among the besieged enclave's civilian population.

Amid the worsening humanitarian crisis, Hamas fighters and Israeli troops fought across the territory, with the militants trying to block Israeli tanks from advancing through the shattered streets.

The Gaza health ministry said 18,205 people had now been killed and 49,645 wounded in Gaza in just over two months of warfare—hundreds since the United States vetoed a proposal for a ceasefire at the United Nations Security Council on Friday.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes and residents say it is impossible to find refuge or food in the densely populated



coastal enclave.

One Palestinian told Reuters he had not eaten for three days and had to beg for bread for his children.

"I pretend to be strong but I am afraid I will collapse in front of them at any moment," he said by telephone, declining to be named for fear of reprisals.

UNRWA, the U. N. body responsible for Palestinian refugees, said some people were arriving at its health

centres and shelters carrying their dead children.

"We are on the verge of collapse," it said on X.

Over the weekend U. N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he feared a mass displacement into Egypt and UNRWA commissioner general Philippe Lazzarini said that pushing Gazans closer to the border pointed to attempts to move them over it.

Jordan also accused Israel of seeking "to empty Gaza of its

people". The border with Egypt is the only way out of Gaza at present, but Cairo has warned it will not allow Gazans into its territory, fearing they would not be able to return.

The Israeli government on Monday denied this was its aim. Spokesperson Eylon Levy called the accusation "outrageous and false" and said his country was defending itself from the "monsters" who attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

In that raid, the deadliest in Israel's history, Hamas gunmen killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 240 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. About 100 have since been freed.

The Hamas attack triggered an Israeli retaliatory assault and brought the bloodiest period of warfare of the decades-long Israel-Palestinian conflict.

U. N. officials say 1.9 million people—85% of Gaza's population—are displaced and describe the conditions in the southern areas where they have concentrated as hellish.

Pakistan delivers strong demarche to the Afghan Interim Government in Context of today's deadly attack

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary called-in the Chargé d'Affaires (Cd'A) of Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to deliver Pakistan's strong demarche in the context of today's deadly terrorist attack on Pakistan's security forces' post in Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan. The attack, whose responsibility has been claimed by Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a terrorist group affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), resulted in multiple casualties, including shahadat of twenty-three security personnel.

The Cd'A of AIG was asked to immediately convey to the Afghan Interim Government to:

Fully investigate and take stern action against perpetrators of the recent attack;

Publicly condemn the terrorist incident at the highest level;

Take immediate verifiable actions against all terrorist groups (including their leadership) and their sanctuaries;

Apprehend and handover the

Iranian Embassy in Islamabad strongly condemns

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Embassy strongly condemns the terrorist attack against the Pakistani security forces in Dera Ismail Khan in KPK, leading to the martyrdom of more than 23 Pakistani soldiers. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the people and government of Pakistan in this hard time. X

perpetrators of the attack and the TTP leadership in Afghanistan to the Government of Pakistan; and

Take all necessary measures to deny the persistent use of Afghan soil for terrorism against Pakistan.

Today's terrorist attack is yet another reminder of the terrorist threat to peace and stability in the region. We must act resolutely with all our collective might to defeat this menace. On its part, Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to combat terrorism.

Pakistan People's Party is always ready for general elections 2024



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister/Senator and Central Vice Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has said that People's Party is always ready for elections, I don't think that the elections will be postponed. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will soon start a full election

campaign in Punjab. Buch Villas is an international level hospital.

I congratulate them on receiving the award. He expressed these thoughts in a conversation with the media on the occasion of the visit to Buch International Hospital. On this occasion, Malik Noor Asghar Bacha, Malik Yasir Bacha and others were with him. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that I do not understand that the election will be postponed, we have completed our preparations, we are missing Shah Mahmood, if he had been there, the election would have been chaotic.

Asif Zardari has spent a long time in jail. If anyone has a problem with Asif Zardari, they should go to court. Buch International Hospital is a hospital with many facilities.

Israeli journalist reveals true Gaza war losses: 3,850 soldiers and officers killed

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Israeli journalist named Ariel Shimon, who was recently dismissed from Yedioth Ahronoth, because he leaked some military information that the War Council refused to disclose during special conferences to which the elite were invited, revealed a surprise about Israel's losses in the war on Gaza during the past 63 days.

He says why the government does not announce the real number of dead and wounded and the losses in equipment and machinery they suffered in Gaza. The real number is three times greater than that.

The Israeli journalist said that more than 250 soldiers and officers were 100% blinded, and more than 500 vehicles were destroyed, including a

tracked vehicle, a cannon, an armored vehicle, a bulldozer, and a Hummer.

As for the number of soldiers who were injured during the confrontations on the ground, he said that 7,000 soldiers were injured, including 3,700 with permanent disabilities, and the actual death toll was 3,850 soldiers and officers in an unprecedented massacre in history, which confirms the truthfulness of Abu Ubaid's statements.

The journalist wondered to an Israeli why Netanyahu did not declare that he lost his goals in the battle, especially since all of Israel knows that our weapons were exhausted and exhausted had it not been for American support. If America abandoned us now, Al-Aqsa would have returned to the Muslims and the legend of the State of Israel would have been lost.

PTA issues Cyber Security strategy 2023-2028 for Pakistan's Telecom sector

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued its Cyber Security Strategy for Pakistan's Telecom Sector, a comprehensive and ambitious plan set to span from 2023 to 2028. This strategy is a significant step in the implementation of the National Cyber Security Policy - 2021, and marks a monumental stride towards bolstering digital security in the country's rapidly evolving telecom sector said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

The strategy is built on six foundational pillars, each targeting a specific aspect of cyber security, such as legal framework, cyber resilience, proactive monitoring and incident response, capacity building, cooperation and collaboration, and public awareness.

Pakistan, Russia agree to continue constructive engagement, cooperation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia on Tuesday agreed to continue bilateral constructive engagement on regional issues including Afghanistan as well as cooperation at multi-lateral fora including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The bilateral ties were discussed during the talks between Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister A. Rudenko.

Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan is on a visit to Moscow at the invitation of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister A. Rudenko to hold consultations on bilateral and regional matters.

During the talks, the two sides positively assessed the level of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the area of trade, energy and counter-terrorism cooperation.