

Pakistan confers Hilal-i-Pakistan on Madinah's governor Prince Faisal Bin Salman

The government of Pakistan on Wednesday conferred the civil award Hilal-i-Pakistan on Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Governor of Madinah Munawarah. The award has been given in recognition of Prince Faisal's the outstanding services for Pakistan. (Details on Page 5)

China rejects Indian Supreme Court's verdict on Ladakh

"China has never recognized the so-called union territory of Ladakh set up unilaterally and illegally by India," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said. "India's domestic judicial verdict does not change the fact that the western section of the China-India border has always belonged to China," she told the media while strongly rejecting the Indian SC's verdict endorsing the India's BJP-led government's decision... (Details on Page 8)

Called on

ISLAMABAD: General Ismail Güneykaya, Combat Commander Turkish air Force, calling on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters on Wednesday.



Combat Commander Turkish Air Force visits Air Headquarters

PPA

ISLAMABAD: General Ismail Güneykaya, Combat Commander Turkish Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. The meeting underscored several key areas of mutual interest with a special focus on bilateral training, progress of current joint ventures and exploration of further avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry.

During the meeting Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, shared the framework of PAF's comprehensive modernization strategy involving integration of emerging technologies, bolstering critical infrastructure and a comprehensive restructuring of its training set-up, in order to address contemporary air warfare challenges. The Air Chief highlighted that both the brotherly countries enjoy long-standing religious and historic ties which are manifested through unprecedented strategic partnership. Appreciating the participation of Turkish Air Force in Exercise Indus Shield, the Air Chief reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral relations in military-to-military cooperation, strategic alliance and the training domain. The Air Chief further remarked that PAF pilots are playing an active role in imparting nursery to tactical level training to Turkish aircrew. He reiterated Pakistan Air Force's commitment to provide training and capacity-building assistance to the Turkish Air Force.

General Ismail Güneykaya, acknowledged the impressive progress made by Pakistan Air Force in developing a robust indigenous aviation industry and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing ties between the two brotherly countries. In order to cultivate tactical brilliance for Turkish aircrew, the visiting dignitary expressed profound interest in exploring avenues for training of Turkish Air Force pilots in the Combat Commanders Course being offered at the prestigious Air Power Centre of Excellence. Both the commanders also agreed to explore further areas of cooperation through bilateral and multilateral military exercises with special focus on collaboration in the technology based future programs. During his visit, the Combat Commander Turkish Air Force also visited various installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad including PAF's National ISR and Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF's Cyber Command. He also visited National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, which is a major landmark in Pakistan's journey towards progress and is all set to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's aerospace industry, fostering strategic partnerships and contributing to the economic growth of Pakistan.

The visit of Combat Commander Turkish Air Force to Pakistan signifies a resolute commitment from both nations to reinforce their strategic partnership through fostering collaboration and promoting robust relations between their respective Air Forces.

PM says terrorists already lost war; reiterates unyielding 'no surrender, no retreat' policy

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that terrorists had already lost the war, emphasizing the nation's unwavering resilience against this scourge and preparedness to deliver a fitting response to terrorism. "I want to tell the perpetrators that you have already lost the war. Only the declaration is yet to be made and the time is yet to be finalised. They are fighting a lost war and we are fighting a war already won by us, Alhamdulillah," he said talking to the media at the Combine Military Hospital after inquiring about the health of the soldiers injured in a terrorist attack that took place here on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Kakar said many thousand people had already sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism and thousands more were ready to join the course. "If they carry out one attack we will march 10 steps ahead. If they take 10 steps, we will advance by 100 steps. This is the war of the winners and we are with the winners, here in this world and the life hereafter," he commented. He said the whole nation stood united against terrorism and was resolved to defeat the evil in all of its forms and manifestations. He said Pakistan was a strong and resilient nation and its armed forces would thwart the nefarious designs of the enemies.

PTI founder, Qureshi indicted in cipher case again

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan and PTI vice-chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi were indicted by a special court in cipher case again.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulfqarnain of the special court heard the case against Imran and Qureshi. This was the second time that the PTI leaders were indicted.

During the hearing, both PTI leaders pleaded not guilty and said the indictment was 'fabricated'. They also stated that the indictment was 'illegal' and they would challenge it in a

Solangi rules out any change or extension in election date

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday ruled out any change, amendment or extension in the polls date announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"No extension, amendment or change in the election date given by the Election Commission is on the agenda," Murtaza Solangi said while addressing a news conference along with the health and IT (information technology) ministers after a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

The cabinet meeting was presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The information minister said, "So far, no such incident has occurred which leads to the postponement of the elections."

Sharing the decisions of the Federal Cabinet, he said the forum had rejected the "unilateral verdict" of the Indian Supreme Court regarding the illegal annexation of Jammu and Kashmir by India as an illegal decision. "Jammu and Kashmir is not an internal issue of India rather an international dispute that has been an unresolved agenda at the UN Security Council for over seven decades," he said.

Caretaker setup wants to handover stable economy to elected govt: Shamshad

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on Wednesday said that the caretaker government would like to hand over a stable economy to the incoming political government, which could continue the economic policies for the ultimate good of the people.

She was talking to German Ambassador Alfred Grannas, who called on her at the Finance Division, according to a Finance Ministry press release.

The minister apprised the ambassador about the economic reforms agenda of the caretaker government which was aimed at bringing economic and fiscal stability in the country.

She also said the government had been successful in concluding first review with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently.

She said the fiscal and current account deficit has narrowed and informed the ambassador on key reforms being undertaken by the caretaker government including state-owned enterprises, privatization, forex exchange regime, and reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue.

Israel suffers worst combat losses since October

Mentoring Desk

CAIRO/GAZA: Israel announced its worst combat losses for more than a month on Wednesday after an ambush in the ruins of Gaza City, and faced growing diplomatic isolation.

Intense fighting was under way simultaneously in the north and south of the enclave, a day after the United Nations demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. U. S. President Joe Biden said Israel's "indiscriminate" bombing of civilians was costing international support.

Warplanes again bombed the length of Gaza and aid officials said the arrival of rainy winter weather worsened the conditions for hundreds of thousands of families sleeping rough in makeshift tents. The vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people have already been made homeless.

Israel launched its campaign to annihilate the Hamas group that controls Gaza with global sympathy after fighters stormed across the border fence on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 Israelis and seizing 240 hostages.

But since then, Israeli forces have besieged the enclave and laid much of it to waste, with more than 18,000 people confirmed killed according to Palestinian health authorities, and many thousands more feared lost in the rubble or beyond the reach of ambulances.

In Rafah, at the southern end of the Strip where hundreds of thousands of people have sought shelter, the bodies of a family killed in an overnight air strike were being laid out in the rain in bloodied white shrouds, including several small children. One, only the size of a newborn, was wrapped in a pink blanket.

SC suspends military court verdict with majority

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday suspended its earlier verdict of voiding the civilians' trials in military courts, ARY News reported.

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

A six-member larger bench, headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, is hearing the appeals. The bench also includes Justice Aminuddin, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Irfan Saadat.

The intra-court appeals have been filed by the federal and provincial governments, as well as the Defence Ministry. The federal government has also sought a stay on the court verdict as well as appealed to declare the decision null and void. The SC announced the verdict with a 5-1 majority on a set of intra-court appeals (ICAs) filed against the ruling of October 23.

Justice Musarrat Hilali is the only judge to have opposed the decision.

Earlier, the decision was reserved by the SC after hearing arguments from the respondents.

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CM Mohsin Naqvi Pays a visit to Sardar Begum Hospital & Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi undertook a comprehensive visit to Sialkot today, where he conducted a detailed inspection of Government Sardar Begum Civil Hospital Sialkot and Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital.

Government Sardar Begum Hospital was found lacking in medical facilities, with damaged beds, damp walls, and an evident sewage stench due to passing of sewerage pipe inside the hospital. Patients' attendants were compelled to sit on the floor in poorly maintained rooms.

CM while announcing upgradation

along with undertaking redesigning of the hospital stated that Government Sardar Begum Civil Hospital Sialkot will also be upgraded with a budget of 21 crore rupees and 21 thousand square feet area of the hospital will be upgraded.

Mohsin Naqvi monitored the upgradation project, visited various wards, inquired after the patients and inquired from them about the treatment facilities.

He personally reviewed facilities in Emergency, ICU, Gynaecology, Lab, and other wards.

He conducted a detailed visit of the basement, ground floor, first floor and expressed his indignation over poor

condition of the classrooms.

CM listened to the issue of an elderly woman in the hospital and issued directions to the DC for its resolution.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital Sialkot and evaluated the ongoing upgradation project of the hospital.

Mohsin Naqvi inspected ongoing construction activities in the hospital. He said that upgradation project of the Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital will cost Rs. 70 crore and 65 percent upgradation work of the Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital Sialkot has been accomplished.

One lakh square feet area of Alla-

ma Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital Sialkot will be revamped while in the second phase remaining 50,000 square feet area of the hospital will be upgraded.

He monitored ongoing work in the various wards and ordered to complete the upgradation project within stipulated period. CM apprised that the hospital after its upgradation will soon be functionalized.

He also inspected the ongoing work of roofs and floors.

In a media briefing after the Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital visit said that Sialkot is an important mega city of Punjab adding that we are focused from the outset on the devel-

opment of this city.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi disclosed plans for a completely revamped hospital at a cost of Rs 70 crore, with one lakh square feet undergoing immediate upgradation.

In the second phase 50,000 square feet of the hospital will be upgraded.

It is our utmost effort that the hospital should be opened for the general public by January 15.

CM revealed that after opening the first phase of the hospital being upgraded for the citizens, the second phase will be upgraded. I have also visited Sardar Begum Hospital and the condition of this hospital highly pathetic.

A sewerage line is passing between

the Sardar Begum Hospital for which the patients have to face bad smell and unhygienic conditions. Soon revamping of Sardar Begum Hospital will be undertaken.

Commissioner and DC will oversee its revamping.

He said that the whole road from Airport Chowk up to sub line Chowk is in a dilapidated condition adding that the construction and repair of this road will cost Rs. 1.6 billion.

Work on this project will be launched from January 10.

C&W Department has completed the construction work on this 17 KM long road from Paki Gali up to Airport Chowk.

Appreciation

MUZAFFARABAD: PM AJK Ch Anwarul Haque conferring shield to Mr Bashir Mirza Director Information during Youth Summit held on Wednesday.



Photo: Spokesman

DPO SWL for the first time distributed driving licenses among the people

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer Farmanullah distributed driving licenses among the people after issuing a driving license for the first time in South Waziristan Lower on Wednesday.

It should be noted that the driving license branch was started for the first time in Lower South Waziristan for the convenience of the people and long-standing demand.

Under which a large number of people had given the traffic test to obtain the license. However, the DPO distributed driving licenses to the candidates who passed the test on Wednesday

On which the public was greatly appreciated and the DPO was thanked.

People said that they had to travel hundreds of kilometers to go to Dera Ismail Khan District to get a license.

However, with this important initiative of DPO, a great facility has been made available to the people in their own district South Waziristan Lower.

DPO Farmanullah Khan said that all available means will be used for the convenience and safety of the people, our endeavor is to provide all the facilities to the public under one roof, and our which our every possible effort will continue.



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convenience and safety of the people, our endeavor is to provide all the facilities to the public under one roof, and our which our every possible effort will continue.

Old Boys at Lyallpur school build IT lab after sacrificing their lives

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Old Boys 1962 to 1967 students of MC High School Lyallpur created history by building an IT lab in the school. CO Education Kashif Zia, DO Malik Manzoor, Principal Rao Muhammad Iqbal, Shehbaz Panu, Incharge Lab Zahid Mukhtar, Asif Iqbal, Javed Qamar and Ahmad Naveed in the presence of old students of MC High School, Khalid Niaz, Qurban Ali Sarvia. (Commissioner Income Tech Retired), Muhammad Asif, Dr. Shabbir, Munir Hussain inaugurated the IT Lab and prayed. On this occasion, Principal Rao Muhammad Iqbal has said in his address that the old boys put a lot of love in building this lab. May Allah have mercy on you. You have done a great job for the poor students. Our teachers including me are thankful to you. At present this lab is the biggest in government schools.

Pakistan needs to formulate new Kashmir policy

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that there is a need to formulate a national Kashmir policy, all stakeholders should be taken into confidence. The entire world is protesting against the so called decision of the Indian Supreme Court, this decision is a violation of all laws and values, the judiciary of India has always given decisions against Kashmiris, there should be a worldwide protest against this decision. The matter should be taken up in the Security Council, Modi has taken these steps under a fixed plan and so called designs. He expressed these views while talking to the media after the assembly session. He said that India is not getting importance in the world. It. Such a law is against nature that the sacrifices will go in vain, the sacrifices of Kashmiris cannot go in vain. The visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Foreign Minister to Azad Kashmir will be welcome, it will raise the morale of Kashmiris. The representatives of the Hurriyat Conference should also be included in the All Parties Conference in Azad Kashmir. There is no resolution for the accession of Kashmiris to India. It was not in India's favor. If India had such a decision, it would have presented it to the world. On July 19, 1947, Kashmiris gave their decision in favor of Pakistan in the decision of accession to Pakistan.

Blood Donation Camp for Thalassemia Patients Setup at Women University Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the auspices of the Directorate of Students Affairs in Women University Multan, Fatimid Foundation organized a blood donation camp to save the precious lives of children affected by thalassemia. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Pracha inspected the camp on this occasion and said that blood Donating charity is ongoing. Our Prophet ﷺ has also said that whoever saves a life has saved the world. The joy of this is that our female students are not behind anyone in selfless service.



This blood camp will help to save the lives of the children who are fighting against a virus. On this occasion Mrs. Nighat, head of Fate-meed Foundation said that It is a great pleasure to see that the students of Women's University are fully engaged in the great mission of saving innocent lives by donating blood in large numbers. Thank you for saying and participating in this noble cause.

AJK minister blasts Indian court for its 'judicial murder' of Kashmiris

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister of Social Welfare and Women's Development Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi has said that the Supreme Court of India has massacred the constitutional and human rights of Kashmiris through judicial terrorism, which he condemns in the strongest terms. Talking to media persons, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that the issue of Kashmir is on the agenda of the United Nations, so no Indian organization can give any decision or opinion on it. He said that the light of the resolutions of the United Nations. The Kashmiri people should be given the right to self-determination and the Kashmiri people should decide their own future. He said that the Kashmiri people reject the decision of the Supreme Court of India which is biased and supports the agenda of Hindutva and the agenda of Modi's fascism. There is a strategy to move forward. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that India cannot end the love of Kashmiris for Pakistan through such decisions. The struggle will continue. He said that the inhumane treatment of minorities in India does not deserve to be called a democratic country with Muslims, Sikhs, Dalits and Christians under the terrorist government of the Hindu fanatic BJP. Humanity is ashamed of what they are doing. International human rights organizations should take notice and act on it.



Entire nation stands with the security forces in the war against terrorism: CM KP

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Retired Sayed Arshad Hussain Shah and Governor Haji Ghulam Ali visited DI Khan on Wednesday.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur were also with him.

The caretaker Chief Minister and the Governor jointly chaired the meeting held in the office of Commissioner DI Khan Division regarding the law and order situation.



In the meeting, the law and order situation was reviewed in the context of the unfortunate incident of terrorism in DI Khan yesterday.

A briefing was given by the concerned authorities on the overall security situation in DI Khan and various aspects of the previous day's incident and the

action plan of the law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order in DI Khan. During which it was stated that during the year 2023,

the police and other relevant agencies conducted 194 intelligence-based operations in DI Khan.

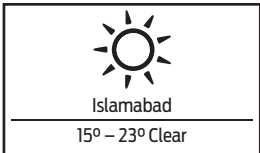
So far this year, 54 terrorists have been arrested while 55 have been killed.

On this occasion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Syed Arshad Hussain Shah strongly condemned the incident of terrorism in DI Khan yesterday and said, that the attack on the security forces is a very unpleasant incident, which is less to condemn.

CM said that such cowardly incidents will not demoralize the security forces and the people.



Honourable Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, addressing the media at a press conference held at Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, Regional Office, Lahore on Wednesday.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 5:34 am |
| Zohr | 12:02 pm |
| Asr | 3:22 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:00 pm |
| Isha | 6:29 pm |

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad | 9222596 |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Water Tanker Service | |
| E-7, F-10 & F-11 | 9204654 |
| G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 | 9203883 |

Gender discrimination in Pakistan

Dear Editor, I am writing this letter to highlight the issue of gender discrimination through your newspaper. Gender discrimination is a phenomenon in which people are not treated equally on the basis of gender. Gender discrimination is rooted in Pakistani society. It is evident at household level, especially in rural areas. They do not allow their girl to go and get education. They even do not allow their women to take part in family decision making. They thought that the responsibility of women is only to look after her children and to do house chores. In urban areas women who are doing a job in order to fulfill basic needs her salary is low even though she is giving her best as the same to other employees who are men. Discrimination also includes forced marriages, health care, denial of inheritance rights, abuse and violence. It's our responsibility to prevent gender discrimination from society. Women should be educated and gender sensitized to improve the status of women in Pakistan. Government should also play a role to prevent gender discrimination. I hope you will give this matter a careful consideration.

Nimra Ashfaq, student of Applied Psychology in Riphah International University, Islamabad

We need to promote Arabic literature in Pakistan: Madad Ali Sindhi

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: "Learning Arabic is considered essential for every Muslim. In Pakistan, there is a need to promote Arabic literature. This conference is on a unique and most important topic, I congratulate vice chancellor and the entire team, and I am grateful for the invitation to participate in this conference", said Madad Ali Sindhi, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, while addressing the opening session of two day international conference on "Modern Trends of the Arabic Novel in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century" at Allama Iqbal Open University.



The Department of Arabic at AIOU is organizing a conference, with the participation of 13 scholars from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, Malaysia, Oman, Algeria, Nigeria and Syria in person, and 15 international

scholars joining the conference online. The Federal Minister emphasized the importance of this unique conference, as the people are not familiar with the modern Arabic novel. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, expressed his gratitude to the Federal Minister, Madad Ali Sindhi, for attending the conference as the

chief guest. He also mentioned that Islamic scholars from all over the world are participating in the conference and presenting their research papers, which will provide a real picture of the Arab society. Dr. Nasir expressed his hope that the presence of foreign scholars at the conference would be beneficial for the promotion of Arabic literature. He believes that Arabs have a unique history and their language is very broad, which allows the Arab society to relate to its civilization and culture. Dr. Habibur Rahman Asim, Faculty of Arabic Language, International Islamic University, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies at AIOU, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi and Chairman, Department of Arabic, Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi also addressed the opening session. The two-day international conference will consist of parallel sessions on both days, and a closing ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Group photo with President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi, Abu Zafar Sadiq, President ACP, Arshad Khan Tanoli, President Muzzafarabad Tiger, Qari Tariq Saeed AIMS Aiwan.e. Quran, Abdul Waheed Khan Secretary General Private Schools Association Islamabad, Hafiz Muhammad Basharat President PES, and others On the occasion of 3rd Tourism Conference organised by Alpine Club of Pakistan at President House.



Photo: Spokesman

WaterAid Pakistan Unveils its Country Programme Strategy 2023-2028

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In a significant event held today in Islamabad, WaterAid Pakistan unveiled its visionary Country Programme Strategy for the period 2023-2028. This strategy aims to expedite Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) progress in the country, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the resilience of water, sanitation, and hygiene services in the face of climate change. Furthermore, the strategy seeks to prioritize WASH integration within the health sector to significantly bolster public health outcomes. The launch brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including representatives from academia, community-based



organizations, media, and more. Other distinguished guests included Ms. Sitara Ayaz, Secretary-General of the International Parliamentary Congress; Senator Seemee Azdi, Chairperson of the Climate Change Committee. The panellists included Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director-General of PCRWR; Mr. Liaqat Ali, Executive Coordinator of the Doaba Foundation; Muhammad Nawaz, Climate Integration Lead at USAID Pakistan; Dr. Muhammad Rafiq, Head of the Center for Water Informatics and Climate Resilience at IM Sciences, Peshawar; and Sehr

Afshien, Country Representative of VSO. Mr. Muhammad Fazal, Head of Program Strategy and Policy at WaterAid, concluded the discussion with a commitment to collaborative actions by all stakeholders, academia, development agencies, government ministries, and parliamentarians to mainstream access to WASH for all in all policies and plans. Arif Jabbar Khan, Country Director of WaterAid Pakistan, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders who attended the event and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to working hand in hand with local communities, government bodies, and organizations to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all.

Concerned civil society members demand immediate fire safety audit of commercial, official, industrial buildings in Karachi

ABC

KARACHI: The concerned members of civil society have demanded that the government should conduct proper safety audits of all official, commercial, and industrial buildings on an immediate basis to prevent recurring deadly fire incidents in Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan, Dr Imran Taj, said that spreading mass awareness about the issue of fire safety was as important as the timely dispatch of the fire brigade for dealing with any fire emergency. Nadeem Sheikh of the Justice Helpline said that there was no practical implementation of the fire safety rules



as they existed only on paper. He informed media persons that the Justice Helpline had moved the high court on the recent fire tragedies at the RJ Mall and Arshi Centre in the city as he hoped that the judiciary would play its role in providing justice to the victims. National Forum for Environment and Health President Naeem Qureshi said that almost 15,000 people had lost their lives due to around 900 fire incidents in the country in a year. Qureshi told media persons that around 1,50,000 people sustained injuries due to the frequent fire incidents. He said the frequent fire incidents caused a property loss of accumulative Rs 1,000 billion value. He said the people instead of relying

on the administration and civic agencies should give value to the fire safety rules and ensure their implementation. He disclosed that fire safety equipment in up to 80 per cent of high-rise buildings and factories in Karachi were faulty. The NFEH President demanded that the government and concerned civic agencies should work collectively for effective enforcement of the fire safety rules. Zulfiqar Shah of the Sajjan Union of the KMC Workers said that the city's fire brigade utterly lacked the latest equipment and gadgets required for dealing with frequent fire emergencies. Nadeem Ashraf, Rizwan, Jaffar, Farrukh, and Saleem Michael Advocate also spoke on the occasion.

Student Nimra Mazhar gets admission in King Edward Medical University after score entry test

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Nimra Mazhar was admitted to King Edward Medical University Lahore. Nimra Mazhar was a student of ICC and Score Entry Test. Director General Career Group of Institutions Prof. Muhammad Aamir congratulated the student on her great success and gave her a bouquet of flowers. Nimra Mazhar attributed her success to the professional services of Islamabad Career College and the prayers of parents. Prof. Muhammad Aamir said that every year, Islamabad Career College Bhara Kahu and score entry test of the students in the country's renowned medical and engineering colleges & universities admission based on merit. Entry test expert Professor Akhtar Abbas and the student's father Mazhar Abbasi were also present on this occasion. Prof. Mohammad Aamir said that score entry test will be spread nationwide. Score entry test regular session will be started in Kayani Road, Bhara Kahu, Sector G.10 and Ghauri Garden. In this regard, an important announcement will be made on Saturday, December 16.



83-year-old female patient successfully recovers from acute heart failure at Aster Hospital, Al Qusais

PPA

DUBAI: Aster Hospital, Al Qusais recently showcased a successful management of a complex cardiovascular case in an 83-year-old female patient suffering from acute heart failure secondary to accelerated hypertension, acute coronary syndrome-non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (ACS-NSTEMI), lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Dr. Anil Prahalada Rao Kumar, Interventional Cardiology Specialist at Aster Hospital, Al Qusais led the multidisciplinary team in treating this challenging case, demonstrating exceptional clinical expertise and innovation in geriatric cardiac care.

The patient, an 83-year-old female with a medical history of type II diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and a long-term smoking habit, was admitted to Aster Hospital, Al Qusais, with symptoms including intermittent chest pain radiating to the left hand, escalating breathing difficulties over months, exacerbated in the past 3-4 days with associated dry coughing. Reflecting on this intricate case, Dr. Anil Prahalada Rao Kumar, Interventional Cardiology Specialist at Aster Hospital, Al Qusais stated, "Addressing the complexities of cardiovascular conditions in elderly patients demands a meticulous and tailored approach. Dr. Anil Prahalada Rao Kumar added, "Elderly patients often present with unique challenges due to their comorbidities and atypical symptoms. The measures, combined with continuous monitoring and adjustments, ensured optimal results without encountering procedural complications. This case exemplifies our commitment to innovative and effective care delivery, particularly in managing intricate cardiovascular conditions prevalent in the elderly."

Puma Energy Extends Brand Licences to Chishti Group



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Puma Energy International and Chishti Group have signed an extended brand licence agreement authorizing the use of the Puma Energy brand and name in Pakistan. This brand license agreement reflects the growing strength of the Puma Energy International brand and its attractiveness as a fuel retail brand across high-potential growth markets. The agreement marks Puma Energy International's optimism regarding Pakistan's long-term economic outlook, as well as Puma Energy Pakistan's capability to grow and capture greater market share through quality products and services. The agreement was signed by Puma Energy International CEO Hadi Hallouche and Chishti Group Chairman Amir Chishti. A delegation of Puma Energy International, Trafifigura, and Puma Energy Pakistan also welcomed and met with Pakistan's Mr. Muhammad Ali, Caretaker Federal Minister of Energy, and discussed the country's future outlook, as well as the Group's commitment to the country. The delegation from Chishti included Amir Chishti, Chairman of the Chishti Group; Fayaz Khan, CEO of Puma Energy Pakistan; Javed Ahmedjee, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Puma Energy Pakistan; and Kamal Haider Board Member of Puma Energy Pakistan.

easypaisa partners with Unikrew and USAID to Foster Financial Empowerment for Women

ABC

LAHORE: easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform, has partnered with Unikrew and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to empower women through groundbreaking and innovative financial solutions. This collaboration aims to integrate women-centric products within the easypaisa app, leveraging digital technology to enhance financial inclusion and independence.



While commenting on this collaboration, Farhan Hassan, Head of easypaisa Wallet Business, said, "At easypaisa, we are dedicated to leveraging technology to empower individuals and foster financial inclusion. This collaboration with Unikrew and USAID is a significant step towards ensuring that women have access to user-friendly financial tools that cater to their unique needs. We believe that by offering a seamless, digital experience and attractive incentives, we can encourage more women to take control of their financial future." easypaisa is also introducing an attractive high saving rate of 16%. Through the app's "Goal-Based Savings" feature, women can delineate financial objectives and determine timelines to achieve these goals. easypaisa will provide guidance and support to women customers in making monthly contributions, rewarding them with a 16% profit on the amount saved upon reaching their financial milestones.

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Repatriation and Deportation of illegal immigrants- admirable decision

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoys the privilege and prerogative under the Constitution and laws on the subject, to expel persons of any origin who enter Pakistan without observing legal formalities. It is surprising that such a large number of refugees illegally stepped into Pakistan, a major chunk hailing from our brother neighbor country Afghanistan. No doubt Pakistan had cordial relations with them in the earlier rule of Taliban and a large number of Pakistani volunteers participated in their Jihad for freedom. But the arrival of Afghan refugees, as an aftermath, has continued and unreasonably prolonged. The permission of the influx of a formidable number of refugees has endangered the very security of Pakistan in addition to economic and social problems. At the same time the decision of one of the outgoing governments to release TTP terrorists from our jails was not adequately processed. As such hardened criminals escaped the grip and subsequently they were found involved in terrorist incidents. Besides, foreign adverse countries managed to insert their agents in the garb of refugees.

The decision of the Caretaker Government, on the initiative of the Army Chief, to repatriate Afghan nationals who had entered Pakistan without adhering to the principles of local and international laws is commendable. Earlier governments failed to realize the gravity of this lurking danger. The review of the transit facility extended to the Afghan government is also imperative as it paves the way for

smuggling of currency and goods.

The performance of the Caretaker Government and the Army Chief regarding issues of security threats due to refugees and removing bottlenecks to achieve economic growth, deserve appreciation of the nation. The index of the stock exchange has crossed the limit of 64000 unprecedented on 7-12-2023, and the stability of our currency is proof of improvement. The acute issues which are disturbing the national security, economy, lack of confidence of the local and foreign investors, smuggling of currency and edible goods, have been effectively and seriously addressed and as a consequence positive response is discernible. Foreign investors demand the non-interference of our civil service and in case of dispute they seek to be allowed to invoke the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice as they lack confidence in our judicial system too.

Our civil service is predominantly dictated by Administrative Service who are neither economists nor technical experts, rather they are simply protocol officers, hence the problem of red tapism, not acceptable to investors.

Recently, the Home Minister of Balochistan stated in a press conference that each blue truck owned by smugglers paid one lac rupees to the Deputy Commissioner for crossing his district. He also pointed out that blue trucks

smuggling petroleum items from the Iran border, were owned by youths of Baluchistan and that they had been implicitly allowed to earn their livelihood otherwise they would join negative forces. So to counter the evil red tapism of our bureaucracy, an important institution of Special Investment Facilitation Council (S.I.F.C) has been set up in which role of the Army Chief is most significant. It will definitely bring Pakistan from dust to development. The SIFC has selected the sectors of mining, Information Technology and Agriculture Industries on the basis of merit, keeping in view their potential in Pakistan.

The menace lurking in the bulk force of refugees from Afghanistan has rightly been identified especially when the terrorists of TTP are located on the soil of Afghanistan.

Our energy requirements could be met by our brotherly countries Iran and Azerbaijan. Pakistan may endeavor to restore the confidence of Russia who can prove a better partner like our most trusted friend China. The efforts of China to bridge differences between two important Muslim countries Iran and Saudi Arabia has changed the scenario positively.

It goes without saying that the media is a great force and pillar of democracy. It is worth quoting that management of Pakistan Observer published articles and editorials on CPEC with ultimate semi-

nars, in memory of decade celebrations and they earned pleasure and goodwill of China for Pakistan.

Now again the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer, Faisal Zahid Malik has generously appreciated the efforts and devotion of Army Chief, General Syed Asim Munir, in his editorial comments published in Pakistan Observer dated December 2, 2023. There is general feeling in the public at large that the Army Chief has rendered commendable services to the national cause and that what he says he means it, as is manifest in a short span of one year of his elevation. The implementation of decisions by the armed forces under the dynamic and dedicated leadership is apparent. The efforts for the welfare of the force are also underway simultaneously. This team work of the Caretaker Government and the Army Chief has generated confidence in the investors and a substantial investment is in the offing and round the corner.

The second important decision of repatriation of Afghan refugees is the call of the time. The stay of 40 lac Afghan refugees for a long period of forty years has become an explosive device. A negligible political element is finding faults with the beneficial decisions. They seem to oppose it because they have been exploiting bogus National Identity Cards for their elections and for this petty objective they forget the supreme interest of Pakistan.

The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advocate Supreme Court of A7K.



Analysis

Ch Muhammad Latif

Benefiting All Mankind

Forum "Benefiting All Mankind: Dialogues with the Silk Road" co-sponsored by Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies under China International Communications Group (CICG), the Pakistan-China Institute, European Union Asia Centre, and the Cultural Communication Center of CICG was held in Beijing. Gao Anming, vice-president and editor-in-chief of CICG, and Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

Twelve Chinese and foreign think tank experts, including Pakistani expert on international studies Abdur Rahman, delivered keynote speeches on the theme of "Inheriting the Silk Road Culture, Jointly Promoting People's Well-being", China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Gao pointed out that over the past 10 years, the Belt and Road Initiative has brought China and its partner countries closer together, and has deepened exchanges and mutual understanding among different civilizations. "Rooted in history and looking to the future, BRI has harnessed the synergy of civilizations to foster the development of a community with a shared future for mankind," said Gao. Mushahid stated that BRI is the most significant initiative of the 21st century, lifting 400 million people out of poverty globally, primarily through flagship projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "As a new platform for international cooperation, BRI will achieve a more open development prospect based on the principle of planning together, building together, and benefiting together." "Currently, the narratives of the East and the West are significantly different. In a multipolar world, we need a diverse response. China and Pakistan are good friends who are working together to promote the BRI towards a better future," Mushahid added. In his keynote speech, Abdur Rahman emphasized that BRI has helped modernize Pakistan by creating numerous job opportunities and improving people's well-being under CPEC. "Pakistan is capable of effectively managing the regional situation and achieving safer and more cohesive development. Meanwhile, we should strengthen the influence of social media and the availability of intellectual products, while also enhancing institutional connectivity to facilitate better people-to-people exchanges and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes," said Abdur Rahman. At the meeting, a research report on "Chinese Modernization and Jointly Building the BRI with South Asian Countries" was released. The report is the latest result of the joint research carried out by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies and Pakistan-China Institute. It is also one of a series of reports on "Understanding Chinese Modernization". The report explores the unique characteristics of Chinese modernization from the viewpoint of Pakistan. It analyzes the importance of collaborative modernization for South Asian nations and proposes recommendations for China and South Asian countries to enhance cooperation in modernization and development.



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

Its evolution, future and 10 Top companies in Pakistan - I

In the first week of Dec.2023, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif has called Pakistan an emerging digital hub of the region where 30,000 IT companies are working and more than 75,000 IT students are graduating every year. No doubt, with the flourishing of digitalization, Pakistan has embraced the transformation of Tech services which affects social life positively. The fastest-growing IT service has increased its value in the market which provides an opportunity to prosper business and maintain well-employment. The youth of Pakistan comes with innovative ideas that change the outlook of the country and help accelerate the IT unit.

Digital growth in Pakistan is going through a rapid evolution. IT/ITES Sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of Pakistan contributing about 1% of GDP of Pakistan at about 3.5 billion USD. It doubled in the past four years and experts expect it to grow a further 100% in the next two to four years to \$7 billion.

With a 47% growth rate, Pakistan has shown great potential in the future freelance market. About 64% of the country's population is younger than 30 years of age. Having such a large portion of the youth in the country has given Pakistan an advantage to channel youth into the IT industry.

Every industry in this field is using advanced technology to complete diffi-

cult jobs effectively and quickly. As a result, there is a high IT scope in Pakistan and around the world. The Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program is becoming increasingly popular among students. The IT industry is vast and encompasses a wide range of roles. Many professionals thrive in the IT industry without coding skills. Non-coding roles like project management, technical writing, system administration, and cybersecurity are in high demand and offer rewarding career paths.

The Pakistan ICT market size was estimated at US\$ 15.10 billion in 2022 and is expected to reach US\$ 14.81 billion in 2023. With a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 30 percent, Pakistan's IT sector has demonstrated a phenomenal upward growth of 178 percent over the last five years. In terms of growth, the sector surpasses all other local industries in services and even the textile sector.

Pakistan's ICT sectors are expected to continue getting this growth as it already has registered remarkable growth over the past decade, boasting an average annual revenue growth rate of 20-30 percent. Sources recorded that digital technologies could create up to Rs9.7 trillion (\$59.7 billion) worth of economic value yearly in Pakistan by 2030. So IT future is bright in Pakistan.

Here are "Top 10" IT Companies in Pakistan

1. System Limited is known to be the Top IT Company in Pakistan. It is the first

IT Company in Pakistan that provides the best service which fulfils the needs of digital technology. It targets to meet the aims of the company which leads to wide innovation and ties up with other Industries which helps it to grow its enterprises and sustain development.

2. NETSOL Technologies is a leading IT industry that enables products and services of the automobile, marketing business, and equipment which ease. It was founded in the year 1996 by Salim Ghauri and consists of 2000+ employees with various office locations all over the world.

3. United Sol is an award-winning Top IT Company in Pakistan. Which considered being an eCommerce development. It was founded in the year 2005 and since then it has provided multiple projects which improved the IT Sector. It has developed itself in terms of web applications and designs as well. The office is located in Islamabad with 500+ employees, the company also has a partnership with brands like Hyundai, Wallan, Gulf Central.

4. Arpattech is a leading IT Company in Pakistan and is an ISO Certified Industry which began its journey in the year 2003. The office has locations in Karachi and Islamabad and also shares offshore office location in USA, UAE and UK. Arpattech serves various IT services that include web development, application development, digital marketing, cloud computing and business intelligence etc.

5. TRG Pakistan is a resource group IT Company that leads the Business process and tries to provide the best IT services.

To be continued

Analysis



Hafiz Arqum Zain

The year 2024, new disasters, new exams - II

See it in an international situation, i.e. it can be applied to any country (Iran, Russia, China, South Korea) standing in front of the international establishment or cable all over the world. But there are 90 percent chances that it will be imposed on Iran.

I write the reasons. The environment is ready for an attack on Iran. Recall some events of the recent Israel-Palestine war.

Iranian hackers hacked Israeli security systems. In support of Palestine, Russian hackers leaked the information of Israeli spies, cut the water supply system, hacked the TV channel, etc.

An example on a side note: Margaret Thatcher said that Russia is over, Islam is still there. Then 9/11 happened and the war against Islam was launched, which Bush and many of his officials called the Crusade. All Islamic countries were destroyed internally or externally. But again, not only Russia has stood up, today but also China and Iran.

The CTIL files have detailed some past and recent events/statements indicating that any such cyber-attack would be blamed on Iran.. Statements by Israeli ministers in the recent Israeli-Palestinian war demanding that the US attack Iran will be well aware of the US government's warnings. Let me recall an incident from the past and then continue with the current topic. On September 22, 2003, Al Jazeera published a news story that broke the story of NATO General Wesley Clark meeting with a senior Pentagon official in 2001 who told him that the Bush administration was behind the 9/11 attacks. The mastermind wanted to attack Iraq first.

Bush wanted to destroy a total of seven countries, including Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iran. Later he confirmed it in a TV program. Six countries have been destroyed, Iran remains. According to these CTIL files, the Cyber Threat Intelligence League was founded in March 2020 in the days of Corona, the purpose of which was to provide free cyber security and assistance to major hospitals, pharmaceutical companies,

health insurance companies in America during the days of Corona. Propaganda about them was to be neutralized. The head of the CTIL, the publicly known Israeli intelligence officer, is Ohad Zeidenberg.

Zeidenberg's reputation in the US is also due to his work for the Israeli cyber security agency Clear Sky, which claimed responsibility for the cyber attacks on Iran in the US media. The amazing thing is that the Cyber Threat Intelligence League (CTIL) later supports the US Cyber Security Agency (CISA) and has been given access to all of America's critical infrastructure, including hospitals, dams, water supply, nuclear reactors, and aviation. Even more striking are the facts that no one, including the US Federal Government, has the authority to join CTIL or gain access to its systems, but rather to Ohad Zeidenberg or its affiliates Microsoft and OCTA. Not only this, another private company Cybera-

son has access to US defense and military installations. So we can say that World Economic Forum-backed people like Ohad Zeidenberg have the ability to launch a cyber attack on the United States or the entire world, justifying such an attack and blaming Iran for the destruction of Iran. Years later, a US official would admit that the cyber attack was not carried out by Iran, just as Colin Powell admitted that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to the destruction of the financial system, the war between the predators and the prey, the worst inflationary storm for the rest of the world awaits in 2024. Check out some of the news.

Russia has banned the export of food from Ukrainian ports.

The world's major shipping companies are not sending their commercial ships through the Suez Canal because Houthi rebels have hijacked the ships. Having elections in both America and Pakistan is not in favor of the current global setup.

Prepare yourself for all kinds of situations. The hardest tests of love are yet to come.

Analysis



Kiran Asim

Pakistan confers Hilal-i-Pakistan on Madinah's governor Prince Faisal Bin Salman

Noorhassan Gujjar.

MADINAH: The government of Pakistan on Wednesday conferred the civil award Hilal-i-Pakistan on Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Governor of Madinah Munawarah. The award has been given in recognition of Prince Faisal's the outstanding services for Pakistan.

Pakistan's ambassador in Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq presented the award to Prince Faisal at a ceremony held here at the Governor's Office in Madinah. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Ahmad said the award was a reflection of the strong brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia



and their continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest. He said the people of Pakistan held great reverence towards the Saudi royal family and the custo-

dians of the holy mosques. Prince Faisal Bin Salman thanked people of Pakistan for the award and said the brotherly relations rooted in historical, cultural and reli-

gious bonds stood the test of times. He said Saudi Arabia would cherish this relationship at all levels. Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud has remained

actively involved with various charity and development organizations including Sultana Foundation in Pakistan. Since 1990, more than 120,000 students have graduated from the schools operated by this foundation. As Governor of Madinah, Prince Faisal played an instrumental role in facilitation of Pakistani workforce employed in the Kingdom. Due to his active support, Pakistanis have received efficient service delivery from the government of Saudi Arabia for early processing of their death compensation claims, end-of-service benefits, and fine waivers for prisoners and other labour rights of Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom.

Moscow and Gaza

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R) greets Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Photo Kremlin, via Wikimedia Commons

“The ghost of terrorism re-emerges”

The resurgence of ‘ISIS’ and ‘Al-Qaeda’ organizational activity and their strategy for adaptation and resilience



Ambassador Adel Adailah

Since nearly twenty-three years ago, extraordinary efforts have exerted and substantial funds invested in the fight against terrorism, with a particular focus on the threats posed by Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

In 2006, the United Nations adopted and implemented a global strategy to combat terrorism. This strategy included a range of measures to enhance states' capacity to confront terrorist threats, evaluate achievements, coordinate UN activities in counterterrorism, establish mechanisms to keep pace with the evolving operations of terrorist organizations, address the challenge of extremist ideologies and foreign fighters, and counter the use of social media and modern technology by terrorist groups to advance their agendas.

Based on this strategy, the international coalition against ISIS was formed in 2014, comprising 86 member states committed to defeat-

ing ISIS entirely, confronting terrorist organizations on various fronts, dismantling their networks, and countering their global ambitions. In addition to the establishment of Islamic Military Alliance to Combat Terrorism in 2015, with the objective of unifying the efforts of Islamic nations to combat terrorism.

International efforts have succeeded in crippling the organizational, operational, media, and financial capabilities of both Al-Qaeda and ISIS, leading to their loss of territorial control in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq.

The questions that could be asked today are: Where are we in the fierce war against terrorism that the world has launched? Has terrorism been defeated, and is its threat to the world over? Why does terrorism persist in certain regions of the world, perhaps even more complicated than before? What is the reason for terrorism's resilience and adaptability despite the significant successes of counter-terrorist efforts and continuous pressures imposed by the world?

These questions may be perplexing, but they are necessary, especially since numerous international reports and studies have been released indicating that the fundamental trends of terrorism have become a significant cause for concern.

Making national and international decisions based on the assumption that ISIS and Al-Qaeda have been eradicated is a mistake. These organizations are still able to convey their messages, market their agenda, and dispel narratives about their defeat. Jihadist organizations still pose a persistent threat in most part of Asia, Africa, Europe and around the world, as the widespread presence of these groups makes it challenging to eliminate them easily.

In Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, and the Sahel region in Africa, ISIS and Al-Qaeda continue to use the available spaces in their areas of influence. They benefit from the complex geographical terrain in their hit-and-run operations, camouflage, evasion of targeting, recruitment and training camps, and maintaining external support networks.

Both organizations have proved their capacity to adapt and endure periodic setbacks. The new generation of leaders has not given up on their efforts to return to the scene with strength despite their previous defeats. The occasional operations conducted in various regions of the world are proof that they can still move swiftly and strike anywhere. They are still working towards their long-term goal of establishing the Islamic Caliphate “alleged”. Occasionally, International intelligence agencies issue warnings about the resurgence of ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaeda has shifted its focus towards the concept of the ‘near enemy’ rather than the ‘far enemy,’ and the American withdrawal from Afghanistan allowed it to regain its primary safe haven, after the Taliban reopened its old bases, established training camps, rebuilt its organizational and operational capabilities, and granted its members Afghan national identities for legitimate residency. Therefore, Afghanistan has become a logistical hub for recruiting and training Al-Qaeda fighters, and its terrorist operations have started to surface in various regions across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

According to a report by the International Security Council and another by the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) on the state of terrorism in Afghani-

stan, both issued in July 2023, there is a presence of around 10,000 foreign fighters in Afghanistan affiliated with various terrorist groups, including approximately 900 from Al-Qaeda and its branch in the Indian subcontinent.

Since 2022, Al-Qaeda in the West Asia has continued its activities in Yemen, Iraq, Syria to attract new recruits, taking advantage of the worsening sectarian tensions in these areas. In Yemen Al-Qaeda activities rates increased during the year 2022, and it demonstrated its ability in recent months to enhance its operational and technical capabilities, trying to obstruct attempts to resolve the Yemeni crisis, despite Saudi Arabia's cessation of the war. The organization's leaders have begun a dialogue with tribes, jihadist movements, and parties opposed to the Yemeni government, the Houthis, and Saudi Arabia, in order to form an alliance to thwart the Houthi project in Yemen and overthrow the Yemeni government.

In Syria, the faction known as “Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham” (Syrian Salvation Government), the primary representative of Al-Qaeda in the region, collaborates with “Hurras Al-din” to combat their opponents and disseminate their ideology. The organization's goal is achieved through weekly lectures, forums, religious and cultural lessons, which are used to guide children and young people towards extremism and recruit them into the organization.

Hurras Al-din uses technological platforms to raise funds for the purchase of weapons and medical care for injured fighters. Dedicated accounts on platforms like Telegram and WhatsApp are used by them to send messages and later provide them with banking information.

Giving priority to S&T is only solution to the socio-economic development of Ummah, Prof. Choudhary

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH said that the solution to all problems being faced by the Ummah is in giving the priority to science and technology. He was giving a press briefing to the media persons at COMSTECH on Wednesday.



Prof. Choudhary informed that the difference between the developed and developing world is not the lack of resources, wealth or capital, but it is the knowledge that makes difference.

Prof. Choudhary said that there are 57 OIC member states from South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia inhabiting 1.9 billion people and the 60% population is below the age of 27 years, 23 member states are LDC as per United Nations, share only 2.97% of world high technology export and acquire 1.6% of world patents, expenditure of research and development is 0.3% of GDPs, which is well below the world average, and only 17 universities of the OIC region are in top 50.

Prof. Choudhary said that the challenges of OIC member states include massive poverty, unemployment, inequality, women illiteracy, conflict zones, massive displacement of human population, political instability and frequent disruption of democratic process. He said that 180 million people are food insecure. He said that out of 10 most climate change vulnerable countries 5 are in OIC region, including Pakistan, Mozambique, and Maldives. He mentioned that non-functional education system, and over 180 million children of out of school worsening the situation further.

Prof. Choudhary emphasized that science can only help to meet these challenges. He said green and gene revolution can feed the hungry. He said the global life expectancy can exceed to live over 100 years of productive life. He said that antibiotics and antivirals are saving the lives of millions of people today. He said that biotechnology, 3D printing of organs, gene editing, smart computer, synthetic bacteria, and nanotechnology will redefine the world around us.

Prof. Choudhary shared a comprehensive report of COMSTECH programs, past activities and future plans for the socio-economic development of the OIC states.

Replying to the questions from the journalists, he said there is a need of networking and collective efforts to meet the challenges being faced by the Ummah. He said new technologies will be of great help to meet the challenges created by the climate change. He also emphasized the need of the resource mobilization for scientific and technological development of the Ummah.

The briefing was attended by print, electronic and online media persons.

CIRCLE Women Association Celebrates Enduring Partnerships with an exclusive Networking Event

PPA

LAHORE: CIRCLE Women Association, a pioneering non-profit tech startup led by women, hosted a networking event to honor and celebrate the unwavering support of its esteemed partners. The event, held at Marionette, Lahore, served as a catalyst for strengthening collaborative efforts, expanding partner outreach, and exploring new avenues of collaboration, all with the shared goal of empowering women through digital literacy and entrepreneurial skills development.

CIRCLE Women has cultivated strong partnerships with a diverse range of organizations, including PVTC, RCDP, PSDF, NAYMAT, NCHD, Lahore College for Women, Social Welfare, and Women Development Department, among many others. Up-till now CIRCLE Women has conducted 300+ successful training sessions with various outreach partners and the number is ongoing.

Gracing the occasion with his presence, DG TEVTA Mr. Amir Aziz remarked, “Women play an integral role in the societal fabric, and their active participation can significantly shape the progress of any nation. We are incredibly grateful to all our existing and potential partners for recognizing the importance of promoting digital literacy, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship among these women, and for aligning their efforts with CIRCLE's mission to bridge the existing gender divide.”

The event also served as a springboard for exploring new avenues of collaboration and expanding CIRCLE Women's reach to a wider audience. Key government officials, including Amir Aziz-DG TEVTA, Mudassar Riaz-DG Social Welfare, and Sajjad Ahmed - Director Women Development Department, along with representatives from various organizations and key media personnel, attended the event.

District Returning Officer to be appointed for Attock NA-49, Attock P-1 to 5

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Election Commission will establish 1015 polling stations for the convenience of voters in Attock NA-49, Attock NA-50, PP-1 to PP-5 Attock for the total 1,349,040 voters in Attock district, which will include 284 male, 280 female and 451 combined polling stations for all constituencies. Deputy commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza is appointed as District Returning Officer for NA-49 Attock-I & NA-50 Attock-II. Meanwhile for NA-49 Attock-I Adnan Anjum Raja ADC(G) Attock will be the Returning Officer, Assistant Returning officer Syed Taqi Abbas DDEO(M) Attock, Muhammad Zameer DD (Planning) Attock will be ARO. For NA-50 Attock-II Waqas Aslam Marth ADC(Revenue) Attock will be appointed as Returning Officer, DDLG & CD Attock Khuwaja Hassan Tabssum will be ARO and DDEO(SE) Attock Muhammad Abid Khan will be appointed ARO.



For Provincial Assemblies Attock PP-1 Attock-I Assistant Commissioner Kamran Ashraf will be RO, for PP-2 Attock-II Assistant Commissioner Hasan Abdul Dr. Sana RamChand will be RO, for PP-3 Attock-III AC Shugufta Jabeen will be RO, for PP-4 Attock-IV AC Malik Noor Zaman Pindi gheab will be RO, PP-5 Attock-V AC Arif Qureshi Tehsil Jund will be RO. Meanwhile from Hazro Muhammad Afsar and Abdul Majid will be ARO. For Tehsil Hassan Abdul and Fateh Jung Mehar Ali and Waqas Azam will be ARO. For Tehsil Attock Taimoor Khan and Muhammad Farhan Nawaz will be ARO for PP-3 Attock-III. For Pindi Gheb and Fateh Jang PP-4 Attock IV Muhammad Imran and Faisal Saddique will be ARO and for last Provincial constituency Tehsil Jand Abdul Ghaffar and Shahzad Farooq Khattak will be ARO for the smooth conduct of the upcoming general elections.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 65,280.16 | 66,426.78 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 67,093.96 | 64,427.38 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 28,349,023,236 | -1146.62 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -1.73% | 13 Dec, 2023 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,548.44 | +5.67 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.075% | 13 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 36,586.64 | +8.70 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.024% | 13 Dec, 12:02 pm GMT-5 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 32,926.35 | +82.65 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.25% | 13 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 187.2 | 189 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 755.28 | 763.28 |
| Canadian Dollar | 209 | 211 |
| China Yuan | 39.68 | 40.08 |
| Danish Krone | 41.08 | 41.48 |
| Euro | 306 | 309 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 36.35 | 36.7 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.41 | 3.52 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.39 | 1.45 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 920.97 | 929.97 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 60.86 | 61.46 |
| New Zealand \$ | 173.88 | 175.88 |
| Norwegians Krone | 26.02 | 26.32 |
| Omani Riyal | 737.7 | 745.7 |
| Qatari Riyal | 77.98 | 78.68 |
| Saudi Riyal | 76.1 | 76.9 |
| Singapore Dollar | 211 | 213 |
| Swedish Korona | 27.11 | 27.41 |
| Swiss Franc | 324.21 | 326.71 |
| Thai Bhat | 7.94 | 8.09 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 77.5 | 78.3 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 358.5 | 362 |
| US Dollar | 284.3 | 287 |

OICCI Takes the Lead in Shaping Private Sector Climate Action at COP28

PPA

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI) demonstrated its commitment to driving meaningful climate action at COP28 by hosting a pivotal high-level dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC).

Nestled within the exclusive Blue Zone of the Pakistan pavilion in Expo City Dubai, the dialogue, themed 'Decarbonization and the Role of the Private Sector', tackled pressing issues such as mobilising private capital for achieving Net Zero carbon emissions, evaluating carbon market efficacy, and fortifying public-private partnerships.

The distinguished panel comprised experts



from various sectors, such as Dr. Karen Olsen, Carbon Market Advisor, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Dr. Charles Ehrhart, Global Head Climate Risk, Resilience; Adaptation, Partner, KPMG International, Dr. Anis Nassar, Lead Decarbonization; Circularity, World Economic Forum (WEF), Fiona Duggan, Global Sustainability

Senior Manager for Climate Advocacy, Unilever, Lina Osman, Regional Head of Sustainable Finance - West, Standard Chartered Bank, and Angelo Sartori, Director Regional Engagement, Verra.

The panel underscored the urgency for businesses to decarbonize supply chains, emphasising affordable levers such as circularity, efficiency, and renewable power. It identified OICCI, along with other businesses, as critical platforms for mobilising multi-sector business coalitions to drive sustainable practices and inform public policies. Amir Paracha.

President, OICCI, highlighted the significance of private sector engagement in achieving Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contri-

butions (NDCs), stating, "Our dialogue at COP28 was not just a conversation, but a commitment to sustainable practices."

Speaking at the conference, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, emphasised the need for approximately USD340 billion in investment by 2030. Despite contributing less than 1% of global per capita emissions, Pakistan consistently ranks among the top 10 most vulnerable countries to climate action.

M. Abdul Aleem, CE/Secretary General, OICCI, stated "By partnering with MOCC at COP28, OICCI reaffirmed its commitment to champion private sector leadership in climate-resilient infrastructure, green energy, and sustainable agriculture."

Award

Mr. Muhammad Jawaid Iqbal, President & CEO, UBL receiving the PSX 'Top Companies of the Year' Award for 2022 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



NEPRA to hold public hearing on government request regarding KE tariff

PPA

KARACHI: NEPRA has scheduled a hearing on 20th December 2023 on motion filed by Ministry of Energy to apply quarterly adjustments (QTA) of PKR 0.4689 per unit and PKR 1.2489 per unit for 2nd and 3rd quarter of FY22-23 respectively. The request has been filed by the Ministry to maintain uniform tariff across the country, and these charges have already been determined for XWDISCOs.

NEPRA will scrutinize this request and issue a final decision on the amount to be passed on to customers as per procedure. Distribution Companies across Pakistan operate in a regulated environment, and follow the directions issued by NEPRA and the Government of Pakistan as regards to the costs of electricity to be applied to customers' monthly bills. Individual Distribution Companies cannot influence the process or make unilateral changes.

Zong 4G partners with SnappRetail to integrate Mobile Top-ups via Easy Load



PNP

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication network, has partnered with SnappRetail Pakistan to introduce Zong's Swiftload solutions for retail merchants. Merchants can recharge accounts themselves digitally through the use of SnappRetail's E-POS (Electronic Point-of-Sale) with the specially curated screen for recharge.

Zong Business Solutions' partnership with SnappRetail is an effort to contribute to the promotion of traditional trade in Pakistan. Zong 4G believes that this partnership will bring new horizons in the retail market by allow-

ing retailers to explore multiple avenues with their devices through the availability of value-added services.

"At Zong 4G, our core ambition is to provide ease of accessibility to our subscribers. Through strategic partnerships like the one with SnappRetail, we are creating new avenues for digital innovation," stated the official spokesperson for Zong 4G. "Our collaboration aims to empower traditional retail merchants, ensuring thousands of 'Kiryana' stores are integrated with value-added services. We believe in enhancing the digital ecosystem in Pakistan, making services like Swiftload more accessible and user-friendly."

Nestlé powers PKR 2 billion renewable energy investment in Pakistan

ABC

LAHORE: Nestlé reaffirms its commitment to Pakistan's vision for renewable energy with investment of PKR 2 billion in renewable power and sustainability initiatives.

In a first, Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated a 2.5 megawatt solar power plant completed with an investment of PKR 480 million at its Kabirwala Factory that aims to reduce 1,800 tCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Nestlé Pakistan's PKR 2 billion investments include two biomass boilers and additional solar power plants at its other manufacturing sites in Pakistan. It is part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with a special focus on renewable energy in line with its 2050 Net Zero commitments, as well as Pakistan government's UN climate change pledge.

Inaugurating the facility, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner said, "Nestlé Pakistan's continuous investment and presence in Pakistan for 35 years, shows its confidence in the country, and this solar power plant is a testament to its



commitment to create shared value for the people Pakistan for a cleaner environment. This solar power plant is exactly what can help the Pakistan government achieve its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitment to have 60% Renewable Energy by 2030."

Jason Avanceña, Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé Pakistan, said "As we celebrate 35 years of operations in Pakistan, we are committed to be a force for good throughout

our value chain for the future of the country by boosting investment in renewable energy and sustainability initiatives."

"We are continuing to accelerate the use of renewable energy and this inauguration today is part of our larger renewable energy strategy along with our future plans to introduce biomass boilers and a similar solar plant soon at our Sheikhpura Factory and other manufacturing sites," Avanceña added.

Seminar on Competition Law held at ICAP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A seminar was held at Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) Karachi on Competition Law in Pakistan in last week of November 2023. The speakers from Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) underlined the enabling concept of the Competition law that fosters an open competition in all spheres of economic and commercial activities in Pakistan.

The event was part of the advocacy collaboration that President ICAP and both Vice Presidents have agreed with CCP in October 2023. The participants at the event included CAs, lawyers, bankers and other corporate professionals and found the event very beneficial. An extended question and answer session was held, and participants availed the opportunity to discuss matters related to merger and acquisitions, deceptive marketing, deterring cartel behaviors and certain specific legal provisions of the Competition law with the senior officials of CCP. On this occasion ICAP's VP South Mr. Arsalan Khalid appreciated that this CPD event has significantly enhanced awareness and comprehension of the partici-



pants on the Competition Law. He appreciated the role CCP is playing in fostering ethical business practices, creating awareness, and ensuring fair competition in Pakistan. Mr. Salman Amin, Member CCP, in his remarks expressed that provisions of Competition Law are significantly important for all businesses and professionals. He highlighted that awareness on Competition Law not only ensures compliance to law in all commercial activities but also in identifying non-competitive behaviors that could harm their business interests. An

open competitive economy ensures the level playing opportunities for all businesses to progress and consumers to benefit from it.

Mr. Khalid Rehman, Council Member ICAP presented mementos to Mr. Salman Amin, Member CCP, Mr. Shahzad Hussain, Director General (Legal, Advocacy)/Registrar, and Mr. Ahmed Qadir, Director General (Competition Policy and Research) and thanked for enlightening session. The next CPD event on Competition Law is scheduled to be held in ICAP Lahore and Islamabad in January 2024.

5th Pillar Family Takaful launches groundbreaking initiative for Hajj and Umrah

PPA

KARACHI: 5th Pillar Family Takaful Limited (5PFTL), a pioneering force in the Takaful sector with a vision to empower financially challenged Muslims, announced a groundbreaking initiative to facilitate the sacred journey of Hajj and Umrah. Backed by Kuwaiti investment, 5th Pillar is committed to making the dream of performing Hajj and Umrah easy for millions of Muslims, starting with Pakistan and expanding globally.

Speaking to the media, the Kuwaiti Chairperson of 5PFTL, Saleh Naser Al-Selmi said, "5PFTL recognizes the deep-seated

desire of Muslims to perform Hajj and aims to be a ray of hope for those in financially challenged income groups. The company seeks to reignite the belief that, with the right intention and actions, reaching the Holy lands of Makkah and Madina is not only possible, but affordable. To this end, we trust our partners in Pakistan, who are thorough professionals, to help our brothers and sisters in performing Hajj and Umrah by offering high-quality services. This is the beginning of a great relationship between our two countries, and I am confident that it will be fruitful for everyone involved, especially the end consumer."

TCL Pakistan announces mega 12.12 sale with Daraz

PNP

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's leading LED TV brand, has partnered with e-commerce giant Daraz for its massive 12.12 sale, running from December 12th to 17th, 2023. This exciting event promises huge discounts, free shipping, attractive vouchers, and convenient monthly installments on TCL and Ifalcon products.

"We are thrilled to once again collaborate with Daraz for the 12.12 sale," said Majid Khan Niazi, Head of Marketing at TCL Pakistan. "This partnership allows us to offer our valued customers unbeatable deals and promotions on our premium televisions, enhancing their shopping experience." Customers can browse the official TCL store on Daraz and discover incredible offers on a wide range of televisions and air-conditioners.

Meezan Bank as lead adviser for first listed Ijarah Sukuk for Pakistan

PPA

KARACHI: Pakistan: Meezan Bank, a pioneer in Islamic banking, acted as lead Joint Financial Advisor in the groundbreaking listed Ijarah Sukuk Issuance for the Government of Pakistan (GoP). This is the first listed GoP Ijarah Sukuk issued through Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), allowing retail investors access to Shariah-compliant government securities in denomination of PKR 5000/-.

Other Joint Financial Advisors included Dubai Islamic Bank (Pakistan) Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited and Bank Islami Pakistan Limited. This maiden auction, held on December 8, 2023, with settlement on December 11, 2023 at the PSX, aimed at raising PKR 30 billion, surpassed all expectations, and was oversubscribed by more than 13 times of the participated realized value. The cutoff yield was set at 19.5%. The tenor of the Sukuk is 364 days, providing investors with a short-term Shariah-compliant investment opportunity.

IS Lodhran Pilot Project

Women's cricket matches have started in connection with the Elite Women's League: Dr Abdul Saboor

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the auspices of the Lodhran Pilot Project and with the support of the Bestseller Foundation, under the Powered by Women Project, women's matches have started in connection with the Elite Women's League, which will be held from December 12, 2023 to December 17, 2023 at the Ground Up Academy in District Multan. Open Trials will continue at Government Model School Gulgasht Multan and District Lodhran Ali Tareen Academy and the final will be held on 19 December 2023 in Multan. In this regard, a match was played between Panther and Avengers in which the Avengers team was the winner. Elite Women's League's objec-



tive is to go beyond winning and losing, providing a healthy entertainment to girls and instilling in them the spirit of ensuring peace and stability in the society as well as providing the safest arena for women.

Empowered by Women Project is a unique first of its kind project whose main objective is to empower women in South Punjab by not only providing them with an effective platform. Elite Women's League also aims to make women realize that they can play sports. We are also grateful for the special support of Bestseller Foundation and Ground Up Academy.

Remember that schools, G from different remote areas including schools, colleges, universities, cricket academy, community are participating.

PCB awards 3.6m cash prize to Asia Cup-winning Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Team



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Chairman PCB Management Committee, Mr Zaka Ashraf awarded a cash prize of PKR 3.6 million to the Pakistan Wheelchair team that became champions of the T20 Wheelchair Cricket Asia Cup 2023 held in Nepal.

Pakistan wheelchair cricket team demonstrated an all-round display to become back-to-back champions of the T20 Wheelchair Cricket Asia Cup. The PCB in its bid to keep inclusivity and diversity as a paramount part of the sport acknowledges this achievement and supports people of all abilities.

Chairman Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket (PWCC) Rukhsana Rajput, Manager Zawar Noor, Assistant Manager Javed Babar and captain Mohammad Zeeshan along with the triumphant squad were praised and appreciated by Mr Zaka Ashraf on this occasion.

Chairman PCB Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf while addressing the Asia Cup winning squad said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the team. We are proud of all the players and the PWCC management who achieved this wonderful feat. All of you are blessed with great skills and making a name for Pakistan on the global stage. The PCB will make sure to provide more grounds and training facilities to the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket team."

Expressing his admiration for the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket team, the COO PCB, Mr Salman Naseer stated, "I congratulate you all on behalf of the PCB and the management committee. You are ambassadors of Pakistan and we are delighted that you have won back-to-back titles showcasing your courage and resilience."

Winter Hockey coaching camp to start from Dec 15

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: A winter Hockey coaching camp for Boys and girls will be organized by District Hockey Association Hyderabad in collaboration with Rizwan Tanvir hockey academy in Aastro Of hockey ground of Board stadium from 15 December

Sharing details about winter coaching camp, president District hockey association Iftekhar u din said that the purpose of organizing winter camp was to strengthen the hockey game at grassroots level.

Meanwhile Secretary Rizwan announced that all male/female students of Government and Private Schools could get registration for winter camp. Interested students have been asked to contact camp Incharge Rizwan Mughal and Hamad Rizwan at Hockey ground of board stadium Latifabad unit 6 from 3.30 pm to 5 pm.

Shaheen named vc for Australia Test series

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has been appointed as vice-captain of the Pakistan Test Team for the series against Australia. Earlier, Shaheen was also appointed captain of the Pakistan Men's T20 Cricket Team.



Shaheen has played 27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 52 T20Is for Pakistan.

National Jr Taekwondo C'ship from December 15

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Taekwondo Federation in collaboration with Korean Embassy, was organizing 16th Korean Ambassador National Junior Taekwondo Championship here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex from December 15 to 16.

The championship was set to be a mega event with the active participation of over 200 to 250 officials and athletes. Distinguished guests, including the Korean Ambassador and Senior Services Officers would be in attendance for the opening ceremony on December 16. The participating teams include Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Wapda, Railway, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and WT Care Programme Team.

Complete squads of all six teams after PSL 9 Players Draft

A Sports

LAHORE: The much-anticipated Players Draft for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 took place at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) here on Wednesday.

In the PSL 9 Players Draft, all six franchises picked a mix of established and emerging cricketers and completed their respective rosters as per their pick orders in each category.

Final squads of PSL 9 teams:

Karachi Kings: Kieron Pollard, Daniel Sams, Mohammad Nawaz, Tim Siefert, James Vince, Hasan Ali, Shan Masood, Shoaib Malik, Tabraiz Shamis, Mohammad Amir Khan, Anwar Ali, Arafat Minhas, Mir Hamza, Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Irfan Niazi, Sirajuddin, Saad Baig, and Jamie Overton.

Lahore Qalandars: Fakhar Zaman, Rassie Van der Dussen, Shaheen Afridi, Sahibzada Farhan, Haris Rauf, David Wiese, Sikandar Raza, Abdullah Shafique, Zaman Khan, Imran Jr, Ahsan Hafeez Bhatti, Dan Lawrence, Mirza Tahir Baig, Rashid Khan, Syed Faridoun Mahmood, Jahandad Khan, Shai Hope, and Kamran Ghulam.

Islamabad United: Jordan Cox, Naseem Shah, Imad Wasim, Faheem Ashraf, Alex Hales, Colin Munro, Matthew Forde, Salman Ali Agha, Qasim Akram, Shahab Khan, Rummam Raees, Hunain Shah, Ubaid Shah, Shamyl Hussain, and Tom Curran.

Peshawar Zalmi: Babar Azam, Noor Ahmed, Rovman Powell, Asif Ali, Saim Ayub, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Naveen-ul-Haq, Aamer Jamal, Mohammad Haris, Salman Irshad, Arif Yaqoob, Umair Afridi, Daniel Mousley, Khurram Shahzad, Haseebullah Khan, Mohammad Zeeshan, Lungi Ngidi, and Mehran Mumtaz.

Multan Sultans: Mohammad Rizwan, David Willey, Iftekhar Ahmed, Dawid Malan, Khushdil Shah, Usama Mir, Reeza Hendricks, Reece Topley, Abbas Afridi, Tayyab Tahir, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Mohammad Ali, Usman Khan, Ihsanullah, Faisal Akram, Yasir Khan, Chris Jordan, and Aftab Ibrahim.

Quetta Gladiators: Sherfane Rutherford, Mohammad Amir, Rilee Rossouw, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Jason Roy, Wanindu Hasaranga, Mohammad Haseeb, Abrar Ahmed, Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Teams complete squads as PSL 9 Players Draft concludes

A Sports

LAHORE: The much-anticipated Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 Players Draft gets underway here, all the six franchises of the marquee league will complete their squads.

Platinum Category

Round 1
Multan Sultans: David Willey
Karachi Kings: Kieron Pollard
Quetta Gladiators: Shurfane Rutherford
Peshawar Zalmi: Noor Ahmad
Quetta Gladiators: Mohammad Amir
Lahore Qalandars: Fakhar Zaman
Round 2
Lahore Qalandars: Rassie van der Dussen

Islamabad United: Jordan Cox
Karachi Kings: Daniel Sams
Karachi Kings: Mohammad Nawaz
DIAMOND CATEGORY
Multan Sultans: Dawid Malan
Peshawar Zalmi: Asif Ali
Islamabad United: Tymal Mills
Karachi Kings: Tim Seifert
Lahore Qalandars: Sahibzada Farhan

Gold Category

Peshawar Zalmi: Naveen-ul-Haq
Multan Sultans: Reece Hendricks
Multan Sultans: Reece Topley



Silver Category

Round 1
Quetta Gladiators: Saud Shakeel
Multan Sultans: Tayyab Tahir
Lahore Qalandars: Mohammad Imran Jr
Multan Sultans: Shah Nawaz Dahani
Karachi Kings: Mohammad Amir Khan
Peshawar Zalmi: Salman Irshad
Round 2
Peshawar Zalmi: Arif Yaqoob
Islamabad United: Matthew Forde
Islamabad United: Salman Ali Agha

Lahore Qalandars: Ahsan Hafeez Bhatti

Quetta Gladiators: Sajjad Ali Jr
Multan Sultans: Mohammad Ali
Round 3
Quetta Gladiators: Usman Qadir
Lahore Qalandars: Dan Lawrence
Multan Sultans: Usman Khan
Peshawar Zalmi: Umair Afridi
Islamabad United: Qasim Akram
Karachi Kings: Anwar Ali
Round 4
Karachi Kings: Arafat Minhas
Peshawar Zalmi: Daniel Mousley

Islamabad United: Shahab Khan
Quetta Gladiators: Omair Bin Yousuf
Emerging Category

Round 1
Islamabad United: Hunain Shah
Peshawar Zalmi: Mohammad Zeeshan

Multan Sultans: Yasir Khan
Lahore Qalandars: Jahandad Khan
Quetta Gladiators: Adil Naz
Karachi Kings: Sirajuddin
Round 2
Quetta Gladiators: Khawaja Nafay
Lahore Qalandars: Syed Faridoun Mahmood
Islamabad United: Ubaid Shah

Supplementary Category

Round 1
Lahore Qalandars: Shai Hope
Multan Sultans: Chris Jordan
Quetta Gladiators: Akeal Hosen
Islamabad United: Shamyl Hussain
Peshawar Zalmi: Lungi Ngidi
Karachi Kings: Saad Baig
Round 2
Peshawar Zalmi: Mehran Mumtaz
Lahore Qalandars: Kamran Ghulam
Multan Sultans: Aftab Ibrahim
Islamabad United: Tom Curran
Karachi Kings: Jamie Overton
Quetta Gladiators: Sohail Khan
NOTE: Franchises are arranged in accordance with their pick order in each category for the PSL 9 Players Draft.

Pakistan women team reach Christchurch for two ODIs matches

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women's team reached Christchurch on Wednesday to play the remaining two ODIs of the series at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

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

Pakistan women's team will participate in the training session on Thursday afternoon.

The second ODI between Pakistan and New Zealand women's cricket teams will be played in Christchurch on Friday, while the third and final match of the ODI series will be played on December 18.

Series schedule:



3 Dec - 1st T20I, Dunedin (Pakistan women beat New Zealand women by seven wickets)

5 Dec - 2nd T20I, Dunedin (Pakistan women beat New Zealand women by 10 runs)

9 Dec - 3rd T20I, Queenstown (New Zealand women beat Pakistan women by six runs on DLS)

12 Dec - 1st ODI, Queenstown (New Zealand women beat Pakistan women by 131 runs)

15 Dec - 2nd ODI, Christchurch (2pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

18 Dec - 3rd ODI, Christchurch (2pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

Karachi Kings' head coach Phil Simmons reaches Lahore for PSL 9 Player Draft

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Phil Simmons, the newly appointed head coach of Karachi Kings, reached Lahore on Wednesday to partake in the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 Player Draft.

Karachi Kings, Pakistan's biggest city's HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise, named Phil Simmons as their head coach for the upcoming HBL PSL 9 on November 11.

The franchise proudly welcomes the esteemed Phil Simmons as their Head Coach, marking a significant step in their ongoing revitalization and restructuring process.

Phil Simmons, renowned for his dual role as a star player and as the triumphant coach of the West Indies during

the 2016 T20 World Cup, brings a wealth of experience and strategic prowess to the Karachi Kings' camp.

During his cricket career, Phil Simmons has scored 4,677 runs and picked up 87 wickets. He had a reputation for being an expert limited-over format player. Karachi is not an unknown territory to the new head coach of Kings' as he has played a World Cup 1987 match in the city.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Simmons stated, "Returning to Karachi, a city I hold dear from my playing days, feels like a homecoming. I am thrilled to join forces with Haider Azhar and the rest of the team's think tank, drawing from the rich cricketing heritage of this country. I am thankful to team owner Salman Iqbal, CEO Tariq Wasi, and Karachi

Kings management for this opportunity. We are eager to move ahead with our rebuilding and restart process of Karachi Kings and establish this franchise as a match-winning unit."

Salman Iqbal, the owner of Karachi Kings, extended a warm welcome to Simmons, emphasizing the coach's invaluable addition to the team.

"We are honored to have Phil Simmons join us as the Head Coach. His remarkable track record as a coach and player speaks volumes about his calibre. We are confident his leadership will drive Karachi Kings to greater heights."

The Karachi Kings management expresses confidence in this revamped coaching ensemble, aiming to create a formidable team ready to conquer the challenges of the upcoming HBL PSL 9.

Throwball Championship in January

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 4th National School and College Throwball Championship organised by Pakistan Throwball Federation will be held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex 2024 from January 27 to 28, 2024. The opening ceremony would be held on January 27 while closing on 28. Trophies, Medals, and Certificates would be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position holders in each category, as well as the best players of the tournament.

Best Coaches of the winning teams would also receive shields, t-shirts while best players in each event will receive trophies. PTF Souvenirs would be presented to the principals of participating teams. A meeting for Draws and Rule & Regulation will be held on January 26 at PSB Mess Hall.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the federal cabinet on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan's huge scope of sports tourism needs regulation, infrastructure facilities: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said Pakistan had immense potential for sports and adventure tourism, however stressed effective regulation and improved infrastructure to explore the untapped sector. Addressing the concluding ceremony of the third Sustainable Mountain Sports Tourism Conference, he said the provision of facilities was the top factor in the development of domestic and sports tourism.

The event themed 'Revival of Mountain Glory' was organized by the Alpine Club of Pakistan and gathered the



country's renowned mountaineers including Samina Baig, Naila Kiani, and Sajid Sadpara among others who won titles by scaling the highest peaks of the world. President Alvi said Pakistan was

blessed with incredibly serene natural beauty, particularly its northern areas where the mountains and snowy peaks were a big source of attraction for tourists and trekkers. He mentioned that the coun-

try's scenic Malam Jabba and Naltar areas offered amazing skiing facilities and had huge potential for adventure sports. Also, the Hunza Valley has the world's best treks amidst the gigantic mountains of Karakoram, he added.

Patron Alpine Club of Pakistan Air Vice Marshal (retd) Ijaz Malik said Pakistan being the home of the highest mountain peaks and glaciers outside the Arctic region had great scope for adventure and mountain tourism. He outlined the outcome of the sports tourism conference which stressed the need for formulating a policy on domestic tourism to accrue

economic benefits, introducing tourism as a subject in the national curriculum, and training human resources with contemporary skills.

President Alpine Club of Pakistan Abu Zafar Sadiq said the organization was playing its role in promoting sports tourism in the country through rock and sport climbing, hiking, and trekking. The other activities in collaboration with partners included winter sports, paragliding, mountain biking, and rafting, he said. President Alvi on the occasion gave away recognition shields to the mountaineers, trekkers, and officials of the Alpine Club.

Two-day 'International InsureImpact Conference 2023' begins in Karachi

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) two-day International InsureImpact Conference 2023 was kicked off on Wednesday. Chief Guest, Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, gave a key note address to the session, where a large number of industry experts, professionals and officials from the insurance and financial sectors were present.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar asked the insurance industry to recog-

nize that the risks are growing, both globally and nationally, demanding adequate coverage for people and businesses. Thus, Pakistan needs to track and embrace emerging trends in the insurance sector. The global insurance industry is undergoing technological advancements, evolving customers' expectations, and a pressing need for sustainable practices.

She said that SECP's 5-year strategic plan will set the tone for future policy, legal, and regulatory landscapes. Incorporating the recommendation of the insurance industry

reform committee would be a step in the right direction. She suggested focusing on mainstreaming global best practices, reducing the cost of doing business, digitizing the operations, and making effective use of technology generally.

SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, in his welcome address, informed the participants about SECP's determination to work closely with industry stakeholders to align a strategic vision, propel economic growth, and cater to rising community aspirations.

Setting the onset of the conference, SECP Commis-

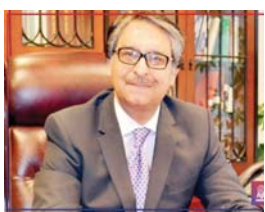
sioner Insurance, Aamir Khan, in his address pointed towards the key focus areas of legal and governance structure, tax reforms, awareness and perception, and the need for collaborations and embracing technology for rapid development of the sector.

Deputy Country Director, Asian Development Bank in Pakistan, Mr. Asad Aleem, commended the efforts of SECP to strategize the development of the insurance sector in Pakistan through a 5-year plan. He said that ADB would continue to support such initiatives for the sustainable development of the

insurance sector. Musa Alpan Bahar, Project Coordinator at TCIP, presented a case study on the Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool. Musa informed the participants that Turkey is one of the most seismically active regions in the world.

Waseem Khan, SECP's head of insurance, presented the 5-Year Strategic Plan and shared details of strategic outcomes and actionable items. Panel discussions were held on topics such as disaster risk and crop insurance, taxation issues, improving industry perception, and enhancing policyholder protection.

Jilani felicitates Mohamad Hassan on becoming Malaysian FM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Wednesday felicitated Mohamad Hassan as he was appointed as the Foreign Minister of Malaysia. "Heartiest felicitations to H. E. Br. Mohamad Hasan on becoming Foreign Minister of brotherly country of Malaysia," Foreign Minister Jilani wrote on X.

The foreign minister said that he looked forward to deeper collaboration to further strengthen close bonds of friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Federal cabinet approves country's first-ever 'National Space Policy': Minister

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) Dr. Umar Saif on Wednesday said that the federal cabinet has approved the country's first-ever "National Space Policy." Speaking at a press conference alongside the Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and the Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, he explained that the approved policy establishes the framework for utilizing Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Communication Satellites.

This authorization allows private companies to offer services to consumers in Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in the country's space program, he added. The minister highlighted that this development signifies a crucial moment for Pakistan's space program, as it enables enhanced communication capabilities through advanced satellite technology. The approval of the National Space Policy is expected to facilitate improved telecommunications services, fostering advancements in connectivity and information dissemination across



the country.

The tribunal, he said, will have specialized individuals with knowledge of information, telecom, and policy. In response to a question, the minister mentioned that the federal government had notified the right of way policy last week, and all provinces have adopted it. Regarding

the removal of the MD of the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), he explained that it was due to serious complaints, including financial irregularities and misuse of powers.

The senior-most person, he said, has been given charge, and the removal followed a three-month investigation.

Martyrs of Daraban terror attack laid to rest with military honors



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The soldiers of Pakistan Army, who were martyred in the terrorist attack in Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan, were laid to rest with full military honors in their native areas.

According to ISPR, a large number of Pakistan Army officers,

soldiers, relatives and local people participated in the funeral prayer of the martyrs.

These sacrifices of martyrs strengthen the resolve and morale of Pakistan Army in the ongoing war against terrorism.

The ongoing war against terrorists will continue until the end of the last terrorist.

China rejects Indian Supreme Court's verdict on Ladakh

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: "China has never recognized the so-called union territory of Ladakh set up unilaterally and illegally by India," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday. "India's domestic judicial verdict does not change the fact that the western section of the China-India border has always belonged to China," she told the media while strongly rejecting the Indian Supreme Court's verdict endorsing the India's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

On December 11, the Supreme Court of India announced a verdict, upholding the validity of the order abrogating Article 370 of Constitution, asking the Indian government to restore the statehood in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest, and upholding the validity of the decision of the Indian

government in 2019 to carve out the so-called union territory of Ladakh. While strongly criticizing the Indian top court's decision to revoke the special status of Kashmir region, Mao Ning had already said, "On the Kashmir issue, China's position is consistent and clear-cut. This is a dispute left from the past between India and Pakistan and it should be properly addressed in peaceful means according to the United Nations Charter, UN Security Council resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements." It may be mentioned that on August 5, 2019, New Delhi revoked the special status granted to the region under Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution and downgraded the erstwhile state into two federally-administered Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and Union Territory of Ladakh. Beijing had objected to the changes to Jammu and Kashmir as China has border claims in Ladakh along what is called as Line of Actual Control.

Briefing session held for Pakistani missions in EU on trade relations

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels on Wednesday arranged a virtual briefing session for Pakistani missions in the European Union member states on the emerging contours of trade relations. A comprehensive briefing was shared on important trade and commercial aspects ranging from important mechanisms and developments pertaining to enhancing the scope of GSP Plus scheme and the Extension of GSP Regulation by the European Parliament.

Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Amna Baloch gave a



snapshot of the trade and development relations for a better understanding of the participants. She stressed the need for closer coordination among Pakistan's diplomatic missions in EU by ensuring a unified approach for addressing trade issues and prospects.

Pakistan to cut down development funds on IMF demand

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to cut down country's development funds on demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ensure successful completion of the review, as well as the overall programme, ARY News reported on Wednesday, citing sources.

Citing a demand by the global lender, sources told ARY News that the government has decided to end 137 development projects worth Rs116 billion included in PSDP (Public Sector Development Funds).

Sources claimed that the cut in the development projects was decided to meet country's financial deficits. The Centre was of the view that the provinces could fund the 137 development projects, if they want.

The Planning Commission documents have revealed that the work on 137 development projects, which are part of PSDP, has not been started yet. The size of the development budget will be reduced to \$34 billion after cutdown of Rs116 development funds, sources added.

A day earlier, the State Bank of Paki-

stan kept its key rate unchanged at a record 22% as "it waits for the effects of previous hikes to filter through the economy and further tame retail inflation".

The rate was raised to 22% in an off-cycle meeting in June as a last-gasp attempt to secure a \$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of a reforms programme aimed at bringing stability to the troubled \$350 billion economy.

Pakistan's economy has been beset by high price pressures, with monthly consumer price index-based inflation remaining above 20% since June 2022, and hitting a record high of 38% in May 2023.

The bank and the IMF both say they expect inflation to ease in the current financial year ending in June 2024, but inflation remained at 29.2% in November after energy prices were hiked to meet reform targets.

Ahead of the IMF bailout in July, Pakistan had to commit to a slew of measures demanded by the IMF, including revising its budget, demonstrating promises of foreign funding, and increasing electricity and natural gas prices.