اصحح بخاری: حدیث نمبر ₀₁₈ **Barkat Rice Mills**

(Pvt) Limited

PM dispels doubts about election on Feb 8

PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday said there should be no doubt about polls on February 8 as the election process had started with the candidates filing their nomination papers and the political parties busy in building narratives to attract voters. He said it was a constitutional requirement to hold elections which would be held on February 8 after which a new elected government would be formed. (Report on Page 8)



Governor Sindh inaugurates Ethiopian <u>Tourism Desk at Karachi Feast</u>

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 9, Saturday, December 23, 2023













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Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with President, Directing Staff of National Defence



President, PM hold telephonic conversation; express concerns over inappropriate police treatment against Baloch protestors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday held a telephonic conversation wherein they expressed concerns over the inappropriate police treatment with the Baloch protestors.

Discussing the situation, both the president and the prime



should not have dealt with the protestors strictly, a President House press release said.

During the conversation, the prime minister told the president that the detained protestors were being released on

personal bonds. Balochistan Meanwhile, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar also called on Pres-

minister viewed that the police ident Alvi and discussed the overall situation in the province as well as police maltreatment against the Baloch protestors.

> The governor viewed that the police should show restraint towards the protestors.

> In the meeting, the two sides believed that the police should not have acted beyond their

> limits and powers. Both leaders emphasized

PTI founder, Shah Mahmood



ISLAMABAD: The on Friday granted bails to saf (PTI) founder and his

The PTI top leaders'

No bat symbol for PTI in elections 2024

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has lost their electoral symbol 'bat' as Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the reserved verdict on the party's intra-party elections.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) earlier reserved its verdict on pleas challenging the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections after hearing arguments from all the parties.

Announcing the reserved verdict, a five-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), headed by Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, declared the PTI's intra-party elections null and void.

Following the ECP verdict, the newly elected PTI chairman Gohar Ali Khan who replaced Imran Khan earlier, will no longer remain as party's head. Earlier, the PTI founding



member Akbar S Babar termed the intra-party polls as drama. In a video statement, he said that the PTI has put the party and the election symbol of 'bat' at stake.

Prominent among those who filed the applications against the PTI intra-party polls were Akbar S. Babar, Raja Tahir Nawaz, and Naureen Farooq.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) then summoned Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chairman Gohar Ali Khan, party's chief election commissioner Niazullah Niazi, Umar Ayub, Haleem Adil Sheikh, Yasmin Rashid, Ali Amin Gandapur and RO central secretariat Sardar Masroof in the intra-party

Solangi reiterates commitment to hold free, fair general elections in February next year



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday reiterated the commitment of the government with regard to the holding of free, fair and transparent general elections on February 8 next year.

Ruling out any possibility of delay, he said the general elections would be held under the schedule, already given by the

Pakistan: report

PESHAWAR: The Coun-

ter Terrorism Report (CTD)

report revealed the involve-

ment of Afghan nationals in

terror activities across Pakistan

92 arrested terrorists for their

alleged involvement in terror

incidents in two years were

Afghan nationals whereas

terrorists of Afghan origin

According to CTD report,

👺 Bureau Report

stan. Talking to media persons, he said that Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja did enjoy the confidence of majority people and there was no question of his resignation.

To a question Solangi said he could not comment on internal issues of political parties as the caretaker government wanted to maintain cordial relations with all political forces.

On a question about termination of service of some employees, he said that media channels initially gave feasibility reports to PEMRA which was also required at the time of issuance of licence. He said that under PEMRA Amendment Act 2023, the journalist job was protected.

Murtaza Solangi assured that the government would take legal measures to protect Election Commission of Paki- the employment of journalists.

Tariq Mehmood Qureshi granted 'country's political situation' appointed PIO Afghan nationals involved bails in cypher in terror activities in

Spokesman Report



ISLAMA-BAD: Tariq Mehmood, a BS-21 officer of the Information

Group, has been posted as **Executive Director Gener**al/Principal Information Officer in Press Information Department, a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday said. Tariq Mehmood was presently working as Executive Director General of Information Service Academy.

According to another notification, Mubashir Hassan, a BS-20 officer of the Information Group, presently posted as EDG/ PIO PID, was directed to report to the Information Ministry.

Asif Zardari, Faisal Vawda discuss

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and former federal minister Faisal Vawda on Friday discussed the country's political situation ahead of general elections.

According to details, the former PTI leader called on former president and discussed matters pertaining to the upcoming elections.

Asif Zardari and Faisal Vawda also exchange views on Sindh's political landscape.

The meeting came as political parties gear up for upcoming general elections, scheduled for February cise. 8, 2024, with candidates submitting nomination papers.

Earlier in the day, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) extended its deadline for filing nomination papers for the general elections by two days but asserted that the extension would not affect the morning, the electoral watch-



poll date.

Last week, the commission issued the election schedule, putting an end to uncertainty surrounding the exer-

As per the original schedule, the for national and provincial assemblies seats commenced on Dec 20.

process to file nomination papers The deadline for the filing of papers was set to expire at 4:30pm today.

However, in a press release this

dog announced that nomination papers can now be filed till Dec 24 (Sunday). It said the decision was taken in response to requests from political parties and to facilitate the candidacy process.

Returning officers will examine the nomination papers from Dec 25 to Dec 30, as specified in the schedule. The statement underscored that "all activities as listed in the election schedule released on Dec 15 will be held as planned".

Supreme Court of Pakistan Pakistan Tehreek-e-Inclose aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cypher case.

plea seeking bail was being heard by a three-member bench comprising acting chief justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

The bails have been granted against a surety bond of Rs100,000.

carried out 50 terror attacks in 2023 across Pakistan. The report stated that Afghan terrorists were also involved in 19 terror attacks in 2022 and 14 extortion incidents were assisted by Afghan Nationals whereas 10 of them have been arrested.

Earlier, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police foiled a terror bid by arresting two hardcore 'Afghan-trained' militants from Karachi.

According to In-charge CTD Khurram Waris, the arrested terrorists were planning to attack the Karachi-Rohri train.

The members of a banned outfit identified as Ashraf aka Achoo and Zeeshan Hameed were also planning to abduct a fruit dealer from interior Sindh and shift him to KP, the CTD in charge said.

Explosives were also confiscated from the arrested terrorists who got 'training from Afghanistan' about bomb-making. Further investigation from the terrorists was underway.

Following the deadly attack that took place in Dera Ismail Khan and claimed by a terrorist group affiliated with the TTP, Pakistan delivered a strong demarche to the Afghan Interim Government calling for the investigation and strict action against the perpetrators.

In this connection, the foreign secretary called in the Chargé d'Affaires (Cd'A) of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to deliver Pakistan's strong demarche in the context of Tuesday's deadly terrorist attack on Pakistan's security forces post in Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan.

The attack, whose responsibility has been claimed by Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a terrorist group affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), resulted in multiple causalities, including the martyrdom of 23 security personnel, a Foreign Office statement said.

Special prosecution team formed in two NAB references against PTI founder founder Imran Khan, a special five-member Amjad Pervaiz.

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Following the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) references against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

prosecution team has been team will be headed by Sardar formed for Toshakhana and National Crime Agency (NCA) 190 million scandal

Mazhar Abbas whereas the other members include NAB prosecutor Irfan Ahmed, Sohail Arif, According to sources, the Barrister Owais Arshad and

Sources said that the special prosecution team has initiated the proceedings on NAB reference in both cases.

Earlier, the National Account-

ability Bureau (NAB) filed a reference with the Accountability Court against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi pertaining to Toshakhana

Global peace can be rekindled by uniting people across all faiths: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has emphasized that true global peace can be achieved through the unity of people from diverse faiths. Speaking at a Christmas cake-cutting ceremony arranged by the Nazriya Pakistan Council, she underscored the importance of fostering harmony and understanding among individuals of different religious backgrounds.

Ms. Sabien Hussein Mullick (Focal Person to SAPM), Mian Javed (Chairman Nazriya Pakistan Council), Manzoor Maseh (Executive Member Nazriya Pakistan Council), Faisal High Commissioner of Pakistan to

Mr. Khalid Suleri were among the

Mushaal highlighted the universal values of love, sacrifice and peace embedded in every religion. She said that during her meeting with Vatican pope she had emphasized fostering Multi-Faith Harmony as a key driver for enduring global peace.

Mushaal asserted that the resolution of global conflicts, including those in Kashmir and Palestine, lies in the propagation of the messages of love, peace, and harmony embedded in all religions. She stressed the need to stand in solidarity with people who were oppressed.

Mushaal underscored the unanimous condemnation from all segments of Pakistani society regarding the Zahid Malik, Salahuddin (Former Jaranwala incident. She commended the measures taken by the Govern-United Kingdom), Ms. Nargis and ment in response to the situation. She



also praised the peace rallies organized by civil society, noting the substantial participation of ordinary citizens in these gatherings

Mushaal voiced deep concern over carried out on daily basis. She attrib- to everyone.

uted it to the influence of Hindutva-inspired policies within the Indian government. She also brought attention to the atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated by India in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kash-

Mushaal recognized the invaluable sacrifices made by the Christian community in the struggle for the creation of Pakistan. She also highlighted their dedication to supporting the Kashmir cause. Emphasizing the significance of December 25th, she noted that it marks a double celebration for Pakistan, the birthday of the nation's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the joyous festivities of Christmas.

Mushaal took part in the Christmas festivities by cutting the ceremonial the persecution of minorities in India cake and extended Christmas wishes

Everyone should be allowed to contest elections: Former PM Gilani



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Geelani has said that our position is that everyone should be allowed to contest the elections, the rest of the matters are in the court. He expressed these thoughts while talking to the media after submitting the nomination papers. On this occasion, former provincial minister Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Khwaja Rizwan Alam, Athangal, Nasheed Arif Gondal Rao Sajid Ali, Chaudhry Yasin, Naeem Khan, Khwaja. Noor Mustafa' Advocate-AD Baluj. Syed Mootal Bukhari-Riyadh and other leaders were also present. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani further said that I have the full support of the people of NA 148. And the people of $\,$ the entire constituency have welcomed my return to my constituency, which makes me very happy.

He Said All Political Parties Should Get a Level Playing Field in the

The permission to fight should be given, the rest of the matters are in the court. Earlier, when Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani entered the Commissioner's office, he was greeted with a warm welcome.

Nishtar Burn Center illegally promotes grade 5 plumber to grade 11



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The executive director of the burn center promoted the plumber who repairs faucets and pipes as a junior clerk in connivance with the additional MS.

Multan: A grade 5 plumber was illegally promoted to grade 11 in the burn unit managed by Nishtar Medical University.

Grade 5 plumber Muhammad Zaman Latif was illegally promoted to junior clerk with the connivance of Burn Unit Executive Director Dr. Naveed Akhtar and illegally appointed Grade 18 Additional MS Ahmed Ali Malik.

While the minimum typing speed for junior clerk set is 40 words

Junior Clerk Proficiency in shorthand as well as typing speed is an important part of a junior clerk's set.

Rana Abdul Rauf at Nishtar Burn Centre. Ali Hassan. Muhammad Yasir Officials named Muhammad Irfan and Mehran Umar while talking to the media said that we will go to the High Court for justice against this injustice and the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab. Provincial Health Minister. Chief Secretary Punjab. Secretary Health Punjab and Medical Education, Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical Univer The Executive Pak Italian Director Burn Center will be made a party

Senior management course chief briefs on progress of Faisalabad division after Jaranwala tragedy



 $FAISALABAD: Officers\ participating\ in\ the\ 34th\ senior\ management$ course under training at the National Institute of Management, Lahore, met Commissioner Silwat Saeed at the Commissioner's office. Briefing the local government, land revenue, agriculture department about the crops and the record cotton cultivation of the Ordinance. While giving a briefing about the implementation of the price control mechanism, he said that in the last two months, 12 thousand 115 wholesalers have been fined one and a half million rupees., 36 cases, 38 shops were sealed. The situation of price control in the division is quite good. The commissioner gave details about the steps taken by the divisional district and police administration after the Jaranwala tragedy and 100% rehabilitation of the victims. He said that At present, work on 467 schemes of public welfare is going on in the division and 67% of the work has been completed. He informed about the future plans and said that the work on the repair and rehabilitation of Faisalabad Bypass Road is going on fast. Allied Hospital.

Illumination

KARACHI: A stunning view of the Trinity Church illuminated with colourful lights during the celebrations of Christmas in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Lodhran Pilot Project's Elite Women's League concludes in Multan

MULTAN: The final match of the Elite Women's League under the Powered by Women Project under the auspices of Lodhran Pilot Project and with the support of Bestseller Foundation was held at Ground up Academy Open Trials Government Model School Gulgasht Multan in Multan. In this match played between Lodhran Strikers and Multan Avengers, Strikers won by 17

ceremony, Mr. Ali Khan Tareen, Miss Asmavia Iqbal, Mr. Kamran Hussain, Dr. Pracha, Dr. Maimona and of 100,000. others distributed trophies of Strikers scored 290 runs and received Scotty for the best batsman of the league. Fatema Muneer of Strikers team was declared the player of the match.



a cash prize of 15,000 along with a trophy, while the In the prize distribution runner-up team Ajvengers was given a cash prize of 50,000 along with a trophy and the winning team got the Abdul Saboor, Prof. Kulsoom champion trophy and a prize

Mr. Ali Khan Tareen, Presand awards. Samina Iqbal ident Lodhran Pilot Project, while expressing his views, said that the purpose of Elite Women's League goes beyond winning and losing to provide healthy entertainment to girls and ensure peace and stabili-

Speaking at the event, Dr. Abdul Saboor, Chief Executive Officer, Lodhran Pilot

> both performed very well. It was not only cricket but the main objective of this project is to provide more and more safe spaces for our women, which cricket is a great tool which not only provided a big plate to women so that they can be called women players.

Project said

Miss Asmavia Iqbal, Selector Women, PCB while speaking said that South Punjab Lodhran Pilot Project has done valuable work for the promotion and development of women cricket.

Speaking during the Elite Women's League, Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha said that the event of the final match of the Elite Women's League is a great example of the power of creating a safe environment in sports for women. We should strongly support such activities so that every woman feels empowered and safe in her pursuit of greatness.

Mr. Kamran Hussain-Coach Women, Multan Region while speaking said that Powered 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. In the Elite Women's League, women practically feel that they have a safe playing field. | leadership.

Aftab Ahmed submits nomination $\begin{array}{c} papers\,in\,Attock\\ district\,for \end{array}$ assembly election

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: As in other parts of the country, the process of obtaining and receiving election nomination paper is going on in Attock district which will be held till December 24, NA 49 Attock I and NA 50 Attock II, PP I Attock, PP II, Papers are being collected in the offices of District Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers in PP III, PP IV and Provincial Constituency PP V. Today, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed of NA 49 Attock I submitted the papers as PML-N. Former member of the National Assembly and Federal Minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmed while talking to the media outside the ARO office said that power has never belonged to anyone. There is a stain on the foot of the party. I am bound by every order of the top

PPP announces march to commemorate Benazir Bhutto's death anniversary

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir has made preparations to celebrate the sixteenth death anniversary of the first female former Prime Minister of Pakistan and party leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto on December 27th with great devotion and respect in the entire Azad Kashmir like the four provinces. Committees were formed

bearer rally was announced, while party president Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former senior advisor Chaudhry Riaz, secretary general Faisal Rathore led by party president Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin from across Azad Kashmir at the shrines of

In order to participate in the grand gathering in large numbers, convoys will leave on December for arrangements and a torch 25 and 26. Yesterday, a meeting

of all the organizations of Muzaffarabad Division was held under the chairmanship of Divisional President Jahangir Khan Mughal at the People's Secretariat Chhatar. Assembly candidate Vice President Candidate Sardar Mubarak Haider, Central Deputy Information Secretary Assembly Constituency Seven Shaukat Javed Mir Central Vice President of Women's Department Ms. Shagufta Noreen Kazmi, Councilor Khurram Naqvi Raja Azhar Khan, Sardar Danish

and other officials participated in the meeting. It was decided that on December 27th, after the Fajr prayer, martyred Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the leader of the people party the daughter of the East, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the martyred mother of democracy, Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto, martyred, Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto, martyred, including the martyrs of democracy, martyrs of Kashmir, martyrs of Pakistan forces, martyrs of



terrorism.

Hands were raised for special prayers for the success and work of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, chairman of the Unity and Unity of the Muslim Ummah, for the security of Pakistan, Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the independence

According to the instructions the campaign of the party's nominated candidates in the general Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari in the Chaudhry Riaz.

Supreme Court of Pakistan. Tribof the party leadership to conduct ute to Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faiz Isa for bringing judicial reforms and calling PSF elections, the strategy was taken convention as the most important into special consideration and timely political decision at Press the Bhutto reference filed twelve Club Rawalpindi on Decemyears ago by former President of ber 25th by party central leader





Namaz Timings Maghrib .5:04 pm ...6:33 pm

EMERGENCY

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Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	
	D 1/	

ENQL	ЛRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
ΓΔΔ	9281092

HOCDITALO

HUSPITALS		
CMH	5611111	
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 Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Education behind pressure

Kashif Hussain Sahito, Khairpur Mirs

Dear Editor, I'm deeply troubled by the rising number of students taking their lives due to exam

Few weeks ago, the corpse of Dr Sanhia, who was final year medical student, was found at Khairpur Medical College. "Owing to persistent pressure, she committed suicide": alleged her friends. She could not endure mammoth pressure. Some of her colleagues demanded for investigation, but her parents brought her dead body to home town Dehraki without post mortem.

Our schools should be places of learning and support, not anxiety factories. We must encourage a system that values overall growth, mental health, and a balanced approach to assessments.

I urge our community and authorities to implement mental health support systems in schools and destigmatize seeking help. Let's build an educational environment that nurtures young minds without compromising their mental health. It's time for action to prevent more tragic losses

PNCA in collaboration with Saira Peter arranged special Christmas celebrations

₿ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in collaboration with Saira Peter arranged special Christmas celebrations here at PNCA, Auditorium on Thursday titled "Bethlehem's Christmas".

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah was the chief guest on the occasion, with Adviser and Culture Expert Muhammad Kashif Irshad and Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayuob Jamali also in attendance. Zafar Francis moderated the overall programme.

The event began with a video message by a Palestinian pastor explaining how Palestinian churches are not celebrating Christmas this year due to the horrific bloodshed and tragedy befalling Pales-

Accompanied by a backdrop of powerful images, Sufi opera singer Saira Peter performed songs themed around Palestine's suffering children, calling for interfaith harmony and an end to violence. The programme also featured video messages of peace from around the world.

In his remarks, Federal Minister Jamal Shah highly praised Saira Peter for collab-

orating with PNCA to mark Christmas in a befitting manner. He said that the role of the Christian community is of key importance in the prosperity of the country.

The Federal Minister commended Saira Peter's demonstration that music is much more than entertainment, remarking on the power of the Arts to communicate society's issues. He cited her moving depiction of the Palestinian genocide through a potent combination of songs, carols and images which could not be ignored. The Minister commented on the irony that dark forces are unleashed upon innocent youth in the very birthplace of Jesus, whose whole life was dedicated to serving humanity and bringing peace in the world.

In his opening, Zafar Francis elaborated the titled Bethlehem and Christmas celebrations. Zafar Francis said that Bethlehem is regarded by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus, Bethlehem is usually bustling with people this time of year, with streets full of holiday decoration and vendors selling ornaments and festive figurines. He said people often forget that at the time of Jesus' birth the king had called for the killing of boys under two years of age, pointing to similarities with the current atrocities.

The stage was beautifully decorated



with eight imported Christmas Trees, lent by Saira Peter and her group. A showreel was also played featuring Saira songs and

The colourful celebration also featured cake-cutting ceremony which was led by

Federal Minister Jamal Shah, DG Ayoub Jamali Saira Peter, Zafar Francis, Muhammad Kashif Irshad and Amna Shah.

Asean BBQ Day

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Malaysia to Pakistan Azhar Malan cooking food at F-9 Park to mark the Asean BBQ Day, in Federal Capital.



Two-day regional heads conference concluded at AIOU



ISLAMABAD: Regional Heads of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) should create a "Reference Document Chart" in order to increase enrollment, strengthen the student support system, and overall development of Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, at the

Regional Heads Conference yesterday. He emphasized the need for transparency in all matters, including exams, meeting admission targets.

improve examination system Mahmood, has stated that ber every year. any kind of irregularities or the university", said Vice corruption will not be toler- al heads to modernize the ated. He emphasized the admission and examinaimportance of providing tion system and promised to

closing session of a two-day excellent services to students, not only to retain them until they complete their program but also to encourage them to join future programs for and requested a report on themselves and their families. the regional heads' success in He also announced that the "Performance Award" cere-VC AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir mony will be held in Decem-

Dr. Nasir urged region-

support them in implement-

ing their suggestions. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, assured the Vice Chancellor that they will improve student services and ensure transparency in the admissions and examination system based on the given orders. In the closing session, the regional heads presented their recommendations to the

Habib University recognized at NECHE, Stanford

City Desk

KARACHI: Habib University's unique vision to ensure quality education for high-merit students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds placed Pakistan in the forefront of global higher education discourse.

The University was recognized as a premier liberal arts institution transforming higher education in the global South in two seminal events in the USA - the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Annual Meeting 2023 and a celebration of global philanthropists at Stanford University.

In a first for any Pakistani universihonor to be invited to speak at NECHE (New England Commission of Higher Learning), one of the oldest accreditation bodies globally known for its commitment to quality, innovation and student success in higher educa-

with long-standing academic integrity and merit-based access such as Yale and Harvard boast a place on its coveted roster. Here, Habib University President Wasif Rizvi introduced the concept of "international agility" as an intellectual endeavor that captures the institution's distinctive model of higher education, which prioritizes a holistic understanding of one's own reality as well as contextual and indigenous knowledge. It equips our students to contribute to both community and industry as intelligent and thought-

ful global citizens. Habib University's model reflects a strong commitment to inclusivity. Its ty, Habib University had the distinct community-owned approach, ensures all deserving students access quality higher education regardless of financial constraints.

Recognizing the contributions of its Mohsineen (beneficiaries) is crucial to Habib University's community-owned model. To this end, the University host-

Prestigious liberal arts institutions ed a historic event, "Transformative Gifts: Creating Legacies", at Stanford University on December 9, along with the academic leaders Dr Alexander Key and Sarah Stein Greenberg in celebration of the remarkable contributions of the Dhanani and Jeewanjee families.

"Elevating the standard of academic excellence in Pakistan poses a compelling challenge," said President Rizvi, addressing the event. "Our mission is to position Karachi as a dynamic platform that beckons higher-caliber academics. By dispelling misconceptions, we aim to unveil the true potential and vibrancy of Pakistan.

The distinguished legacies established by these families at Habib University, in the form of the Dhanani School of Science and Engineering and the Imam Ali (AS) Endowed Faculty Chair in Wisdom and Humanities, exemplify the rich tradition of US philanthropy that recognizes higher education as a transformative force for global change.

Habib's efforts were appreciated by Dr Key, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford University, who observed, "The Liberal Core at Habib University is a more intellectually exciting, better organized and more rigorous undergrad education program than my colleagues and I have created here at Stanford".

Vice Chancellor.

Greenberg, his colleague and Executive Director of Stanford University's d.school, seconded this view and commended Habib University for "paving the way for inclusive education and ensuring equal access to knowledge and opportunities across Pakistan".

The event brought together attendees from various US cities and participants on Stanford's picturesque campus, reinforcing Pakistan's positive narrative. It provided a platform for insightful discussions on challenges in Pakistan's higher education, the marginalization of students along class lines, and deeper issues.

Painting exhibition titled "Jinnah Say Quaid Tak' held at PAC



₽NP

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized an exhibition of paintings titled 'Jinnah Say Quaid Tak 'to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The exhibition has more than 50 works of art by students of universities and colleges. Naheed Manzoor and director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the chief guests of the exhibition. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Naheed Manzoor said that Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the last outstanding figure of the freedom struggle of the Nation, which reached its peak in his person. The founder of Pakistan is an ideal leader for us. All aspects of his personality and attributes are a beacon of light for the nation. The journey from Jinnah to Quaid-e-Azam is also an important chapter in his life. It is an important national requirement to keep the new generation aware, she added. The chief guest emphasized that understanding the journey of Mr. Jinnah to Quaid-e-Azam can be helpful and useful in the journey of history for the stability and bright future of Pakistan. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that during the journey from Muhammad Ali Jinnah to becoming the Quaid-e-Azam, Aswa Hasna was an integral part of his edicts, points, speech and character at every step. Undoubtedly, the founder of Pakistan, with his willpower, intellectual abilities and tireless work, removed the yoke of centuries of slavery from the neck of the Muslims of the subcontinent forever, as a result of which he received the title of Father of the Nation from Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, is a great favor to the people of Pakistan that he made possible the establishment of an independent state for the Muslims of the subcontinent. Today, it is necessary to strictly follow the rules and regulations mentioned by Quaid-i-Azam and play a full role in the development of the beloved country. At the end of the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were distributed to all the students.

Fun Feast: Where unity meets creativity and education

ISLAMABAD: "The 'Fun Feast' organized by Beaconhouse and KIFES on December 21st was not just an event but a memorable day for all ages. Amidst the celebration of unity, creativity, and education, children experienced great fun with specially curated art, paintings, and educational stalls.

The event became a vibrant playground for young minds, leaving them entertained and enriched.

This unique blend of entertainment and education added an extra layer of joy to the festivities, making it a day to remember for everyone who attended."

DSP Arshad promoted to SP rank

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: According to the announcement issued by the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a ceremony was held on Friday in connection with the promotion of DSP Arshad Mahmood as SP in Range Police Office Dera Ismail Khan.

In which RPO Dera Nasir Mehmood Satti along with



District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani DSP Muhammad Arshad appointed SP rank. On this occasion RPO expressed good wishes and said that you contin-

ue to perform your duties with the same passion and hard work in the future and set a journey of further development. RPO Said, the officers who carry out their duties diligently and honest-

ly and establish a positive identity of the department are the real capital of the department.

The RPO said that this development is a source of pride not only for you but for the entire family and you ensure the delivery of merit and justice while adding to this excellent quality. Later, RPO Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood Satti said that the sacrifices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police are eternal, they will always be remembered.

Saturday, December 23, 2023

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New action plan on e-commerce launched in Shanghai to benefit **BRI** countries

s a new business model, 'Silk Road e-commerce' provides global consumers with a wealth of goods and services with its convenient, efficient and low-cost features, and we would like to ride the wave of it to boost bilateral trade," noted Ageel Ahmed Chaudhry, director of the Pakistani national pavilion located in the Silk Road e-commerce cooperation pilot zone center, Pudong, Shanghai, China. In a move to promote the Silk Road e-commerce as a novel business model, the government of Pudong, Shanghai, officially released the "Action Plan for Advancing the Construction of the Silk Road E-commerce Cooperation Pilot Zone in Pudong New Area" on December 14th, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

This initiative aims to leverage the convenience, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of Silk Road e-commerce to offer a diverse range of products and services to consumers all around the world. It is worth mentioning that the State Council has designated Shanghai as the pilot zone for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation on October 17, aiming at improving digital economic cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road

Initiative, deepening mechanism innovation, and strengthening international cooperation. According to the plan released last week, a comprehensive Silk Road e-commerce service system will be established by 2025. The focus will be on creating a high-quality Silk Road e-commerce cooperation pilot zone center, facilitating further trade cooperation among BRI countries through e-commerce. Additionally, more Silk Road e-commerce national pavilions will be unveiled, with over 20 national pavilions and commodity centers expected to be established by 2025. Living in China for more than a decade, Ageel Ahmed Chaudhry expressed optimism about the opportunities this initiative will bring to Pakistani businesses and traders. A He emphasized that the advantages of Silk Road e-commerce would be fully utilized to provide more development opportunities.

Positive Outcomes of General Asim's Diplomacy - III

an ambassador on October 24, the Army Chief reaffirmed full moral and diplomatic support for Palestine. He strongly urged the international community to implement an immediate ceasefire, provide humanitarian aid in Gaza, and establish a Palestinian state based on the 1967 geographical structure.

The Army Chief's visit to Azerbaijan on November 1 saw appreciation for Pakistan's support from Azerbaijani military officials, expressing determination to expand bilateral relations. On November 29, the Chief of Army Staff visited the UAE and Kuwait for the third time, conducting final detailed discussions on areas of investment in Pakistan.

Aside from foreign visits, the Army Chief held meetings with 17 diplomatic and military officials from countries including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, and China. A recent visit to the United States holds particular significance as it marks his first official visit since assuming command. Discussions with top US officials covered US-Pakistan counter-terrorism cooperation, military-to-military collaboration, the situation arising from Afghanistan, and economic and investment issues.

General Asim Munir, the Army Chief, has embarked on his inaugural visit to the United States since assuming the role last year. The Inter-Services Public Relations

noting that it is General Munir's first visit to the United States as the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). During this visit, he is scheduled to meet with senior US military and government officials, including the US Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, and the National Security Adviser at the White House.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Army Chief General Asim Munir, both within Pakistan and internationally, the country has experienced several positive economic developments in recent days. Notably, Pakistani IT firms secured significant awards at the Asia-Pacific Informa-

tion & Communication Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2023 in Hong Kong. Additionally, a strategic deal was reached as PSO agreed to sell over 30%of its shareholding in Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) to the United Energy Group (UEG) of China, bringing a substantial \$1.5 billion investment and doubling PRL's refining capacity from 50,000 to 100,000 barrels per day.

Further contributing to economic growth, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved \$659 million for three projects in Pakistan, aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. In

surged impressively by 65% from July 2022 to October 2023. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded Pakistan's economic plan, noting the rebound in the rupee's value and the cessation of the dollarization trend. The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), with the KSE-100 benchmark, surpassed the milestone of 66,155 points.

November brought remarkable positive developments, including the United States remaining the top export destination for Pakistan, a more than 34.7% reduction in the trade deficit to 7.4 billion dollars in four months, a 13.6 million

dollar increase in State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reserves in a week, the refinery sector turning profitable in the first quarter of FY24, an alliance between SBP and the Arab fund to ease cross-border remittances, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) to boost employment opportunities for Pakistani workers, a 0.06% decrease in SPI inflation, a 70% increase in Pakistan's exports to China in October, and Pakistan earning 654.930 million dollars from IT services exports.

Thanks to General Asim's diplomatic efforts, Pakistan has also witnessed nota-

n a meeting with the Palestini- (ISPR) confirmed this in a statement, trade, Pakistan's exports to South China ble developments such as the discovery of new gas and condensate reserves in Sindh and the IMF Board meeting on January 11 for the approval of a staff-level agreement. The 100 billion dollar export vision is a tangible result of these sincere efforts, with Pakistan also aiming to reduce the trade deficit with China.

Pakistan is currently witnessing noteworthy developments, including the initiation of projects worth Rs. 40 billion in Rawalpindi, the implementation of a tight gas policy aimed at unlocking a 2 billion dollar Chinese investment in MARI, OGDC, and PPL. Additionally, a substantial amount of Rs. 573 million was saved in the PSX Sukuk auction. Furthermore, Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan have seen a positive increase of 2.65% in the span of four months, and exports to South China have experienced a remarkable surge of 65% from July to October. Moreover, there are potential investments of 500 million dollars from China and the UAE in Pakistan's LNG projects.

Readers, the commendable and decisive initiatives led by General Asim Munir, coupled with his foreign diplomatic efforts, are contributing significantly to the continuous improvement of Pakistan. The nation expresses gratitude to Army Chief General Asim Munir and the Pakistan Army for their dedicated efforts in working sincerely towards the betterment of the country.



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

Women— The Broader Perspective - II

Azka Amin Fatima

subjected to abusebe it emotional, mental, or physical-does she not have the right to raise her voice, to say,"MY BODY, MY CHOICE?" We need to understand the depth of this matter, to comprehend the depth of this cry for help. We must provide women with the rights and protection that are our responsibility. So that no woman becomes a target of the vile intentions of predators, like Zainab Amin and Noor Muqaddam. The men who oppose the slogan "My body, my choice" argue that it grants women excessive rights and promotes too much liberalism, however, these very men often turn out to be predators and rapists as they grow older. They are against the notion of bodily autonomy, while there are other men who support the slogan. These supportive men recognize that in everyday situations, such as a taxi driver or an Uber driver touching a woman without her consent, the woman should have the right to say no. The slogan "My Body, My Choice" emphasizes that a woman cannot be touched without her consent. Unfortunately, these men who violate such principles continue to roam freely without consequences. Although they may have passed a bill on castration for rapists recently, they have not enacted a law. In contrast, if a woman exercises her right to autonomy and choice, they are ready to ban it. This is a contradiction. Moreover, the rapists continue to walk free while women lack the freedom to do so. If there is a willingness to pass laws against one, there should be equal willingness to protect the rights and autonomy of women. reflects the status you assign to It highlights the contrast between men who condemn this right and grants women these rights, be it in

standard where some men, who may later turn out to be predators, resist acknowledging women's autonomy over their bodies. On the flip side, there are men who understand and support this right. The irony of the matter is that all this-the unfortunate happenings with the women and the utter absence of law and order to avoid such happeningsis being experienced in an apparently independent state, a country that you claim to be an independent Islamic Republic.

Even after all these continuous years of abuse towards women, people still have the audacity or the authority to point fingers at any rally or March held by women in Pakistan. We Have not made castration a law or any other effective laws that truly protect women, their bodies and their self-esteem to the least. Can I say in my country, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that I, as an independent individual woman can go out any time of the day safely? According to a survey based on facts, in Pakistan, a woman is raped every two hours, while conviction rate is only 0.2%. According to the poll, this equated to about 12 women being raped per day across the nation, or one woman every two hours. The surveyors claim that because women are afraid of being retaliated against in society and are stigmatized, the number of recorded occurrences is

only the tip of the iceberg. A conscious individual often thinks that do we really support justice in relation to women's rights in our country particularly when Islam has granted women the rights to marry, to divorce, to educate herself or to live like a free and secure individual of a free society? These are the rights of women that our orthodox clerics are undermining. Cutting off that right from the women in the marriage contract women in this era. When Islam those who support it. This scenario any role- mother, sister, daughter,

itance? Unfortunately, our society is not even able to provide women with the rights that Islam has bestowed upon them. When our men talk about maintaining honor, do they really understand what honor is? Do they comprehend their responsibilities? Or are they just following the example of engaging in multiple marriages without considering the conditions set by the Quran, or perhaps using their desires and internal malice to carry out what is referred to as "honor killing?" Has anyone ever considered whether the murderer might have committed sexual assault and killed the victim. labeling it as "honor killing?" Or maybe the victim was forced into something wrong, and was killed on resistance, and this what later on was labeled as "honor killing?" Or perhaps the victim caught the murderer doing something wrong, exposed it, and was killed, and this was branded as "honor killing?" Any man, be it a father, brother, or son, can say or do anything in the name of preserving their life, satisfying themselves and undermining

women's rights. It is high time that we understand the true essence of "My Body, My Choice" with its positive aspect that highlights women's self-empowerment. Those with harmful intentions will continue misusing the phrase. However, in its true essence, the slogan contributes to the narrative of gender equality, advocating that everyone, regardless of gender, should have the right to make decisions about their own bodies. Sexists and patriarchal individuals may resist this notion, but the positive takeaway is the push for equal rights for all. Concluding, while there might be misinterpretations by individuals with harmful intentions, the broader societal impact of "My Body, My Choice" is undeniably positive. It fosters empowerment, consent, gender equality, and the creation of safer, more respectful spaces for everyone.

'Army Chief Visit to US: Takeaways' - II

Qamar Bashir

he US and Western media covered the entire visit. The coverage generally reflected the complexities of the US-Pakistan relationship, with both optimism and skepticism regarding the potential for progress. Some outlets highlight the shared interests and potential for cooperation, while others focus on past tensions and unresolved issues. Foreign Policy website emphasized the potential for the visit to reset US-Pakistan relations and explore common interests in combating terrorism and stabilizing Afghanistan.

The New York Times highlighted that Pakistan's New Army

Chief who is faced with Taliban Threat sought improved U. S relations and expressed Pakistan's desire to work with the US. The Wall Street Journal said: "Pakistan's top General sought to reset uneasy ties," highlights the importance of Pakistan for US interests in the region and sees the visit as an opportunity to address outstanding issues.

The Washington Post said that Pakistan sought U.S. Aid to help the country to overcome its economic woes. The Los Angeles Times said Pakistan's Army Chief sought closer U. S. ties during "Tense Visit," emphasizing the

complex history of the US-Pakistan relationship and pointing nity to seek access to US technology and military hardware to to ongoing disagreements over various issues like Afghanistan and terrorism.

The visit also drew significant attention in Chinese media. While outlets like People's Daily underscored regional security cooperation and discussions on Afghanistan and terrorism as positive steps, CGTN focused on the potential for improved US-Pakistan relations, emphasizing economic cooperation and stability in South Asia. The Global Times adopted an analytical stance, examining implications for India-Pakistan and India-US relations, urging regional stability.

Pakistan media showcased multiple narratives, with some outlets emphasizing the potential for strengthened ties between the two nations, discussing regional security cooperation, economic partnerships, and potential military agreements. Others focused on shared challenges like Afghanistan's security situation and regional instability, viewing the visit as an opportunity for joint efforts to address these concerns. Certain media acknowledge the historical complexities in US-Pakistan relations and urged a balanced stance that upholds Pakistan's national interests.

The main key word used by the official releases and the media coverage are: "NATO," "partner," "regional security," "defense cooperation," "trust," "cooperation," reset, "terrorism," "Afghanistan,""Taliban Threat," "economic woes," "perceptions," "regional dynamics," "skepticism," "security concerns," "US priorities," "India-US relations," "Pakistan's track record," "cross-border terrorism," "human rights issues," "strategic balance," "Afghanistan troop withdrawal." These keywords perhaps explains the entire gambit of the US-Pakistan Relations.

This visit was specifically important as it was done when the US-India relations are at the lowest ebb. US accusations

Republic Day invitation by the US President have undoubtedly added complexity to the dynamic. This has resulted in increased friction and uncertainty in communication between the two governments. Collaboration on regional and global issues like counterterrorism and climate change have faced setbacks and both countries are exploring closer ties with other partners.

The current visit of the Army Chief had given a vital opening to Pakistan to create its own niche and nudge itself closer to the one of the most powerful superpowers of all times. This can accrue immense benefits to Pakistan. Pakistan can increase its economic, trade and investment ties with the USA. Attract

US investment and expertise in critical technologies like Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, renewable energy, and biotechnology quantum computing, blockchain, advanced robotics and gene editing which are poised to revolutionize the future.

Apparently, Pakistan used this visit to acquire US expertises in counterterrorism such as training, intelligence sharing, and equipment access, improving Pakistan's ability to combat militant

groups and border security threats. The visit had given Pakistan an opportu-

upgrade Pakistan's defense capabilities, enhancing its deterrence against potential threats and improving overall regional security. This visit allowed Pakistan to build closer ties with the US to enhance Pakistan's international standing and potentially open doors to greater diplomatic and economic cooperation with other countries.

Army chief, with his emphasis to improve Pakistan's financial and economic outlook, most likely used this visit to bolster economic ties with the US, strategically harnessing their relationship across multiple fronts. In trade, Pakistan positioned itself as a gateway to broader South Asian markets, leveraging its strengths in sectors like textiles, agriculture, and IT services to attract US investment and explore preferential trade agreements. On the investment front, Pakistan sought US assistance to improve its infrastructure projects and special economic zones.

Pakistan's strategic approach towards fostering relations with both the US and China rests on emphasizing shared interests while maintaining transparency and safeguarding its national priorities. Highlighting mutual concerns like regional security, economic cooperation, and climate change with both nations is crucial for building trust and showcasing the value of part-

Anchored in its national interests, Pakistan strives for economic development, internal stability, and regional peace, recognizing that a strong, prosperous Pakistan aligns with the interests of both major powers.

In this intricate landscape, Pakistan navigates deliberately, ensuring each step taken aligns with its national objectives and positively impacts relations with both the US and China.

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

Former MD, SRBC

also highlights the societal double or inheritor- why does the society regarding the Sikh leader's killing and the rejection of India's **Disclaimer:** All reports and recommendations have been prepared for your information only. Summary and Analysis are not recommendations to buy or sell. This information should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in securities trading. The facts, information, data, indicators and charts presented have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Daily The Spokesman and its employees are not responsible for any loss arising from use of these reports and recommendations.

Governor Sindh inaugurates Ethiopian Tourism Desk at Karachi Feast

KARACHI: H. E. Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, the Governor of Sindh, and H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, opened the Ethiopian Tourism Desk on Friday.

This grand occasion, set to culminate on December 24, 2023, was attended by a diverse audience, including Honorary Consul H. E. Ibrahim Tawab members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, the business community, media, and representatives from civil society.

The pavilion, giving a captivating display of Ethiopia's multifaceted culture, rich heritage, and unparalment to the enduring bond between culture, and religion. Ethiopia and Pakistan.

media, emphasized the longstanding bilateral relations, noting the impact-



He commended Ambassador Abdu-Governor Tessori, addressing the la for his tireless efforts in fortifying the gratitude to the Government of Ethirelations between the two nations, ful presence of the Ethiopian Embassy

leled tourism offerings, was a testa-rooted in shared history, values, in Pakistan despite being established

just a year ago. Moreover, the Governor expressed opia for launching Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi which played a critical role

in connecting Pakistan with the whole African continent.

The Governor expressed commitment to elevating the relations between the two countries to new heights.

Ambassador Abdula, in his address, highlighted how the Ethiopian Embassy had effectively brought Africa closer to Pakistan through the commencement of Ethiopian Airlines operations

Describing Ethiopia as a land of breathtaking beauty, abundant natural resources, picturesque landscapes, lakes, mountains, and over 16 UNES-CO World Heritage Sites, he urged the people of Karachi to savor Ethiopian taste through Ethiopian coffee by visiting the tourism desk.

The Ambassador underscored that this experience would serve as a bridge connecting them with their ancestral roots, emphasizing Ethiopia as the land of King Nejashi and

ICMA, PITB sign MOU for professional training of IT professionals



ISLAMABAD: The MOU signing ceremony between the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants ICMA & Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) was held on Thursday, 21st December 2023 at the PITB Office.

ICMA is a professional accounting body that regulates the profession of accountancy and excels in delivering high-standard education, professional training, and research & development activities that are aimed at improving business efficiency.

ICMA through its Corporate Training, Job Placement, R&D facility, and Advisory Boards will support PITB in getting the professional skills needed to understand the modern ways of doing business. ICMA has all the resources to provide Corporate Training and Professional Certifications to PITB.

Under this MOU both organizations will leverage their strengths through the dissemination of corporate training, and collaborative research initiatives, and facilitate seamless HR processes, including job placement services. The collaboration is poised to bring about positive changes in the corporate landscape, empowering professionals with cutting-edge skills and fostering an environment of continuous learning and growth.

Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Dean of Honorary Consul's Corps KP and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Tunisia, KPK Ammad Rasheed Senior Vice Chairman, PAEI addressing the 3rd Pakistan International Property Expo closing ceremony at presidency Islamabad. President of Pakistan was graced the event as a Chief Guest.



PRCS organizes National Road Safety Conference to address growing traffic challenges in Pakistan

₿ PNP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and with the support of the Italian Red Cross, successfully organized the National Road Safety Conference 2023 at the PRCS National Headquarters in Islamabad.

The event brought together distinguished guests, including PRCS leadership and management, Chairmen and Secretaries of PRCS Provincial branches, Head of Delegations from IFRC, ICRC, and National Societies, officers from Islama-PRCS staff, volunteers, and thousands of lives annually.



students from various private and government educational institutions in Islamabad.

Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, addressed the assembly. recognizing that despite Pakistan's abundant beauty and resilience, the country has grappled with significant road accidents and traffic challenges for years. Pakistan faces one of the highest rates bad Traffic Police, National of road accidents globally, Highway & Motorway Police, resulting in the tragic loss of

Piwi Ophoff, Head of Country Delegation, IFRC in Pakistan said, "The IFRC is supporting PRCS in the implementation of road safety project to strengthen safer road behaviors and first aid

knowledge among the gener-

al public. PRCS Member Managing Body and Treasurer Dr. Irshad Mehmood emphasized the importance of upholding traffic rules and urged everyone to play their representatives of private and role in raising public aware-

ness about road safety meas-

Secretary General PRCS, Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, highlighted PRCS's Road Safety Project in his opening remarks, outlining the essential training and awareness provided in 25 schools and activities in collaboration with the traffic police department in Islam-

In conclusion, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, along with the members of PRCS Managing Body and Heads of National Societies, distributed shields among the officers of ITP and NHMP who collaborated with PRCS under the Road Safety Project. Shields were also distributed among the government schools.

ISSI holds Round Table "COP28: An Analytical View"

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), organized a roundtable discussion on "COP 28: An Analytical View." The keynote Speaker at the event was Mr. Asif Hyder Shah. Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination. Other panelists at the event included: Ms. Aisha Khan, Executive Director, CSCCC; Dr. Imran Saqib Khalid, Director, Governance & Policy WWF, Pakistan; Dr. Shafqat Munir, Head, of Resilient Development Program, SDPI; Dr. Ilhan Niaz, Professor, QAU; Mr. Ahsan Tehsin, World Bank: Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, Climate & Energy Attache at Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and Ms. Fiza, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of CSP, highlighted the significance of key decisions made during COP28. She underscored the necessity for a comprehensive analysis of the outcomes and their impact on stakeholders, providing valuable insights for policymakers.

In his welcome address, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that COP28 has undeniably set the stage for discussions on a crucial subject with far-reaching consequences. The decision to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund on the conference's first day marked a historic moment, especially for the developing world. Another significant decision involved increasing the role of nuclear energy and reducing fossil fuel usage in the energy mix.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Khan highlighted that COP28 marked the first Global Stock Take (GST) post the 2015 Paris Agreement, focusing on advancing the global agenda. Recognizing the time-consuming nature of resolutions on climate change issues, COP28 witnessed crucial decisions, particularly regarding climate finance.

In his keynote address, Mr. Shah underscored the substantial progress achieved during COP28, culminating in a host of positive outcomes and increased transparency in climate

talks were about means of implementation and transition towards renewable energy. Further, Pakistan needs to diversify its energy mix.

Concluding his address, Mr. Shah acknowledged the competitive landscape for accessing the Green Climate Fund, highlighting the imperative for Pakistan to enhance its capacity to secure international funding

Dr. Khalid emphasized that climate change represents a global security issue, underlining the persistent challenge of escalating GHG emissions since the initial COP where global emissions first took center stage. He stressed the imperative for COPs to prioritize transparency in negotiations, recognizing the potential for vested interests to dilute the core issues.

Dr. Munir highlighted two key developments at COP28, focusing on the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund and a commitment to reduce the use of fossil fuels in the future.

In his remarks, Dr. Niaz emphasized that the Global North has yet to assume its primary responsibilities and a critical examination is needed to determine the Mr. Asif Shah emphasized that GST driving forces behind climate disrup-



In his remarks, Mr. Ahmad highlighted that the Paris Agreement marked a shift in responsibility for all countries to address GHG emissions, adopting a bottom-up approach. The culmination of this approach was evident in the first GST at COP28. During COP28,

Pakistan signed 8 declarations as part of global leadership initiatives.

Mr. Tehsin highlighted the momentous occasion of COP28, attributing its significance to the UAE consensus. He underscored the urgency of initiating the flow of finances from the Global North

Ms. Fiza, a youth delegate at COP28, highlighted the significant achievement of including youth delegates in the Pakistan delegation.

The event was concluded with a vote of thanks by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the Board of

CTG provides clean energy by Karot and Wind Farm Projects

n Dec 18, 2023, South Asia Investment (CSAIL), organised a seminar on "Development Experience of Hydro, Wind Farm and Solar Power Projects and Unveiling of CSAIL ESG Report 2023" in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI).

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director PCI, welcomed attendees to the seminar and commended CSAIL for its transparent and sustainable energy production approach. He lauded the Karot Hydropower Project as a unique endeavour with international stakeholders' participation, solidifying Karot's status as

a clean energy powerhouse. Senator Mushahid Hussain Saved, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee & PCI, delivered a keynote address highlighting the CPEC as a pivotal developmental and diplomatic undertaking in the 21st century. Emphasising China's substantial investment of US\$ 1 trillion in over 3,000 projects through the BRI over the past decade, Senator Sayed noted its transformative impact, lifting over 240 million people out of poverty. He highlighted the Chinese contribution in addressing the energy crisis in the country and other infrastructure projects under CPEC, saying that China has so far made a \$26 billion investment and created over 3,000 jobs

Wang Minsheng, CEO of

world-class clean energy group and a leading investor in renewable energy projects along the One Belt One Road initiative. He said that the CSAIL ESG Report 2023 provides a comprehensive overview of the developmental milestones achieved by the company in Hydro, Wind Farm, and Solar Power Projects across the South Asian region, with a specific focus on Pakistan. The report delves into the company's commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, showcasing its sustainable practices and the positive impact of it projects on the local communities and environment.

He informed that the company has successfully complet-CSAIL, announced CSAIL's ed the construction, operation,

commitment to becoming a and acquisition of hydropower, wind power, and solar power projects in Pakistan, Egypt, and Jordan, adding over 1,400 MW of clean energy capacity to the region. The current portfolio of CSAIL projects in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative has a cumulative capacity of over 3,000 MW with an investment of around \$7 billion. CSAIL also focuses on social responsibility, providing employment opportunities, skills training, education, healthcare, and infrastructure development to over 100,000 people in project areas. With a commitment to diversity and inclusion, 70% of the workforce and 40% of senior management are local staff. Governance performance was enhanced through adherence to ethical, transparent, and

accountable practices, including welfare, he outlined the innova-felt commendation for the CSAIL the implementation of a comprehensive ESG policy framework and the establishment of an ESG committee. The CSAIL's ESG Report 2023, reflecting achievements and challenges, demonstrates the company's dedication to ESG excellence and contribution to global sustainable development efforts.

NA Zuberi, Sr. Advisor CSAIL, delivered a very comprehensive presentation on the development experience of CSAIL's Karot HPP and Wind Farm under CPEC. He provided a comprehensive overview of the Karot Hydro Power Project, detailing its key features, updates, and the substantial support it receives from the Government of Pakistan. Emphasising the project's commitment to community

sibility initiatives. The presentation also highlighted the project's recognition through corporate awards, underscoring its excellence. Shifting focus to the China Three Gorges Wind Power Projects, he highlighted their distinctive features, key milestones, and impactful Corporate Social Responsibility activities, showcasing a holistic commitment to sustainability. The presentation showcased a remarkable dedication to advancing renewable energy solutions, community development, and corporate responsibility, setting a commendable standard for the industry.

Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director PPIB, expressed heart-

tive Community Investment Plan for its steadfast commitment and Corporate Social Respon- to green energy initiatives. In acknowledging CSAIL's dedication to environmentally sustainable practices, Mirza highlighted the pivotal role the organization plays in fostering a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape. He emphasized the significance of such commitment in addressing the global challenges of climate change and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting green energy solutions. Mirza's praise reflects the recognition of CSAIL's valuable contributions to advancing environmentally conscious practices within the energy sector, positioning them as a noteworthy leader in the pursuit of a greener and more sustainable future.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

" Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
61,705.09	62,693.56		
Day's High	Day's Low		
62,995.21	61,569.13		
Index Value	Change		
8,794,464,937	-988.47		
Percentage	Time		
-1.58%	22 Dec, 2023 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
	Change		
Index Value	Change		
7,697.51	Change +2.78		
	-		
7,697.51	+2.78		
7,697.51 Percentage +0.036%	+2.78 Time 22 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT		
7,697.51 Percentage +0.036%	+2.78 Time 22 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT		
7,697.51 Percentage +0.036% USA: Dow Jones	+2.78 Time 22 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average		
7,697.51 Percentage +0.036% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	+2.78 Time 22 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change		
7,697.51 Percentage +0.036% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 37,447.18	+2.78 Time 22 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change +42.83		

	GIVIT 3
Open Market	Forey Dates

Change

+28.58

Time

22 Dec, 3:15 pm

Index Value

33.169.05

Percentage

+0.086%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188	190
Bahrain Dinar	752.82	760.82
Canadian Dollar	210	212
China Yuan	39.82	40.22
Danish Krone	41.4	41.8
Euro	308	311
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.41	3.52
Japanese Yen	1.39	1.45
Kuwaiti Dinar	921.21	930.21
Malaysian Ringgit	60.79	61.39
NewZealand \$	175.83	177.83
Norwegians Krone	26.98	27.28
Omani Riyal	735.27	743.27
Qatari Riyal	77.81	78.51
Saudi Riyal	75.3	76
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.56	27.86
Swiss Franc	328.02	330.52
Thai Bhat	8.14	8.29
U.A.E Dirham	77.5	78.3
UK Pound Sterling	357.5	361
US Dollar	282.5	285

FS Investments Limited Launches *FS Fixed-Term* Munafa Fund

№ PPA

KARACHI: JS Investments Limited, the first private sector asset management company of Pakistan, announces the launch of its latest offering - the JS Fixed Term Munafa Fund. Designed to meet the diverse needs of investors, the fund boasts two distinct plans offering attractive fixed returns, providing an avenue for wealth creation with a moderate risk profile:

The first plan presents investors with an enticing 17.50%* Per Annum Fixed Return at Maturity over 3 Years**, benchmarked against the 3-year PKRV Rates at the time of Plan Launch. Meanwhile, the second plan offers 21 %* Per Annum Fixed Return at Maturity of 1 Year**, benchmarked against the 1-year PKRV Rates at the time of Plan Launch.

JS Fixed Term Munafa Fund Plans have been meticulously crafted to allow investors to secure a predetermined fixed rate of return upon maturity. It strategically allocates funds to government securities, cash in bank accounts, money market placements, and TDRs, ensuring a well-rounded and secure financial portfolio. The scheme is structured to safeguard the initial investment amount at maturity while aiming to generate a fixed rate of return.

In an ever-evolving financial landscape, where market volatility and uncertainty are constant companions, long-term fixed-return mutual funds provide stability and numerous benefits that make them attractive investments.

Investors seeking stability and predictability favor long-term fixed-return mutual funds, which ensure a predetermined rate of return over an extended period. This proves advantageous for those with specific financial goals, such as funding a child's education, planning for retirement, or purchasing a home, providing a structured way to accumulate wealth over time. Investing in JS Fixed Term Munafa Fund secures a stable rate of return amidst market fluctuations. Additionally, these funds act as a shield against market volatility, providing risk mitigation by insulating capital from market ups and downs. They contribute to portfolio diversification, complementing other asset classes and adding stability to the overall investment strategy.

High electricity costs fanning poverty in country: Mian Zahid Hussain

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that expensive electricity has become a problem for the people and a punishment for the industry.

"The consumption of electricity in the public and industrial sectors is continuously decreasing but regardless of consumption, the government has to pay capacity payments to power producers, increasing the losses of this inefficient sector while reducing production," he

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if electricity rates are not reduced production, exports, employment, and income will be adversely

He said that the most important electricity sector has become a national issue due to incompetence, corruption, and failed exper-

The losses in this sector run to trillions of rupees but are not reformed as required while the policy of continuous rate hikes is ruining the economy

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan has not been able to compete with its rival countries in the international market because the electricity in these countries is very cheap compared to Pakistan.

The foreign customers of Pakistani companies are not ready to bear the burden of our dysfunctional power sector.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the local industry does not have to compete in the export market, but after inflation of up to 40 percent, the people are not left with money



to buy anything except food, so the industrial sector is also affected.

He informed that due to the decline in local demand, the industrial sector has been forced

to reduce its production, which has also drastically reduced the consumption of electricity and gas, and the entire burden of these wrong policies will be put on the people, making their condition even thinner.

Millions will be unemployed due to reduced production of industries making goods for the local and foreign markets while the losses of the power sector will continue to jump. He said that incentives should be considered so that the full capacity of power plants can be utilized which is necessary to boost the economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that textile exports have decreased by 6.50 percent in the first five months of this year and a further decrease is expected. In the first five months of this year, the exports of the textile group were 6.883 billion dollars, which was 7.361 billion dollars during the same five months last year. In November, textile exports decreased by 8.26% which is disturbing.

Eighteen announces groundbreaking accord with ECHO for state-

of-the-art petrol station

Gajjer Ka Halwa

LAHORE: A large number of the people are buying traditional "Gajjer Ka Halwa" and other sweet items from a shop at Androon Lahore, which is very famous for its Mughlai Cuisine and Sweets across the country.



₿ PPA ISLAMABAD: Eighteen is

thrilled to announce a significant development within its community-the establishment of a new fuel station site. This housing society has signed an agreement with ECHO, an initiative by Mehar Oil and Gas Private Limited, to bring a modern and convenient fueling station to the area.

This new agreement aligns with Eighteen's commitment to enhancing the convenience and accessibility of essential services for its residents and the surrounding community.

The agreement was signed by Tarek Hamdy, CEO EIGHTEEN, and Mehar Muhammad Asif, Chairman Echo Oil Private Limited a project of Mehar Group. The addition of this petrol station reflects Eighteen's dedication to providing essential services that improve the overall living experience of its resi-

Positioned strategically within the Eighteen vicinity, it aims to provide unparalleled accessibility without compromising on environmental considerations, ensuring safety, efficiency and a seamless experience

Police to provide secure environment to business community in the Capital



ISLAMABAD: Shehzad Akbar, ASP Rural along with Malik Rasheed, SHO Koral visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and assured that measures would be taken to provide a secure environment to the business community in the ICT area.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry thanked ASP Rural and his team for making better security arrangements during the Islamabad Taste food festival, which was organized in collaboration with ICCI in Gulberg Green, Islamabad and hoped that the police would provide similar kind of cooperation to ICCI in such future events. He said that

a peaceful environment is a key requirement to promote business and investment activities and stressed that Islamabad Police should take ICCI on board to further improve the security situation in

the Capital. Shehzad Akbar, ASP Rural said that the business community is playing a key role in the economic development of the country, and providing them a safe environment is the important priority of police. He assured that efforts would be made in collaboration with ICCI and concerned market associations to further improve security arrangements in the rural areas.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan lauded the crackdown of Rural Zone police

against criminals as the incidents of snatching motorbikes and mobile phones in the rural areas were on the rise. He assured that the business community would fully cooperate with the Islamabad Police to control crimes in the Capital.

Zubair A. Malik former President ICCI and FPCCI highlighted the need for close cooperation between the Islamabad Police and the business community to make the Capital a crime-free city.

Saif ur Rehman Khan Convener ICCI Police Committee, Ajmal Baloch President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran, Malik Jalil Ahmed Awan, Maqsood Tabish, Faizan Shehzad, and others also highlighted various issues that needed the close attention of ASP Rural for redress.

Majid Al Futtaim expands its investment in Pakistan to Rs14b



ISLAMABAD: Majid Al Futtaim, which owns the exclusive rights to operate Carrefour in Pakistan. announced the inauguration of two new Carrefour supermarkets in Lahore, as part of Majid Al Futtaim's vision to expand its investment and retail footprint in the country. With this expansion, Majid Al Futtaim's current thrilled to announce the investment in Pakistan is set to grow to 14 billion Rupees, four supermarkets in bringing the total number of stores in the country to 13.

Strategically located in DHA Phase 7 (Sector T) and DHA Phase 11 (DHA-Rah-

bar, Block 2M), the stores are redefining the shopping experience for customers in their respective areas, addressing customer needs for grocery and daily essentials, surpassing traditional supermarket offerings.

During the inauguration, Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim - Retail, stated: "We are opening of two new Carre-Lahore, reaffirming our dedication to delivering exceptional shopping experiences while supporting local

Pathways to Development Conference' at LUMS Inspires Dialogue on Inequalities and Social Justice

ISLAMABAD: The second 'Pathways to Development Conference, held at LUMS from December 18 to 20, saw prominent academics, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from within Pakistan, the Pakistani diaspora, as well as others working on Pakistan and the region gathered inequalities and social justice in the cellor, LUMS, officially opened the Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Depart-LUMS, the Institute of Development & Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), the Institute of Development Stud-

ies at University of Sussex (IDS), the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), the International Growth Centre (IGC), and the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). Experts from across various disciplines presented their most recent research on growth and development over 20 riveting sessions.

Mr. Shahid Hussain, Rector, LUMS, at LUMS to discuss issues vital to along with Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancountry. It was jointly organized by the conference. They expressed pride in Professor of Economic Policy, Univer-LUMS and its partners for leading ment of Economics and the Mahbub
the discourse on economic and social Ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC) at development through a conference that is a testament to Pakistan's research

Keynote speaker Dr. Stefan Dercon,



sity of Oxford, emphasized the significance of macroeconomic stability, outward orientation, elite bargain, and stable governance in fostering Pakistan's growth. Subsequent panel discussions included contributions

from Dr. Shaheen Naseer (University of Oxford, UK); Dr. Javed Younas (American University, Sharjah); Dr. Takashi Kurosaki (Hitotsubashi University, Japan); Dr. Andreas Landmann (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany); Dr. Ryu Matsuura (North-

western University, USA); Dr. Alexander Lee (Rochester University, USA); Dr. Farah Said (CNM Department of Economics, LUMS); and others. Dr. Ishrat Husain, Former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Sadiq Ahmed (Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh), and Dr. Rakesh Mohan (Centre for Social and Economic Progress, India) came together to analyse the comparative growth trajectories of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. Dr. Husain summarized the key insight from his book 'Development Pathways: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh 1947-2022', stating that "the consistency, continuity, and predictability of policies have led to high growth phases in these three countries."

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag expects Casemiro, Martinez back in January

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Erik ten Hag expects Casemiro, Lisandro Martinez and Mason Mount to return for Manchester United next month and revealed Victor Lindelof has undergone surgery.

The injury-hit Red Devils face West Ham at the London Stadium on Saturday after securing a dogged, hard-fought 0-0 draw at Liverpool last week.

United have many doubts before the match but Ten Hag said their injury problems would ease over the coming

"We have some illnesses during the week so we have to see who is always available for tomorrow," the Dutchman said on Friday. "Hopefully they are recovered but we have to see.

"(Casemiro and Martinez) are not available before Christmas, so that will be mid-January we expect them back.

"Mason Mount similar, into January.

LAHORE: The 5-day Track and Field

Course of Punjab's provincial and

divisional coaches concluded with an

impressive closing ceremony here at

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs

Punjab Shahid Zaman was the chief

guest at the closing ceremony where

he distributed certificates among the

participating coaches. It is pertinent

to mention here that 5-day Track and

Field Course was conducted at Insti-

tute of Sports Sciences Punjab (ISSP)

on the directions of Director General

Instructor Hafeez Bhatti, and Instruc-

tors Shaista Qaiser, Sajid Ali were also

ISSP Principal Chand Parveen, Chief

Addressing the closing ceremony,

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs

Punjab Shahid Zaman announced

that expert trainers will be invited from

other countries for the international

level training of our coaches. "Not only

this but we will also send our coach-

Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail.

present on this occasion.

Tahir Amin Malik.

Punjab Stadium on Friday.



has had surgery so he will be out for a after a knee injury. couple of weeks.

ods. For this purpose we will utilise all

options including online training from

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs

Punjab Shahid Zaman said that all the

credit of holding of modern training

courses goes to Director General Sports

coaching techniques and training methand he deserved huge appreciation on trainers upon which all the coaches Sajid Ali.

a master trainer".

Five-day Track and Field Course concludes

Anthony Martial missed the trip to suspension, but Diogo Dalot is suspend-

quickfire bookings at Anfield.

Amad Diallo and Tyrell Malacia have yet to feature this season, while Jadon Sancho is banished from the first team after falling out with Ten Hag.

Asked about the potential of strengthening the squad in January, Erik Ten Hag said: "The current squad I'm happy (with).

"As we get our players back, I'm sure we have a good squad.

"I think a lot of the way it went in the first (part of the) season, the reasons behind (it are) because many players were not available.

"I'm sure when all the players are available on board — it looks like, as I said, Casemiro will be back, Martinez will be back, Mason Mount will be back — we will be much stronger after

United are seventh in the Premier Bruno Fernandes returns from League table after just one win in their past four games and have scored just Harry Maguire I expect him early on Anfield through illness and Christian ed following his red card for a pair of 18 goals in 17 league games this season.

> expressed their satisfaction about the quality of lectures and training meth-

> On the last day, World Athletics' referee, coach and lecturer Talha

> Iftikhar delivered an insightful lecture

on the topic of Philosophy of Coach-

ing and Communication. He said that

the philosophical approach of a coach

played a key role in identifying positives

and negatives of an athlete. "A coach

should be a good teacher and mentor

Regarding communication, Talha

Iftikhar taught the coaches that there

should be a 2-way communication

between a coach and his player. A

competent trainer must be ready every

time to redress any grievances of his

players. He also threw light on two types

of communication - verbal and nonver-

the participating 20 provincial and divi-

sional coaches including three females

appeared in written examination under

the supervision of ISSP Principal Chand

After the completion of 5-day course,

bal during his in-depth lecture.

with a friendly attitude".

Sports activities too important for young generation: Mayor Karachi



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that sports activities are very important for our young generation, that is the reason we are trying to establish sports fields and stadiums in every part of the city.

He said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the renovated football stadium in Korangi Nasir Colony on Friday. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Vice Chairman of Korangi Town, local leaders of PPP and other personalities were also present on this occasion.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that there is excellent football talent in this area of Korangi and there was a need for a quality football stadium.

Sensing this need we have completed the repair and renovation work on of this stadium on a priority basis to provide better

facilities for sports and recreation to the youth. He said that we are soon going to build the first metropolitan university of Pakistan which will be the first university of its kind.

Youths will be greatly helped in building their future, today he also approves Korangi University campus where he will make the program according to the requirements of the residents of

'Electra Stumps' introduced in Men's BBL for the first time

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The ongoing season of the Big Bash League (BBL) saw the debut of innovative colour-flashing 'Electra stumps' in men's cricket after being used in the women's BBL previ-



The 'Electra stumps' made their debut during the BBL match between Sydney Sixers and Adelaide Strikers at Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) on Friday.

 $These \, stumps \, use \, colour-changing \, technology \, to \, flash \, different$ colours, depending on the different decisions during the game. Former cricketers Michael Vaughan and Mark Waugh revealed the 'Electra stumps' in an official video by BBL and explained how these stumps work.

They explained that there are five different displays that these stumps will depending on various situations during the match.

The 'Electra stumps' will flash the colour red and then fire on a dismissal, meanwhile, in the instance of a batter hitting a boundary, the stumps will shift different colours in an alternate pattern.

In the same way, different colours will be scrolling in an upward motion through the length of the stumps when a batter hits the

The stumps will further show colours red and white scrolling up and down when a bowler bowls a no-ball, while a pulsating effect alternating between purple and blue will scroll in the inter-

Dean Elgar set to retire from international career after India series val between the overs.

holding of modern training courses

quite successfully in true professional

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs

es about the standard of lectures and Parveen, Chief Instructor Hafeez Bhat-

Punjab Shahid Zaman on this occa-

sion inquired the opinion of all coach-

manner," he added.

₿ Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former South Africa Test captain Dean Elgar announced on Friday that he will retire from international cricket after the Test series against India, which is scheduled to start next

The 36-year-old, who has hit more than 5,000 Test runs including 13 centuries, will play his last Test at the Newlands ground in Cape Town starting January 3.

"As they say, 'all good things come to an end', and the Indian home series will be my last, as I have made the decision to retire from our beautiful game," Elgar declared.

"The Cape Town Test will be my last. My favourite stadium in the world. A place I scored my first Test run against not part of coach Shukri Conrad's long-New Zealand and hopefully my last too."

Media reports said his decision came after Dean Elgar was told that he was



es abroad to equip them with modern Punjab Dr Asif Tufail. "It was his idea coaching techniques of the master ti, and Instructors Shaista Qaiser and

term plans.

Elgar made his debut against Australia 12 years ago, failing to score in each him South Africa's eighth-highest no matter the opposition."

innings

Since then he has become known as a stubborn batter, his 5,146 runs making

He scored his career-best score of 199 against Bangladesh in 2017.

Dean Elgar was the captain of South Africa from May 2021 until January this year, leading South Africa to third place in last year's World Test Championship with a notable 2-1 home series win over

Cricket South Africa chief executive Pholetsi Moseki said Elgar has "represented his country with honour".

"His grittiness and determination are two qualities that really stood out; and these are attributes that all South Africans can relate to."

Director of cricket Enoch Nkwe added that in the current age of power-hitting, "he is a real old-school cricketer that can dig in, absorb and fight. I have no doubt the game will dearly miss him.

"He has always given everything for his country and never showed any fear,

Usman Khawaja insists armband was not political, after ICC reprimand

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Australia's Usman flouted ICC rules on messages Khawaja on Friday claimed that that relate to politics, religion the black armband he wore in or race. When Cricket Australia the first Test against Pakistan was for a "personal bereavement" and not politically motivated after the star batter was reprimanded by the Interna-

tional Cricket Council (ICC). The 36-year-old donned the armband during the team's 360-run victory in Perth, a move seen at the time as support for people in Gaza, where thousands have been killed.

He had wanted to wear shoes emblazoned with the hand-writhuman right" and "All lives are equal" during the match, saying he had been hit hard by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

But Pakistan-born Khawaja, who is Muslim, was told that it (CA) expressed their hopes that the opener would uphold the rules, Usman Khawaja covered the slogans with a semi-transparent tape.

However, the words written on his shoes remained partially visible — only in close-up — in the colour of the Palestinian flag.

Khawaja insisted he told the ICC during the match that it was for a personal bereavement and had no hidden meaning.

However, the ICC said it ten slogans "Freedom is a breached their clothing and equipment regulations. 'Usman displayed a person-

al message (armband) during the first Test match against Paki-



stan without seeking the prior the sanction for a first offence is approval of Cricket Australia and the ICC to display it, as required in the regulations for personal messages," the ICC said late Thursday.

"This is a breach under the category of an 'other breach' and

a reprimand."

Khawaja said he would not wear an armband during the second Test in Melbourne next week but remained defiant.

"No, I'm not wearing it again. As I said to the ICC, the

armband was for a personal bereavement," he told reporters in Melbourne. "The armband was different to my shoes. The shoes were very obvious. At the end of the day, I didn't wear the shoes. I respected the rules and procedures and left it at that."

He added that being reprimanded for the armband "makes no sense" and pointed to other players who had previously put stickers on their bats and names on their shoes without approval and escaped punishment, urging the ICC to be more consistent.

"I will just be asking and contesting that they (ICC) make it fair for everyone and they have consistency in how they officiate. That's all I ask for, and from my point of view, that consistency hasn't been done yet," he said.

Vazquez scores late against Alaves to send Real Madrid to top of La Liga



VITORIA-GASTEIZ: Lucas Vazquez scored in injury time to help Real Madrid register a 1-0 victory over the home side Alaves during the La Liga 2023/24 match at Mendizorrotza Stadium on Thursday.

This victory helped Real Madrid regain the top spot in the La Liga points table as the table-topper Girona drew 1-1 with The homside Alaves frustrated Real Madrid throughout the

first half before the Los Balncos' defender Nacho Fernandez was sent off 10 minutes after the break.

With the clock going into second-half injury time without any goal, it looked like Girona would lead La Liga going into 2024 thanks to Madrid's draw, however, 32-year-old Vazquez Experienced Germany midfielder Toni Kroos whipped in a

corner and Vazquez opened his account for the season with a free header, as Los Blancos top the table on goal difference before La Liga takes a break until January 2. Meanwhile, Girona played their last away game of the year

against Real Betis at Benito Villamarín Stadium, where both teams settled for a 1-1 stalemate.

The surprise package of La Liga 2023-24 Girona started the game on high and earned a penalty in the 38th minute which was successfully converted by Artem Dovbyk.

This was Dovbyk's eleventh goal this season, making him the joint-third highest goal scorer in the season.

Girona held on to the lead throughout the second half and they appeared to solidify their top spot in La Liga 2023-24, however, Germán Pezzella rained on their parade with an equalizer in the 88th minute.

Pezzella found William Carvalho's cross following a corner and hit a right-footed shot from the centre of the box to level

The Spokesman

National Harmony

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Minister for Human Rights Khalil George along with Christian, Hindu, Sikh communities and Muslim scholars cutting cake on the eve of Christmas celebrations at PM Office on Friday.



PM dispels doubts about election on Feb 8

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday said there should be no doubt about polls on February 8 as the election process had started with the candidates filing their nomination papers and the political parties busy in building narratives to attract voters. In an interview with a private television channel, he said it was a constitutional requirement to hold elections which would be held on February ers, including the three time cal leaders could be targeted 8 after which a new elected government would be formed.

To a question, he said the government would provide



prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maryam Nawaz, Imran Khan, their security, he continued. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and

security to political lead- others. Prominent politiand the government would be blamed for any lapse in "It is the responsibility of the

government to provide security to political leaders and voters of Pakistan." He said the caretaker government would fulfill its responsibility during the holding of elections.

About the disappearance and surfacing of certain politicians, he said the government had no concern with it and those individuals were responsible for their actions and stance. Responding to a query, the prime minister said demonstrations in democratic societies were held with the permission of local administration. He said he formed a five-member cabinet committee to engage with protesters from Balochistan, adding the

protesters had the right to peacefully protest and voice their concerns. The courts were looking into the cases of the incidents taking place in Balochistan, he added. He reminded that attacks occurred against security forces, police and other sections of society in Balochistan but no voice was raised by the civil society against those killings. "Fifteen persons were burnt on the Coastal Highway in Balochistan but no voice was raised," he added. Terrorist organizations were operating in the province, which also tried to gain political sympathy from sections of society,

UN adopts diluted resolution on more aid to Gaza without calling for ceasefire

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: After days of intense negotiations and many delays, the U. N. Security Council adopted a watered-down resolution Friday calling for boosting aid deliveries to traumatized civilians in war-torn Gaza but without the original call for an "urgent suspension of hostilities" between Israel and Hamas. The vote in the 15-member Council on the revised UAE-drafted resolution was 13 votes in favour to none against. The US and Russia abstained for entirely different reasons.

It followed a U. S. veto of for a suspension of hostilities. scale directly to the Pales- agreement came amid glob-



That vote was 10 members in tinian civilian population favour, the U. S. against and throughout the Gaza Strip. four abstentions. The resolu- The revised text was negotiattion, among other elements, ed during a week of diplomacy demanded immediate, safe by the United States, the Unita Russian amendment that and unhindered delivery of ed Arab Emirates on behalf of would have restored the call humanitarian assistance at Arab nations and others. The

al outrage over a rising Gaza death toll in 11 weeks of Israeli bombardments and a worsening humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian enclave. Council members met behind closed doors on Thursday to discuss a revised draft resolution, then delayed the vote so they could consult their capitals on the significant changes, aimed at avoiding a U. S. veto. A new text with a few minor revisions was circulated Friday morning. The vote, initially scheduled for Monday, has been delayed every day since then. Rather than watered down, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield described the resolution as "strong" and said it "is fully supported by the Arab group that provides them what they feel is needed to get

humanitarian assistance on the ground." But it was devoid of its key provision with teeth a call for "the urgent suspension of hostilities to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and for urgent steps towards a sustainable cessation of hostilities." Instead, it calls "for urgent steps to immediately allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and also for creating the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities." The steps are not defined, but diplomats said if adopted this would mark the council's first reference to stopping fighting. In his remarks, Russian Ambassador Nebenzia recalled the amendment proposed by his delegation and said that the vote on it was a

ECP extends date for filing nomination papers on political parties' demand: Solangi

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Friday the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP extended the date for submission of nomination papers by two days on the demand of various political parties.

Talking to the "Dawn News", he said the ECP had not made any changes in the date of elections, which would be held on February 8, 2024.

Solangi said the Commission had also taken notice of the candidates' complaints regarding nomination papers, and the legitimate ones were being redressed.

"We are trying our best to find a remedy for the issues of which the

The minister said that law enforcement was a provincial matter and the provincial governments acted under



Commission," Solangi reaffirmed. About the protestors from Balochistan, he said that the caretaker government would try its best to solve the issue in its limited term.

The minister said the government had decided to immediately release the women and children involved in the Baloch protests and some protestors were provided medical facilities.

He said most of the protestors included people who had no homes or relatives in Islamabad.

"We decided to send them back Election Commission has taken to Quetta safely but the protestors refused to go back," Murtaza Solangi said. "Our aim was to send the protestors safely to their homes."

He said the caretaker regime assured the protesters to consider "We are bound to help the Election their long-standing demands as well.

Ambassador Amna Baloch, Spanish envoy discuss ties

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Amna Baloch here on Friday met the Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Union Marcos Alonso. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on areas of bilateral interest. They agreed to continue dialogue to enhance cooperation and strengthen the partnership between Pakistan and Spain in all domains.



Pak envoy in France hosts Christmas dinner

Spokesman Report

PARIS: Pakistan's Ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad hosted a Christmas dinner to celebrate the occasion and share the joy with Christian community. A large number of French and Pakistani Christians, diplomats and people from all walks of life joined the event held at the Pakistan embassy in Paris, said an embassy's post on social media platform, X.

Pak envoy in France hosts Christ-



mas dinner The guests were treated with traditional Pakistani cuisine and goody bags were given to children to mark the festivity.

PTI founder's nomination papers filed from NA-89 Mianwali

News Desk

MIANWALI: The nomination papers of the incarcerated PTI founder have reportedly been filed from the National Assembly constituency of NA-89 Mianwali.

According to details, the former PTI chairman's nomination papers have been filed through Bilal Umer

Pakistan Railways to introduce fuel track management *system*

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways on Friday decided to introduce a fuel track management system to monitor and optimise fuel supply, aiming to curtail expenditures.

The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Pakistan Railways Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, at the PR headquarters.

3rd round of 'Infodor Media Salon' on CPEC highlights Pak-China ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd round of the "Infodor Media Salon" this time on China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) ICT projects was held at the office of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA).

The event commenced with an overview of CPEC's progress, the contributions of all stakeholders, and perspectives on Pak-China relations.

The session was attended by representatives from Chinese ICT sector companies including China Mobile Pakistan (CM Pak) Zong, Huawei, Sunwalk, Hikvision, Heroboss, Carlcare Services, ZTE Pakistan.

Executive Director Infodor shared Infodor's perspective as a media entity, emphasizing the importance of transparent reporting and communication in enhancing the public's understanding of CPEC and Pak-China relations.

He highlighted the specific coverstrategies employed to disseminate accurate information.

CM Pak presented its contributions crucial role of sustainable energy solu- er societal benefits of Huawei involve-



tions implemented, specific CPEC projects undertaken and enhancing Pakistan's economic development and its effect on Pakistan's economic land-

Huawei outlined its significant contributions to the development of 5G infrastructure in Pakistan, supportage's, challenges faced and various ing the digital transformation crucial for CPEC's success and enhancing connectivity between the two nations.

They included the technical details, in the energy sector, emphasizing the deployment timelines, and the broad-

ment in advancing digital connectivity.

The advancement in smart cities and the role of ICT in facilitating seamless connectivity and communication and had an outstanding performance by Huawei and it's a great initiative taken by Huawei for the youth. Sunwalk mentioned their achievement on fiber network delivery and planning and importance of connection for digital economy.

They expand team in two years from less than ten persons to a thousand employees, Sunwalk expressed their company's commitment to sustaina-Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

confidence on Pakistan digital development future.

Hikvision highlighted its role in providing advanced surveillance and security solutions for CPEC projects, emphasizing the importance of technology in ensuring the success and safety of infrastructure developments.

Details included specific technologies employed, their impact on project safety, plans for future innovations in the security domain.

Heroboss elaborated on its innovative technologies and solutions aimed at enhancing communication networks and infrastructure, contributing to the connectivity goals

The company presented cases of successful implementations, showcasing the tangible impact on CPEC connectivity goals.

Carlcare Services discussed its role in providing technical support and maintenance services, ensuring the longevity and efficiency of electronic devices deployed in CPEC projects.

They explained about the range of electronic devices they serviced, strategies for ensuring longevity and the



ble practices.

ZTE Pakistan shared technical deep insights into its telecommunications solutions, underlining their commitment to advancing connectivity and communication infrastructure in alignment with CPEC objectives.

They included the specifics on network enhancements, ongoing projects, and plans for future technological advancements.

The representatives engaged in a fruitful discussion, exchanging ideas and perspectives on how their

respective companies could further contribute to the success of CPEC and strengthen the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan.

The salon concluded with a commitment to continued collaboration and shared efforts in realizing the shared goals of economic prosperity and regional development.

The shared vision remains the realization of sustained economic prosperity and enhanced regional development through the successful implementation of CPEC projects.