

SIFC timely decisions paving way to boost IT exports to \$10 bln: Minister Photo: via Eye on Palestine



#### ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Umar Saif, on Saturday, said (SIFC) are yielding remarkway to boost Pakistan's IT

### **Citizens of all faiths** enjoying equal rights in Pakistan: PM

the losses with fortitude.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar on Saturday reiterated that citizens of despite all the technological all faiths including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians were

enjoying equal rights in Pakistan with dignity and the government would ensure protection of their places of

worship. Speaking at an event organized to celebrate Christmas here, he felicitated the Christian community on behalf of the government and the people

in their early days.

He said it was obligatory

for Muslims to have faith in

all prophets from Prophet

Adam to Prophet Muham-

# All Prophets were a guid-

He recalled the first

# **Israel Responsible for Executing** 'Entire Families': Hamas

#### 腾 Spokesman Report

GAZA: The Palestinioccupation forces committed found in their home after the

lies," Hamas said.

an Resistance Movement Enaya family in Gaza City, families in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has said the Israeli whose members' bodies were In a statement, the OHCHR said the "disturb-

tion army of entire fami- gations that its forces killed at the face of this arrogance and ing the Palestinian healthleast eleven unarmed Pales- crimes, and the disregard for care system in both Gaza This "happened to the tinian men in front of their international and humani- and the West Bank over the tarian law."

"the occupation government enclave.

years, and escalated it with The movement called for the current assault on the

# 😂 City Desk

release.

Telecommunication, Dr that the timely decisions made by the Special Investment Facilitation Council able results and paving the

#### mad (PBUH).

👺 Spokesman Report

ing light for humanity, he said adding spirituality was a cure for the ills of humanity

progress that humans had made.

speech of Quaid-e-Azam

multiple executions by shooting entire families in several northern Gaza Strip.

The statement came as the Israeli army escalated its military campaign on the besieged territory from land, number of deaths and injuries among civilians, the Middle-East Monitor reported.

occupation's withdrawal." Several cases were also

areas inside Gaza City and the recorded of "the execution of civilian men in front of their families, including women and children, after their homes were stormed, according to the testimonies air, and sea, increasing the of families and survivors of these terrorist massacres,

added Hamas. On Wednesday, the Unit-"Several areas in Gaza ed Nations Office of the High City and in the northern Commissioner for Human Gaza Strip recorded liqui- Rights (OHCHR) called dations and executions by on the Israeli authorities to the fascist Israeli occupa- immediately investigate alle- to raise their voices loudly in

received "raises alarm about the possible commission of a war crime." It said this comes in the wake of earlier allegations concerning the deliberate targeting and killing of civilians at the hands of Israe-

> li forces. Hold Biden, Israel and Supporters "Accountable"

meanwhile. Hamas. urged "the United Nations, the international community and all human rights and humanitarian institutions

ing information" that it had and its international supporters, led by US President Joe Biden, to be held accountable for the crimes they committed against innocent civilians." There are numerous accounts by witnesses who cited "field executions carried out by the Israeli army before their eyes, in addition to arbitrary arrests of civilians who were taken to unknown destinations," reports MEMO.

The renowned Norwegian activist, Dr Mads Gilbert, said in November that Israel has been systematically destroySpeaking at a press confer-

ence in Cape Town, Dr. Gilbert said the bombing of hospitals and ambulances has been a "systematic modus operandi" for the Israeli occupation forces. According to Gaza's Minis-

try of Health, 20,258 Palestinians have been killed, and 53,688 wounded in Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza starting on October 7. Palestinian and international estimates say that the majority of those killed and wounded are women and children.

exports to \$10 billion. In a video message, the

minister said, "We worked with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention last month, allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars in an account in Pakistan and make their international expenses without any restrictions from this amount." He said that, as a result of the govt initiative, IT companies are beginning to bring their dollars back home, and the country's export revenue jumped by 14% in November, a 20% increase

of Pakistan.

He said Prophet Muham- Muhammad Ali Jinnah in mad (PBUH) signed the the constituent assembly in which he outlined the basic treaty of Najran that assured protection to the places of principles of the state of worship of Christians. Pakistan.

He quoted the Quaid as In view of that treaty, it was obligatory for the saying that "in course of time Muslims for all times to Hindus would cease to be come to protect the religious Hindus and Muslims would places of Christians, he said cease to be Muslims, not in adding, "We need to promote the religious sense because harmony, peace and love." that is the personal faith of He recounted that a Chriseach individual, but in the political sense as citizens of tian King was the first one to lend support to the Muslims the State?

In this way, Quaid-e-Azam made it clear that all Pakistani citizens had the same political rights, he stressed.

### *ECP takes* major decision regarding delimitations

#### 😂 PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken a major decision regarding the pleas against the new delimitations ahead of the general elections 2024.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued its verdict regarding the objections to the new delimitations.

The spokesperson announced that the commission will hear the objections to the new delimitations after general elections scheduled for February 8, 2024.

## Country's future tied to **Constitution**, election date secure: Solangi

#### 腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, explicitly stated that the election date has not been altered, there should be no uncertainty about it and the future of

constitution and democracy. Speaking to the media following his participation in the "Second Nation-

al Training of Journalists on China-Pakistan Relationship in the New Era: An Assessment of Ten Years of CPEC, and How is this relationship report in Pakistani media," he emphasized that, in accordance with the Constitution



the country is aligned with the of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the country will be governed by elected representatives.

> The Election Commission, having the exclusive authority to set, modify, and extend election dates, has unequivocally confirmed that the general elections are scheduled for February 8, 2024. Emphasizing that the election date remains unaltered, there

should be no room for doubt on this matter. Responding to a question he said that an extension in the tenure of the caretaker government is not possible in accordance with constitutional provisions.

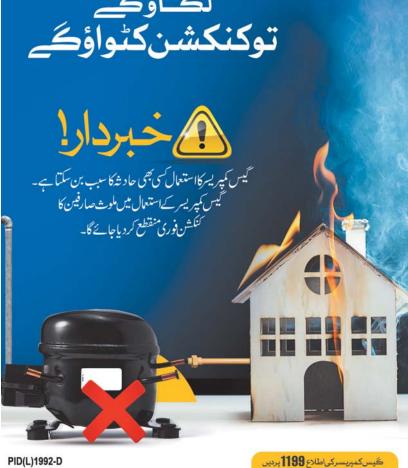
He remarked that Pakistan and China are steadfast, all-weather friends, and the bilateral relations of both nations will thrive under the caretaker government. Pointing to the recent visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Kakar, he mentioned that during his trip to China, over 20 agreements spanning various sectors were signed between the two countries. The future of Pak-China relations appears promising.

chairman Noor Alam Khan joins JUI-F

PESHAWAR: Noor Alam Khan, a former parliamentarian and chairman of the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee, has reportedly joined the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, JUI-F leader Senator Maulana Ataur Rahman congratulated Noor Alam Khan on joining the JUI-F and expressed hope that in the absence of rigging in the upcoming elections, the JUI-F could not be prevented from coming to power in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

Former PAC compared to last year.



# Malika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan remembered on her death anniversary

#### 腾 City Desk

Saturday. Her real name

ISLAMABAD: The 23rd of musicians, Noor Jehan of her time in South Asia death anniversary of Mali- started her musical career and was given the honorifka-e-Tarannum Noor in Calcutta at the age of ic title of Malika-e-Taran-Jehan was observed on nine as a singer-child star. num. Noor Jehan ruled

Kasur in 1926, in a family most influential singers She was renowned as the film industry for more voice that injected spir-

was Allah Wasai. Born in one of the greatest and than 35 years and record- it into the Pakistan Army ed about 10,000 songs in and the public during the various languages including Urdu, Punjabi and Sindhi.

In 1957, Noor Jahan was awarded the President's Noor Jahan was the Award for her acting and singing capabilities.

province.

1965 war with India.

# 2 The Spokesman

Sunday, December 24, 2023

# A Delegation of National Institute of Management Lahore visited Nishtar Medical University

#### 腾 Kiran Δsim

MULTAN: According to details, the officers of the 34th Senior Management Course visited Nishtar Medical University yesterday and reviewed the medical facilities and other important aspects.

Observed the ongoing workshop regarding The members of the delegation also went to the museum in the Department of Anatomy. Meanwhile, a meeting was held in the Department of Medical Education of Nishtar Medical University under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani, in which the delegation was informed about the ongoing educational and teaching activities in Nishtar Medical University.

Briefing was given about various development projects and on this occasion souvenirs were also presented to the members of the delegation on behalf of Pro Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University as a gesture of goodwill.



The members expressed their satis- facilities, development projects and activities in Nishtar Medical Univer- the Nishtar administration for their faction over the provision of medical ongoing educational and teaching sity and Hospital and also thanked hospitality.

### Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Visitors are enjoying during their visits to Daman-e-Koh tourists spot in Federal Capital.



#### Protestors demanded Govt to announce a package for the bereaved

#### 腾 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A protest demonstration was held in Shakai on Saturday regarding the killing of 5 laborers in the heartbreaking incident of Daza Ghundai area in South Waziristan Lower yesterday. The protests were attend-

ed in large numbers by tribal

elders, youths, scholars and

On this occasion Provin-

cial Assembly (PA) candi-

date of PK 114, Taj Muhammad Wazir, addressed the

protest that the heartbreak-

ing incident of Daza Ghun-

dai area yesterday is not only

political parties.

sad but also condemnable. Taj Wazir criticized the current district administration and other security officials and said that five laborers belonging to the Shakai area were constructing a police station for the police, but unfortunately they were killed yesterday due to lack of protection by the current government.

 $He \ said \ that \ the \ oppressed \ people \ have \ reached \ the \ same \ conclusion$ by learning from their experiences that someone is involved behind such incidents.

He said that many obstacles have been erected in the way, in which the biggest obstacle is the state itself.

He said there is no room for anyone to doubt that there is the worst oppression of the Pakistani state.

The Taj further said that every voice raised against oppression is being tried to be suppressed.

He further said that the wound of one is the wound of all, not just in words, there is a need to prove with action, while the pain of others should be considered as one's own pain.

Punjab CTD killed Terrorist involved in 50 murders, attack on intelligence agency office. CTD Spokesman

#### 腾 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday claimed to have killed a terrorist and his accomplice linked to over 50 murders and an attack on an intelligence agency office in Faisalabad.

According to the CTD spokesman, the intelligence-based operation took place in Chiniot. During the CTD action, terrorist Ghazanfar Nadeem and his accomplice resisted, leading to an exchange of fire between CTD personnel and the terrorists. Both terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire.

The spokesperson revealed that Nadeem, with a bounty of Rs2.5 million on his head, had been in hiding since 2011, evading security agencies. The law enforcement recovered modern weapons and explosives from the hideout where he was located, he said and added that Ghazanfar Nadeem alias Khalid Habib was known by various aliases, the terrorist was involved in 11 major operations including the ISI in Faisalabad, a suicide attack in Dera Ismail Khan and also a sectarian target killing.

The CTD spokesman further said that the elimination of the notorious figure was expected to result in a noticeable decrease in terrorist activities. He said that the accused was associated with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

## Chairman BOG appointed Dr. Asif Kareem as Dean of AMC

#### 腾 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

PESHAWAR: MTI Abboattabd Chairman Board of Governor (BOG) Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq Jadoon has appointed Dr Asif Kareem as Dean of Ayub Medical College, purely on the basis of seniority, both never met in life.

The Chairman met the newly appointed Dean on tic considerations. Purpose Saturday a few hours before his appointment.

Probably first no ethnic, tribal linguis-



and message all across the board is clear and loud

appointment purely on merit. Chairman using his merit and for sake of Allah, discretionary powers under Section of MTI Act 2015.

from peon to Professors to rise above grouping and work for the better service delivery. We provided every opportunities by extending due courtesy to the errants to mend their ways and means but every gesture was returned and paid back with more intrigues and adding salt to the injuries constantly and continously. Probably

ever that we mean business on

on officiating basis till on pushing the BOG to the conclusion of inquiry against breaking point of tensile previous Dean. Chairman strength. So the BOG and has requested all the staff the Chairman had to take unpleasant decsion. More such are in the pipeline. Chairman concluded his message that in his career spanned over four decades has never been a rent seeker. Rest assure every single penny of poor people of this Region shall be either recovered or the culprits shall face the consequences. More painfully to observe that local the management was not in s at the helm of affairs played habit of nice treatment and the role of mercenaries and ' good we'll gestures and kept glorified" agents.

#### Toxic vegetables grown with contaminated water destroyed

腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) destroyed vegetable cultivated over four kanal land with sewerage water in Hazro town of Attock.

According to a press release issued, a team of PFA carried out an operation at Hazro destroyed different vegetables cultivated on 4-kanal land.

District Food Safety Officer Zahoor Hussain said that a ban had been put on the cultivation of sewerage water grown vegetables and strict action was being taken against the farmers over violation.

## Modi administration's 'false flag' operation against innocent prisoners exposed

#### 😂 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the arrival of elections in India, the Modi government's propaganda of a possible false flag operation targeting innocent old prisoners has been exposed.

Modi government is crazy in hostility to Pakistan to win the election

The news of this false flag operation of the Modi government has been given in veiled words by the social media accounts managed by Raw

According to reports from Occupied Kashmir

In this possible false flag of the Modi government, the old prisoners of the Indian Army have been subjected to torture and linked to terrorism and involvement with Pakistan.

According to the sources, the Modi government has approved the false flag operation by seeing these prisoners as terrorists to hide the brutality of the Indian security forces on Kashmiris, which is also being discussed on social media by accounts linked to RAW.

By brutalizing these innocent prisoners, Indian security forces have pretended to blame Pakistan as usual, which is Modi's old tactic.

According to this plan prepared by the Modi government, the media has been completely blacked out in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and mountains of cruelty and brutality are being unleashed on Kashmiris.

Kashmiri Hurriyatists Operations against the oppression of

the Indian occupying forces are ongo-

ing in the war zone of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir

In response to the brutality of the Indian security forces, on December 21, the Hurriyat militants attacked the Indian army in Sorankot, resulting in the death of 5 soldiers of the Indian occupying army and injuring 3 others.

In retaliatory action, the Indian security forces unleashed brutality on the innocent people of Poonch and Rajouri Indian security forces have detained more than 80 innocent Kashmiris and subjected them to third degree inhumane torture resulting in 4 innocent deaths.

Pakistan has nothing to do with the movement and activities of Hurriyatists against the Indian occupation army In the past too, India staged false

flag operation in Balakot and Pulwama drama to win elections

On February 26, 2019, Indian arplanes attacked Balakot

In February 2019, the Modi government tried to blame Pakistan by staging the Pulwama drama

The killing of five Indian soldiers in Rajouri sector in September 2023 was Modi's failed attempt to play politics with the blood of his own soldiers.

The war-obsessed Modi government and the Indian army want to hide their failures in Occupied Kashmir and vent their anger on Pakistan for taking offense at the killing of Sikhs at the international level, say experts.

With these tactics, Modi's India has already become infamous and disgraced all over the world, experts say.

#### Aftab Ahmed submits election papers in Attock district

#### 腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

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 leadership. On this occasion, the media said that there are still candidates from PP III constituency. Are you not entitled to the ticket who stood by the side of the Muslim League-N? In response to the media, while maintaining the statement, he said that the ticket MPA ministry is secondary in my view. It is my lovalty and loyalty to my elders that I will continue to pay. I don't care about it because now the decision is in the hands of my top leadership and in the hands of the people. I am not submitting papers for the sake of corrupt political system. I am in contact with the people of my constituency. I don't mind swapping faces at a living-on-principles party.

PTI protest injustice against PTI in Attock district after 'discriminatory'RO

#### 腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Conduct of discriminative behaviour with representatives of PTI candidates who submitted nomination papers for national and provincial seats of Attock district as per Attock Election Commission of Pakistan's schedule. Wife of Maj. Tahir Sadiq strongly condemn the unethical, unconstitutional and unethical act of not allowing their nomination papers to be submitted and subjecting them to violence.

According to the details, the wife of Major (Rtd) Tahir Sadiq Ex-MNA PTI and his family members said during the conversation with the media that they can do in justice as much as they want. Raids were conducted at various places to arrest Maj Thair Sadiq and his family members who had to submit the nomination papers to ROs and AROs there were unknown goons took our papers, beat up our supporters and kidnapped them. Major Tahir's daughter, ex-chairperson of Attock district, MNA, said that when my mother, the wife of Major Tahir, reached the RO of NA-49 Attock I to report the incident, he was not on the seat in his office.

On being informed that we have come to them to get justice they never came. Major Tahir's wife said that three of our people have been picked we will not leave the office until RO will not return, we will stand in front of his office. He requested the media to talk about justice if abuse continues, we will continue to tolerate it, we will not bow down. The purpose of all this is that Major Sadiq and his family do not participate in the election. A three-year-old child was hurt on the head as well. Major Tahir Sadiq is a well-known steadfast person who loves people and workers he was two time District Nazim and one time MPA. Maj. Thair Sadiq's father and mother (Late) was MPA. His son was an MNA, his daughter was also MNA, his daughter was a former chairperson of the district council, and no political party has a greater political affiliation than him.



# The Spokesman 3



### Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

#### SERVICES

Namaz II		
Fajr	5:40 an	
Zohr	12:06 pn	
Asr	3:26 pn	
Maghrib	5:04 pn	
lsha	6:33 pn	
EMERGENCY		
Rescue (Police)		

**Bomh Disnosal** Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad .....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & .... 4451122 & Rescue Services ..... ...9266044 Motorway Police ... Motorway Police ........9270601-20

#### **Women Police** Stations

....... 9222596 .. 9270601-20 Islamabad Rawalpindi

#### **ENQUIRY** Edhi Ambulance

...115 PIA Flight Info ..... 114 PIA Cargo. . 9280979 Railway Inquiry ......117 Railway Exchange ........9270831-5 Railway Inquiry ... WASA Rawalpindi .... ......5555489 

HOSPITALS		
CMH	5611111	
MH		
MH		
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11	
DHQ	5556311-4	
RGH	9290301-7	
Holy Family	9290322-7	

#### *IHC summons* FIA, IB's DGs in Audio Leaks case

#### 腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Saturday in an order in audio leaks case summoned DGs of IB and the FIA in personal capacity on February 19.

Justice Babar Sattar was hearing petitions of Bushra Bibi and former CJP's son Najam us Saqib pertaining to audio leaks.

"How Bushra Bibi and Latif Khosa's audio was recorded," Justice Babar Sattar questioned.

"Who leaked the audio, who is account holder," the bench questioned. "The intelligence bureau (IB) should investigate and submit a detailed report,' Justice Babar Sattar said in written order.

"A secret agency submitd its report on audio leak

# 😂 Mushaal's vision unveiled 100-Day plan contain unprecedented advances human rights in Human and **Women rights**

#### 😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has asserted that the principles of human rights and women's empowerment are deeply embedded in the fabric of our religious, cultural, social, and political

values. She was delivering a keynote speech at the launching ceremony of "Hundred Day Plan-Execution and Achievements by the Caretaker Government" held in Governor House Lahore.

The launching ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Governor Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, said in a press release issued here on Saturday.

Golden Man

tects of the 100-day plan, delivered a detailed presentation on the Execution and Achievements of the 100-day plan. The launching event was organ-

ized in collaboration with Infocomm, an organization renowned for its work on Women Empowerment and Financial Inclusion. Other dignitaries from civil society and organizations dedicated to women's empowerment and human rights were among the attendees. Mushaal emphasized that the

principles of human rights and women's empowerment are not only deeply embedded in the constitution of Pakistan but also find a robust foundation in our national heritage. She underscored the transformative capac-The focal Person to SAPM, Sabien ity of Pakistani women and advo-

Hussein Mullik, one of the archi- cated for increased female engagement in social and digital arenas. She emphasized that the 100-day plan encapsulates innovative solutions poised to uplift and empower women across Pakistan.

> Mushaal underscored that despite its constrained mandate, the caretaker setup demonstrated a robust resolve to attain the objectives outlined in the 100-Day Plan. She conveyed her hope that all stakeholders, driven by a shared commitment, would actively contribute to realizing the dream of advancing human rights and women's empowerment in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sam Ali Dada, Advisor to SAPM on Gender Inclusion, stressed the need for focused efforts on empowering women through financial inclusion. She empha-

sized that achieving women's financial independence stands as a pivotal pillar for advancing gender equality and unlocking the

true potential of the nation. In his address, the Governor of Punjab commended the dedi-

cated efforts of those instrumental in shaping the 100-day plan. He acknowledged and extended appreciation to SAPM Mushaal Hussein Mullick for her personal endeavours in championing human rights in Pakistan movement.

and tirelessly working towards the empowerment of Pakistani women to deserving status. The Governor also declared Mushaal as a source of inspiration and an emblem of the Kashmir freedom

ISLAMABAD: People are interacting with "Golden Man" during their visits to Daman-e-Koh tourists spot in Federal Capital.



## Aneeq inaugurates Qamar-un-Nisa Healthcare facility 腾 City Desk

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, Saturday, inaugurated Qamar-un-Nisa Health Care Facility at the Al-Nisa Community Center Karachi. The launch of the health facil-



ity was made on the eve of the Golden Jubilee of Tanzeem-e Falah-e-Khawateen Pakistan, according to a statement issued here.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony the minister lauded the efforts of Qamar-un-Nisa Qamar, a social worker and an ex-MNA, and said that she is the inspiration for all of us as she has devoted 50 years of her life to service the society, particularly needy and destitute people.

Every citizen should strive for the betterment of society following the footsteps of Qamar un Nisa who striven for the cause of humanity. The minister lauded Tanzeem-e Falah-e-Khawateen Pakistan's endeavour to open a healthcare facility and urged that more such facilities were needed to ensure the provision of health facilities to the deserving masses.

#### Importance of self-care in busy life

😂 🛛 Aliza Arshad, Islamabad

via the ministry of defence," court said. "The court was told that the secret agency not having capacity to determine the source that released the information on social media," according to the order.

"The IB shall determine the social media accounts that illegally leaked the audio".

"IB should submit its report within three weeks after inquiry. DG IB shall inform in next hearing, who could conduct surveillance of citizens and if the state of Pakistan has ability to stop illegal surveillance," the judge asked.

According to the order, the Attorney General told the court that the federal government didn't allow any agency to record calls. He said that protection of privacy and rights of all citizens necessary.

"The FIA sought time to submit its reply. It shall submit report with details of the accounts leaked audios on social media. Director General FIA should also appear in court and brief, how surveillance and recording can be conducted," the bench said in its order.

ASEAN committee gathers Islamabadbased diplomats at family BBQ get-together

#### 😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee in Islamabad (ACI) organized an event themed 'Family Barbeque, Yearend get-together' here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Malaysian High Commissioner in Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Mazlan in his capacity as the Chair of ACI said the aim of the event was to bring together the diplomats and families of Islamabad-based ASEAN embassies to provide them with an opportunity to touch base with one another in an informal setting.

He expressed confidence that such a gathering would bring about a sense of togetherness and belonging among the ASEAN community in Pakistan. Considering the presence of more than 200 guests including the local officials and media personnel, High Commissioner Azhar expressed his happiness and hoped the event would



those celebrating Christmas During the event, the guests

be an annual programme. He east Asian region. The cuisines merely a social gathering but a conveyed his well wishes to included Satay with peanut sauce, Padthai, Nasi Goreng, and a happy and prosperous Bakso and Sagudana, among new year 2024 to all present. others. The ASEAN diplomats and families exchanged warm enjoyed a number of cuisines greetings and cultural insights, specially prepared by each while celebrating the diversity of ASEAN embassies, savoring the ASEAN tradition in Pakistan, unique spices, techniques, and showcasing the rich tapestry of cultural influences of the South- the region. The event was not

celebration of the shared values and aspirations that unite the diverse nations of Southeast Asia. It served as a testament to the enduring friendship and solidarity among the ASEAN nations and their commitment to fostering a prosperous and harmonious future together with the host nation, Pakistan.

## Javed Intizar announces winners, runners up of Islamabad Career College sports gala

#### 😂 PNP

ISLAMABAD: The annual prize distribution ceremony of sports gala was held at Islamabad Career College Ghauri Garden. Separate ceremonies were held for girls and boys of classes 6 to 11. Chairman Career Group of Institutions Javed Intizar announced the winners and runners up teams Trophies were distributed among the players. Players received trophies in cricket, football, bat menten, long jump, three leg race, six hundred, two hundred and one hundred meter race, musical chair, sack race, hurdle race, ball throwing, and other competitions. Javed Intizar, while addressing the sports



awards ceremony, said that the number of winners, runners-up and participating players and teams of the first sports gala of Career College Ghauri Garden will be included in the founders and will be remembered.

Congratulations to all the winning

students and teams and players. In every field of life, a great player is the one who performs under pressure. For which now time is short and competition is tough. There is not even a second to waste for preparation and repetition of Federal number of students were present in the Board Exams. Among the teams particprize distribution ceremony.

ipating in the sports competition are Thunder Cat, Eagle Royal Blue, Arabian horse. Yellow color, green color were included. Winners and runners up teams and players in boys were Waris Ali, Zia ul Hasan, Jahanzeb Ali, Muhammad Ageel, Muhammad Mustafa, Wasif Niaz. Abdul Rahman, Muhammad Manwar, Muhammad Arsalan, Muhammad Anas, while in girls iman wazi, Amina Azam, Sana Wazir, Malaika Iftikhar, Manail Murtaza, Hania Aamir, Zubia Nusrat, Jannat Hassan were included. Principal Afraz Abbasi, Coordinator Samiullah, teachers and a large

In this digital era people are only stuck to their work they don't take care of themselves. self-care and prioritizing our wellbeing are crucial in this digital age. It is important to take break and recharge our self. Set boundaries with social media. Engage yourself in activities that bring you joy and help you to relax. Whether it is reading book, going for a walk, practicing mindfulness, or spreading quality time with love ones, make sure to take out time for activities that nourish your soul.

#### Court extends physical remand of ex-CEO DRAP in fake degree case

#### 😂 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Court on Saturday extended the physical remand for two days of the former CEO of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) in a fake degree case.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) presented the former CEO of the DRAP, Sheikh Akhtar Hussain, before the judicial magistrate court of Judge Abbas Shah after completing two days of physical remand.

The FIA officials claimed that an arrest had been made during the two days of physical remand of the accused and sought an extension in the remand from the court.

After hearing the argument from both sides, the court extended the remand of the ex-CEO DRAP for two more days under FIA custody and sent the two main accused to judicial remand in prison.

It is pertinent to mention here that the anti-corruption circle of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested Sheikh Akhtar Hussain, ex-CEO of the DRAP in a fake degree case.

"He was appointed CEO of the regulatory authority based on PhD degree, which was found fake," an FIA spokesperson said.

Sheikh Akhtar Hussain was appointed as CEO of DRAP in the year 2018-19. The FIA arrested him after a special judge central dismissed his pre-arrest bail. The anti-corruption wing of the Federal Investigation Agency had lodged a case against the former DRAP CEO for holding a fake PhD degree. The Sri Lankan Interpol confirmed the Ph. D. degree was fake as the degree-awarding institution was not recognised.

#### Pakistan's talented youth takes center stage at PNCA drama festival

#### 🐞 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Saturday is buzzing with vibrant performances as the three-day drama festival unfolds on the second day, a diverse array of acts filled the stage, ranging from



stand-up comedy and Sufi dance to puppet shows and thought-provoking plays.

The Government College University Faisalabad brought the energy with a dance performance, while Team Reliant presented the intriguing play "Mystery 404." Quaid-e-Azam University showcased their talent with a stand-up comedy play titled "Robo Khan," and also treated the audience to a Rabab music performance. National Council of Arts (NCA) Rawalpindi impressed with a drama exhibition, and Peace University Wow captured hearts with their play "Meri Zara Nishaan."

# **Editorial/Opinion**

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4	The Spokesman
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### **UN adopts diluted** resolution on more aid to Gaza

fter 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 a Russian amendment that would have restored the call for a suspension of hostilities. That vote was 10 members in favour, the U.S. against and four abstentions. The resolution, among other elements, demanded immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale directly to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip. The revised text was negotiated during a week of diplomacy by the United States, the United Arab Emirates on behalf of Arab nations and others. The agreement came amid global 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 moment of truth. He expressed regret that the Security Council did not find the courage to support at least the minimum call for an end to the violence in Gaza, and it instead signed up for a "license to kill" Palestinian civilians. "This is a tragic moment for the Council, not a moment of triumph for multilateral diplomacy, but rather one of gross unprincipled blackmail and open scorn on the part of Washington for the suffering of Palestinians and the hopes of the global community, he said.

# **Genocide in Gaza**

outh Africa's opposition polit- the trimmings of a modern sovereign ical party the Democratic Alliance (DA), has done no more than mealy-mouth talk of "peace".

Whenever South Africa's opposition political party the Democratic Alliance (DA), widely perceived and known to be pro-Israel, is challenged on its stance vis-a-vis Palestine, its kneejerk reaction is that it shares the same vision as the ruling African National Congress (ANC). What is it that it claims to be common

to both? The two-state solution. At a recent parliamentary debate,

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor said the ANC believes Israel has a right to exist as a state alongside a state of Palestine and that this has been the long-standing view of her party.

Following her, the DA's spokesperson affirmed the party's commitment to a two-state solution and rejected any position that seeks to annihilate either Israel or Palestine.

However, between these long-held party positions, we are witness to almost three months of a relentless full-blown military war on the besieged Gaza Strip by the Netanyahu regime.

The Strip is a tiny refugee camp where 2.3 million Palestinians have for decades been forced, yes compelled by Israel as the occupying power, to survive on the barest minimum in an open military prison

This fact is known yet glossed over by many in the media as well as commentators, thereby giving a false impression that Gaza is an independent Palestinian state with its own army, navy and all

country.

It is thus a misrepresentation and misleading to project Israel's barbaric onslaught that since October 7 has killed over 20,000 Palestinian civilians - men, women, children, babies as well as old and disabled people - as a "just war".

Far from that, it is a barbaric unleashing of the most sophisticated and powerful weapons of mass destruction, by a rogue nuclear-armed apartheid regime.

Saturated coverage by broadcast mediums show how the relentless bombings and missile strikes have continued around the clock, pummeling hospitals, churches, mosques, residential buildings and refugee camps across every inch of the strip. Images of pain and

suffering, whether in bombed out disfunctional hospitals, or in so-called "safe zones", have outraged the world.

So too have the tragic tales of journalists deliberately targeted and killed and the vengeful wanton coldblooded massacres of their families, spurred the world to take to the streets in their millions to protest Israeli war crimes.

However and despite the overwhelming majority of countries, (more than 150), voted at the UN General Assembly in favour of an immediate ceasefire, the US government has repeatedly blocked similar votes at the Security Council via its unjust veto.

Its a pattern many people are all too familiar with the Biden administration's

unconditional support and backing for the Zionist regime's horrendous crimes.

It would thus be naive to believe that the DA is not aware of either America's complicity or of the slaughter of Palestinians by the Netanyahu regime of extreme right-wing racists.

Remember that in May 2022, DA leader John Steenhuisen rocked up in Ukraine and campaigned vigorously against Russia's invasion. Unlike his deafening silence on the ongoing geno-

> cide in Gaza, he declared back then that he was in Kyiv to see "first-hand" the effects of the occupation of Ukraine. "In the era of fake

news and propaganda, this is the only way to truly know what is happening", he said in a statement.

He also claimed it is important to remember that living in a super-connected world, disruptions in one part cause major ripples everywhere else.

Well, the world has spoken out against the effects of Israel's savagery in Gaza as well as the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, while Steenhuisen has remained embarrassingly silent. In marked contradiction to his stance on Russia.

It ought not to surprise anyone given that the DA confirmed Steenhuisen's "fact-finding mission" trip to Ukraine was funded by The Brenthurst Foundation which was established by the Oppenheimer family.

One recalls too the spat the DA had

with its MP Ghaleb Cachalia, over his strong criticism of Israel, which resulted in him being fired from the so-called shadow cabinet.

The Cape Times summed it up succinctly in an oped: "The DA keeps proving its critics right in their argument that the official opposition party, with ambitions of governing this country, excels in exposing its double standards and it does not tolerate dissent".

Paying lip service to being committed to a two-state solution is no more than a mirage. Theft of Palestinian lands to build illegal settlements is a core element of Zionism's expansionist policy. And has been correctly identified as being at the

root cause of Palestinian dispossession. Nor can the DA claim ignorance about Israel's violation of international law in respect of the illegality of settlements. After all during 2017, a 5-men delegation of DA leaders including Steenhuisen travelled to Israel and met with PM Netanyahu.

Former head of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and presently a DA MP, Michael Bagraim, who was part of the delegation, was quoted in the Jewish Report as saying the meeting with Netanyahu had been "All round extremely functional".

Ambiguous? Of course, but don't expect any details or clarity of what was meant by an "extremely functional" meeting with a warlord whose entire career up to the present has been drenched in Palestinian blood.

Iqbal Jassat is an Executive Member of the South Africa-based Media Review Network.



าล Igbal Jassat

# **Education crisis in Pakistan**

ducation plays an important ed by this. role in the progress and develattend school, and those who do encounter difficulties such as unsatisfactory learning conditions and missing teachers. Pakistan is suffering a serious education crisis. al system and curriculum have come under According to UNICEF, 22.8 million chil- criticism for being out of date and failing

attend school, making them the second biggest population in the world, behind Nigeria. Another alarming statistic, which most people are still ignorant of, is that nearly four out of every five Pakistani children under the age of ten have difficulty reading simple text. This implies

that even kids who do go to primary school on a regular basis aren't learning the level of reading comprehension that is appropriate for their age. In this article, we will look at these problems from several of aspects and address potential solutions.

Pakistan's literacy rate is lower than the world average and has a sizable gender gap. The rate of female literacy is only 49%, while the rate for male literacy is 70%. Pakistan devotes a comparatively small portion of its GDP to education, which results in underfunded educational institutions and insufficient resources. Only 12 nations worldwide allocate less than 2% of their GNP on education. Pakistan is one of them.

The shortage of suitable facilities and infrastructure in many areas of Pakistan is one of the most obvious problems with the country's educational system. Students' access to high-quality education is restrict-

Many schools in rural areas are without opment of a nation. Howev-er, Pakistan's educational system has many obstacles that prevents it from reaching its full poten- to go to school on a regular basis. Furthertial. Millions of children in Pakistan do not more, parents may be dissuaded from sending their kids to school if they have a long travel to a far-off institution.

Another problem is Pakistan's educationdren between the ages of 5 and 16 do not to adequately prepare students for life in

the modern world. Many Pakistani schools place a strong emphasis on rote memorization as part of their curriculum, which hinders students' ability to think critically and solve problems. It is imperative to update the curriculum to prioritize critical thinking and practical skills in

order to adequately prepare students for the demands of the twenty-first century. In government schools, the main lesson taught to students is how to be obedient so they can become good workers.

Pakistan's examination system has many shortcomings, such as a strong emphasis on memorizationand rote learning, which may not promote critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. In Pakistan, exams frequently place more emphasis on rote memory than in-depth subject knowledge. This strategy stifles originality and creative thought. It is necessary to implement a revised examination system that assesses students' analytical and problem-solving skills.

In Pakistan, poverty is a major barrier to education. Many times, financially strapped families are unable to afford to send their kids to school. In Pakistan, a lot of families

place more importance on putting food on the table than on their kids attending school. Many kids are forced into child labor by this economic pressure in order to support their families. It will take skill to break the cycle of poverty and lack of education.

According to Pakistan's Constitution, all children between the ages of five and sixteen must receive free public education. That being said, with over 31% of its educated youth unemployed, Pakistan faces a serious problem with unemployment.

To address issues with education, the Pakistani government has introduced a number of initiatives and reforms, although execution is still fraught with difficulties. It is not easy to implement reforms in a country as diverse and resource-poor as Pakistan. Overcoming bureaucratic and logistical obstacles is necessary.

Non-governmental groups have been essential in enhancing government initiatives and expanding educational opportunities, particularly in marginalized communities.

Organizations that support education in Pakistan, such as Teach for Pakistan and The Citizens Foundation (TCF), have had a major impact. They set up schools in isolated locations, offer instructional materials, and cater to the particular needs of underprivileged populations in terms of education.

Pakistan's educational challenges are diverse and varied, with concerns about government, socioeconomic considerations, access, and quality. Even with encouraging advancements and government initiatives, much more needs to be done to guarantee that every child in Pakistan has access to high-quality education.

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## We and Our Thoughts

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Zakaria Khan

we are...? And what are our thoughts? answer these questions: the first is before the 9/11 incident, and the second is after the 9/11 incident or the war against terror.

Before the 9/11 incident, we all had a mind and a belief in one nation, and that was Pakistan. We all have worked hard just to put Pakistan's flag above all. We fought for the same goal, having the same friends and enemies, and living as brothers with each other. But after the 9/11 inci-Baloch and Pakhtoon were very costly damaged in the

war against terror, like approximately every day in Peshawar, Waziristan, and Quetta, a blast had been done, and also the issue of missing persons, which put them annoyed and made them allow to voice their opposition to the state for a peaceful environment in their areas. Due to these, the Baloch and Pakhtoon always want to get citizen rights, which are mentioned in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan, but they are getting their

movement, the Pakhtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM).

Problem/dispute of Southern Punjab (area covered by Saraiki, i.e., Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan) and Central Punjab (area covered by Pure Punjabi, i.e., Lahore, Faisalabad, Sargodha, etc.) over the issue of water On the same issue (the water issue of the Indus River), the Sindhi people also have a problem with the state for not getting their proper water. Meaning to say that, today's Pakistan's society (especially those aged 18 to 30 and enrolled in educational institutions) is scattered because of these different issues and disputes on the name of ethnicity and racism.

The actual question is: how can these different issues be resolved? And how can these people of different races work together to achieve the same goal ...?

To answer this question, we have to take the example of Malaysia, where the society was as scattered as Pakistan, even though it was much worse. So, to solve such disputes, they developed some resolutions in their educational system. Their higher education commission,

question arises in our minds about who called the Ministry of Education (MOE), or "Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia" in Malay, which is respon-Being a Pakistani, there are two ways to sible for formulating policies and managing the education system, omitted some rules and amended rules to make society better.

The rules that were developed by "Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia" is that each field (undergraduate) will be ranked according to merit, and merit will follow the ranking of the university nationwide, not according to the desire and priority of the student.

These solve the problems of most scattered Malaysian dent, Pakistan's society scattered for different reasons. society and provide an opportunity for students of their different provinces to learn about the behavior and way

of life of other races and also to modify the good traits of the people of other provinces of Malaysia.

The government of Pakistan has to develop such policies in the educational system, i.e., the Higher Education Commission (HEC), which organizes and controls all the education systems in Pakistan.

Students from different provinces should be allowed to get admission

legal rights. For this issue, the Pakhtoon developed a to universities in other provinces on a merit basis, not on the basis of quota seats. This merit should be made by the Higher Education Commission by themselves. Like students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they should be allowed to get admission in different provinces and regions of Pakistan (i.e., Punjab, Kashmir, Balochistan, Sindh, and Gilgit Baltistan), and vice versa for students of other provinces. These all should be done just to know the way of life of other regions and modify their bad habits for the good of that region, especially education, because education actually means to bring some positive change in our lives.

This will not just resolve the dispute between different races and cultures but also have developed the friendly and brotherhood relationship because it is the initial step to make some change in society, which should be through education and mainly through the younger ones who are students (age between 18 and 30 years).

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International

Sunday, December 24, 2023

# 🔭 Karachi Festival **Education Minister** visits Ethiopian Pavilion at **Karachi Feast**

#### 😂 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi, graced the Ethiopian Pavilion with his presence at the Karachi Festival on Saturday.

On arrival, the minister was welcomed with warm hospitality by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula.

The Pavilion, inaugurated on Friday in the presence of esteemed guests from the diplomatic corps, Government of Pakistan, civil society, business community, and media, served as a captivating proof to the rich tapestry of Ethiopian tourism, rich culture and heritage.

H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi witnessed mesmerizing cultural performances at the pavilion and savored Ethiopian coffee which had become centre of attraction at the Karachi Feast.



Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for to Pakistan. the commendable initiative of intro-

Recognizing the immense potential H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi commended ducing Ethiopian tourism and culture for tourism and the diverse cultural

Pak delegation visits AiMall Tech, Shenzhen, China

#### 🐞 News Desk

BEIJING: A delegation of Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence Technology Center (AITC) comprised of Director General Nadeem Ahmed, Technical Director Dr. Aminuddin Qureshi, Directors Dr. Syed Khursheed Hasnain and Kamran Qureshi had a visit to Chinese AI company, Shenzhen AiMall Tech. Co., Ltd. to discuss bilateral cooperation. Both parties conducted in-depth discussions on various issues and future cooperation plans in the field of AI technology. Dr. Yang Heng, Chairman of AiMall, Chen Zai, Strategic Planning Director, and Ji Chuande. Technical Expert accompanied the visit. Nadeem Ahmed analyzstatus of AI globally and in a video. "So far, AITC has



priefly introduced the over- ing the retail fast-moving son real-time face-changing

offerings of Ethiopia, the Education Minister conveyed his gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for the commencement of Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi which was instrumental in fostering connections between Pakistan and Africa.

Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula extended gratitude to the minister for gracing the Ethiopian tourism pavilion with his presence.

The ambassador highlighted the strong attachment of the people of Pakistan with Ethiopia which was a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejashi.

He expressed his resolve to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations, acknowledging the appetite within Pakistan for fostering a robust connection.

Vowing continued efforts towards building bridges between the nations, the ambassador affirmed that the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would take proactive measures to bring these two significant nations even closer through such initiatives in future.

Pakistani in Qinghai heads to support supplies for quake-hit areas



😂 News Desk

BEIJING: Anwaar Mazhar, a Pakistani who lives in Xining, northwest China's Qinghai, bought a batch of relief materials after a magnitude 6.2 earthquake hit northwest China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces on Monday night and drove to the quake-hit areas in Jishishan County Gansu Province, for supplies support on Wednesday. Next, Mazhar plans to replenish supplies and go to quake-hit areas in Qinghai Province, according to local social media. Mazhar said that China has always been a "brother country" of Pakistan, and he has always remembered China's support to Pakistan before. Mazhar hoped to do his bit to bring warmth to quake-affected people. As of 8 am on Friday, the earthquake death toll had reached 117, with the number of injured persons standing at 781. By Friday noon, the number of relocation sites had reached 311, and 112,346 people had been transferred to safe places, according to the provincial earthquake relief headquarters.

Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels celebrates Christmas with Christian diaspora in befitting manner

The Spokesman 5



#### 腾 PPA

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels organized a Christmas Lunch to celebrate the special occasion in a befitting manner, along with the Christian diaspora on 23 December 2023.

On the occasion, Ambassador Amna Baloch, in her welcome remarks, said that the community played an important role as it was the flag-bearer, depicting harmony and interfaith traditions of Pakistan. The festivities at the Embassy were marked by a colourful Christmas tree on display and special decorations.

The Choir sang hymns and festive carols, while special prayers were offered by Pastor Saleem Najam, Pastor John Ashraf & Pastor Arshad khokhar for a secure and peaceful world, where all humanity would live in harmony together.

The guests were served traditional Pakistani cuisine and Christmas delicacies. The children especially enjoyed the occasion amidst presence of Santa Clause and gifts.

The event concluded with cake-cutting amidst many laughters and season greetings.

The event projected a 'Peaceful and Inclusive Pakistan'.

Society of Actuaries Launches Global Access Pilot Program in Pakistan



#### 腾 PNP

KARACHI: The internationally-renowned Society of Actuaries (SOA), based out of the United States, has announced the launch of its SOA Global Access Pilot Program in Pakistan, aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of actuarial exams on a global scale.

As part of the SOA's strategic plan to accelerate growth in Pakistan,

all development, technology application, industrial

layout and strategic planed the current development ning of AiMall. Subsequently, the two parties had specif-Pakistan, and introduced in ic discussions on topics such detail the scientific research as AI large models, computprogress made by AITeC er vision, embodied intelliin the field of AI through gence and other AI technology hotspots and industriestablished multiple core al application development, artificial intelligence labo- and exchanged views on ratories such as comput- future business cooperation er vision, natural language as well as training courses, processing, machine learn- CEN reported. The delegaing and deep learning, and tion also visited the AI prodis committed to conducting uct area of AiMall. Dr. Yang high-quality AI technology introduced the application research and development of AI technology in different in various fields." Dr. Yang industries in China, "includ-

consumer goods industry, such as helping brands achieve rapid collection of offline real marketing data to accurately grasp market dynamics, and provide chain stores, properties, etc. with comprehensive AI solutions covering people-goodsfield from field experience to personnel environment management."

In addition, the delegation's experience also included international hot technologies such as gener-+ vertical industry AI al language large model application Ask and Get, intelligent vision AI multi-per-

"AITeC devote to providing high-quality AI solutions customized according to needs, which coincides with the philosophy of AiMall. We highly look forward to exploring and promoting win-win development of AI technology," said the delegation members, who highly appreciated for AiMall's exploration in the field of AI. Both parties totally agreed to contribute to promoting the high-quality development of AI technology under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative.

the SOA recognizes the need to address cost competitiveness in the actuarial profession's global landscape. To this end, the regional pilot program helps reduce financial barriers to the Associate-level pathway and encourages the expansion of the actuarial profession in Pakistan.

The pilot program introduces a three-tiered pricing structure as classified under World Bank income tiers. All candidates and members living in Pakistan already qualify for an international discount on ASA modules, which is being applied to all ASA components at a consistent 20% off as of October this year. The additional discount is being piloted for Pakistan with the hope of further expansion in the future.

"The SOA Global Access pilot program represents a pivotal step in our commitment to making actuarial exams accessible to candidates worldwide," said Andy Peterson, FSA, MAAA, FCA, Managing Director, International at SOA. "We believe this program will not only reduce financial barriers but also attract and support diverse talent in the actuarial profession," he added.

For more information about the SOA Global Access pilot program, including detailed pricing information and program updates, please visit soa.org/globalaccess.

## The moral fabric of the Indian judiciary lies in tatters: Dr. Fai

#### 腾 Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL:"The international community has recognized that national institutions such as the judiciary is important to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. Although the United Nations has written declarations that affirm the right of vulnerable populations, there must be greater worldwide effort on the part of governments, NGOs, and UN agencies to incorporate peace, justice and human dignity into internationalization and globalization. Peace, justice and human dignity cannot take a back seat as societies globalize their trade, supply chaining, and outsourcing. Freedom and justice must prevail above all political and economic aspects of international trade relations, and treaties even if it requires canceling trade agreements with countries that blatantly allow gross human rights violations to continue," this was stated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice.

Dr. Fai was speaking on the subject of, 'Determination of the Principles and Procedures of the Organization for Justice in India: A Case of Kashmir' during 'The Seventh International ASSAM Islamic Union Model Congress,' held on December 23, 2023, in Istanbul, Turkey

75 academics, scholars, intellectuals, diplomats, journalists, and experts from 30 countries made their interventions during the Congress.

Dr. Fai added that the conditions of administration of justice in Indian occupied Kashmir are appalling and frightening where the justice system has failed the hapless population of the State. We know that in particular the minimum standards for the respect of the most fundamental rights and dignity of detainees are absent in Kashmir. More shockingly, these arrogations of internationally recognized norms have been codified in laws passed by the Government of India which apply only to Jammu & Kashmir, specifically, 'The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act'(PSA) and 'Armed Forces Special Powers Act' (AFSPA).

PSA has been in force in Jammu & Kashmir since 1978, and permits people to be detained for up to two years on vaguely defined ground to prevent them "from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order." The broad definition given in this act to these expressions permits people to be detained without trial for simply questioning whether Jammu and



India or not.

The provisions of PSA & AFSPA are incompatible with the requirements of Article 9(2)of ICCPR, which obliges India to ensure that anyone who is arrested is informed at the time of his / her arrest of the reasons for the arrest and informed promptly of any charges against him or her. Such provisions contravene Article 9(4) of ICCPR which requires all people arrested or detained to be brought before a court to decide without delay the lawfulness of detention.

All the aforesaid laws which are in force in Jammu & Kashmir make the armed forces Kashmir should remain part of immune from prosecution for

acts committed while exercising powers under these laws. Thus, these armed forces are encouraged to act with impunity. Section 7 of the 'AFSPA' provides that unless previous permission has been obtained from the Central government, "No prosecution suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted...against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this act."

The laws conferring unrestricted and arbitrary powers on the armed forces continue to remain in operation in Jammu & Kashmir, with full impunity to the perpetrators or crimes

against the humanity and violations of fundamental human rights, threatening the very existence of the people of Kashmir. Indictments and appeals from more than dozen United Nations Thematic Special Rapporteurs; Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others have failed to make India to withdraw these laws.

The arbitrary powers conferred upon the armed forces with virtual impunity from any legal action, are a part of deliberate Indian State policy wherein, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, extra-judicial killing, killings of civilians and unarmed and peaceful demonstrators have

been used as a weapon of war. The motive behind these crimes against humanity is to force the Kashmiri people to abandon their struggle for fundamental human rights of self-determination.

United States, Department of State, Country Report 2022 on India cites, "A lack of accountability for official misconduct persisted at all levels of government, contributing to widespread impunity." Country report mir are further complicated by exposes the India's falsification in India's steadfast refusal to allow these words, "There were reports non-governmental organizathat police beatings of prisoners tions, like Amnesty Internaresulted in custodial deaths (see section 1.a.). There were reports Rapporteurs to investigate alleof abuse in prisons by guards and gations in Kashmir.

inmates, as well as reports of rape of detainees by police. According to human rights NGOs, police used torture, other mistreatment, and arbitrary detention to obtain forced or false confessions."

Dr. Fai emphasized that the judiciary is working under great strain in Jammu and Kashmir. The judges who try to dispense justice impartially are either transferred to a far-flung state in India or forced to resign or denied promotion which otherwise is due to them. According to the Human Right Watch / Asia Report and entitled, 'India's Secret Army in Kashmir," "Fearing reprisals, judges have been reluctant to challenge the actions of the security forces."

There are thousands of cases of individuals in Kashmir, taken into custody by the armed forces and they are not heard from they simply disappear. According to the United States, Department of State, Country Report, there are 8,000 to 10,000 persons who have disappeared in Kashmir.

The problems associated with attempting to curtail human rights abuses in Kashtional or United Nations Special

# **Economy/Commerce**

Sunday, December 24, 2023

#### PIAF stresses need for solid steps to boost remittances



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that foreign remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports

The PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that overseas Pakistanis living in Gulf should further be motivated to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contributed more than 60 percent of the total inflows during last couple of months.

He said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments but also in foreign debt repayments, suggesting the government to focus on structural reforms, which can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers

The PIAF Chairman said that Pakistan has been witnessing a significant decline in workers' remittances on a year-on-year basis, however it surged by 5.34% on a month-on-month basis, reaching a total of \$2.21 billion, owing to several positive factors, including improved transparency and the implementation of stringent measures against dollar smuggling. These initiatives have helped create a more secure and regulated environment for remittance transactions.

Faheem Saigol said that remittances for Sept came in at \$2.21 billion, according to data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan. This figure, while an improvement from last month's \$2.09 billion, was significantly lower than market expectations of \$2.4-2.5 billion. On a month-on-month basis, remittances rose by 5.3%. However, they declined by 11.24% compared to last year, when remittances stood at \$2.49 billion.

China-Pakistan textile summit strengthens economic ties and

# The economy is now showing signs of revival: S. M. Tanveer

#### 😂 PPA

ISLAMABAD: S. M. Tanveer, Punjab's Minister for Industries and Commerce said that the government is working hard and pursuing reforms in various sectors due to which the economy is now showing some signs of revival and vowed that all possible efforts would be made to put Pakistan on track of sustainable growth. He said that a Business Facilitation Centre has been established in Punjab as a One Window Facility to automate the licenses and NOCs required for starting up or expanding businesses that would help boost business activities. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Atif Ikram Sheikh, former President ICCI and Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI at his residence.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the role of FPCCI is very important in promoting the private sector in the country and assisting the government in boosting exports, encouraging foreign investment, stimulating economic activity and UBG will strengthen FPCCI to play this role effectively.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that the current leadership of FPCCI has failed to deliver for the business community



and trade associations should support UBG in and there is a need to promote business leaders ble. He said that they would realize the mission the upcoming elections of FPCCI so that this apex trade body could play an effective role in making Pakistan a hub of business and economic activities.

towards entrepreneurship so that youth could drive Pakistan towards progress and prosperity.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the a plan to address the key issues of the business and stressed that all chambers of commerce private sector is the backbone of the economy community and steer the economy out of trou-support for UBG.

as role models in the country to attract youth of the late SM Munir after winning the elections of FPCCI to make Pakistan a hub of business activities in the region.

Abdul Rauf Alam, Sheikh Abdul Razak, Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and UBG for FPCCI said that they have prepared Waqar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, and others also spoke on the occasion and expressed strong

### Wheat

ISLAMABAD: A view of the grains loaded trucks parked in straight queue outside Floor Mills at Sector I-9 in Federal Capital.



#### Inflation serious challenge due to constant hike in energy rates: FPCCI **Presidential Candidate**

#### 😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FPCCI) Presidential Candidate for 2024 election Muhammad Ali Sheikh has said that the most serious challenge to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, because it is already hitting economy due to continuous raise

in oil prices and depreciation

Muhammad Ali Sheikh

warned the high cost of doing

business has been hurting

the economic growth, as the

inflation rate bounced back to

29.2% in concluding month,

hurting the trade and indus-

try the most, who faced the

brunt of a staggering 520%

increase in gas prices.

of local currency.



level of 22%.

This reading, the first announced by the PBS after the recently concluded International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks, in which the global lender also cut the inflation forecast for Pakistan to 22.8%, may strengthen the IMF's view of keeping the policy rate unchanged until core inflation starts easing out when the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets on December 12th.

The IME has re Bureau of Statistics, he said its executive board meetings' calendar till December 11th, and Pakistan's case last month compared to a has not yet been listed for the approval of the second loan more than market expecta- tranche of \$700 million. This tions and has lessened the may make it difficult for the prospects for a cut in the central bank to cut the interinterest rates, which stand est rate before the board

#### collaboration



#### 😂 Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Textile and Apparel Executive Summit and Business Meetings were held in Kunshan, East China's Jiangsu Province, last week. At least 100 representatives from the Chinese and Pakistani governments, trade associations and textile and apparel enterprises attended the event.

In his opening speech, Deputy Mayor of Kunshan Zhang Feng noted that the year 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

As a flagship project of the Belt and Road, the CPEC has achieved significant cooperation results, particularly in the textile and apparel sector where there is substantial complementarity and potential for collaboration between the two countries, he said.

He expressed the hope that the summit would further deepen exchanges and cooperation in the textile and apparel industry, Global Times reported. Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries of emphasized Pakistan's traditional strength in textiles, citing natural conditions conducive to cotton production, a large and competitive workforce, a complete industrial chain, and favorable conditions for international market access.

He highlighted the potential for joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises to produce different products along the textile value chain. Pakistan will provide comprehensive support for Chinese businesses investing in the country.

During the summit, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

According to a post by the CCCT, the signing of the MOU will further promote and strengthen economic and trade cooperation between the textile and apparel industries of China and Pakistan.

This collaboration is expected to empower and facilitate the development of cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani businesses, pushing bilateral trade, investment, and supply chain cooperation in the textile and apparel sector to new heights.

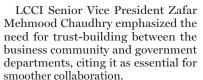
# Secretary Labour visit LCCI

#### 腾 PPA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Labour and Human Resource Punjab, Naeem Ghous, along with DG Labour Sveda Kulsum Hai and Director Labour Welfare Muhammad Shahid, conducted a constructive meeting with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry today. The focus of the discussion was on fostering a collaborative environment to enhance the growth of the business community for the overall development of Pakistan.

Secretary Labour and Human Resource Punjab, Naeem Ghous, emphasized the pivotal role of the business community in the progress and prosperity of the nation. He affirmed that the Punjab Labour Department is dedicated to serving as a facilitator, ensuring maximum facilities for trade and industry.

Naeem Ghous further underlined the importance of promoting healthy labor management and industrial relations for socio-economic progress, emphasizing the fundamental role of the labor force in industrial development.



F GUES

He emphasized on commitment from both sides to foster a stronger partnership between the government and the business community, with a shared vision of achieving sustained economic growth and development in Pakistan.

Quoting the Pa that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) surged to 29.2% year ago. The increase was at the country's highest ever meeting.

#### **Guangzhou-Lahore flight** resumed on Dec 20

#### 😂 Spokesman Report

BELJING: China Southern Airlines, one of Asia's largest carriers, has resumed its Lahore-Guangzhou flights on December 20 after a suspension from February 27, 2019. Aircraft Boeing flight No CZ6037 flew from Guangzhou and landed at Lahore Airport and flight No CZ 6038 took off from Lahore and reached Guangzhou on December 20.

The fully loaded flights signified passengers' soaring interest, a China South-flights after more than 3 years.

operations will continue for three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Earlier, China Southern Airlines resumed air routes from Lahore to Urumqi, with the first direct flight took off from Allama Iqbal International Airport at 9:50 am on June 13. The Urumgi-Lahore route was suspended on January 24, 2020, due to Covid-19 curbs on the aviation sector. The activity marked a defining moment for the resumption of

ern Airlines official told local

media. She said that flight

## Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta visits RCCI, BFC to open on January 15

#### 腾 🛛 Tariq khattak

RAWALPINDI: Secretary Industries Punjab Ehsan Bhatta visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). During the visit, RCCI President Saqib Rafiq gave a detailed briefing on RCCI activities, discussed development projects and shared an update on facilities being provided to the business community for the promotion of trade activities in the region.

Secretary Industries said that in ments. the light of the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, business facilitation centers in six cities including Rawalpindi are being established. Business Facilitation inaugurated on January 15, he added.

Secretary Industries appreciated the efforts of Rawalpindi Chamber for the establishment of Business Facilitation Center and assured full support from Punjab Government for the early completion of the center. On this occasion, President Saqib Rafiq said that the BFC for business community in Punjab will serve as major step towards ease of doing business which will provide seamless interaction between the business community and 36 different depart-

Earlier, the Secretary Industries also visited the Business Facilitation Center site in RDA where he was given a detailed briefing on various parts of the proposed center, Center (BFC) in Rawalpindi will be one window facility and operational matters.



## **Sports** Sunday, December 24, 2023

# The Spokesman

# PCB announces squad for ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup

#### 🐞 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Saad Baig will lead the 15-member Pakistan U19 squad in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in South Africa to be played from January 19 to February 11, 2024.

Among the squad are Ali Asfand and Mohammad Zeeshan, both of whom had represented Pakistan in the previous edition of U19 World Cup held in West Indies in January-February 2022.

Pakistan U19 squad - Saad Baig (captain and wicketkeeper), Ali Asfand (vice-captain), Ali Raza, Ahmad Hassan, Amir Hassan, Arfat Minhas, Azan Awais, Haroon Arshad, Khubaib Khalil, Mohammad Zeeshan, Naveed Ahmed Khan, Shahzaib Khan, Shamyl Hussain, Muhammad Riazullah and Ubaid Shah.



Committee Sohail Tanvir said: players who have made it into am confident that this well-bal-

anced side has the capability and potential to perform well in the World Cup.

"While picking the team, we have considered the conditions in South Africa where the pitches are conducive to pace bowling and have aimed to cover all bases.

Support staff – Shoaib Mohammad (Team Manager), Mohammad Yousaf (Head Coach), Rehan Riaz (Bowling Coach), Mansoor Amjad (Fielding Coach), Muhammad Masroor (Assistant Batting Coach), Umer Rashid Dar (Assistant Coach), Hafiz Naeem Ul Rasul (Team Physio), Usman Hashmi (Team Analyst) and Imran Ullah (Strength & Conditioning Coach).

The players named in the squad will assemble for a training camp, which will take place from 28 December 2023 to 6 January 2024 in Lahore.

# WATCH: Haris Rauf comes out to bat without pads in BBL

#### 🐞 A Sports

ALBURY: Pakistan's rightarm speedster Haris Rauf on Saturday, left cricket fans in splits when he rushed out to bat unequipped in the Big Bash League (BBL) fixture between Melbourne Stars and Sydney Thunder.

Haris Rauf, representing Melbourne Stars in the ongoing BBL 2023, found himself the centre of attention in his side's five-wicket defeat against the Thunder when he came out to bat at No.11.

Rauf came out to bat after his teammate Mark Steketee got run out at the rushed to the field in fear of getting timed out.

When Haris Rauf entered safety equipment on but put expecting himself to bat as which he left out



non-strikers' end on the supposed to face the final picked in the Platinum catepenultimate delivery. He delivery of the innings, the gory by Karachi Kings in the recently-held Pakistan absence of the pads did not cause any trouble. Super League (PSL) 2024 Players Draft, ran through

For the unversed, Haris the field he did not have any Rauf presumably was not the Stars' batting tail. on gloves and helmets on Melbourne Stars were 170/6 up three wickets in the over exploits went in vain. his way, barring the pads, before the commencement while Steketee got run out of the final over. as the Stars slipped from

Sams led the bowling attack for the Thunder with 4/33 in his four overs, followed by Pakistan international Zaman Khan, who returned brilliant figures of 3/24.

Beau Webster top-scored for the Stars with an anchoring half-century. His 59-run knock, which came in 44 balls, featured two boundaries and as many sixes.

In response, the Thunder comfortably chased down the 173-run target for the loss of five wickets and 10 balls to spare.

Openers Alex Hales (40) and Cameron Bancroft (30) not only provided a decent platform for the pursuit but also remained the notable run-getters for the Thunder. Beau Webster backed

his gritty half-century with The all-rounder picked a four-fer but his all-round

Haris Rauf, however, went wicketless and leaked

Davis Cup tie to be played in Pakistan as tribunal rejects India's appeal over security

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting India's appeal against the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Davis Cup Committee's (DCC) decision, the Chair of the Independent Tribunal said the Davis Cup tie between Pakistan and India will be held in Pakistan, The News reported on Saturday.

The 15-member DCC earlier accepted the Pakistan Tennis Federation's (PTF) arguments, making it clear that Pakistan has every right to host the tie to be held in the first week of February in Islamabad.

On appeal of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) against the decision, an independent tribunal was formed. The tribunal upheld the ITF decision saying since there was no solid reason for not playing the match in Pakistan, hence, the Pakistan-India Davis Cup tie will be held on February 4, 2024, in Islamabad.

Judge David Casserly (Sports Resolution UK) rejected AITA's appeal against the committee's decision to allot the tie to Pakistan.

After going through all the relevant documents submitted by both parties - ITF Committee/Pakistan Tennis Federation and AITA, the Tribunal upheld the decision maintaining that all the reasons quoted by the AITA (such as raising Pakistan's general elections and law and order issues) seeking a

Mohammad Nawaz replaces Noman Ali for Australia Tests



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz replaced injured Noman Ali for the remainder of the Test series against Australia, sources claimed.

According to the details, the chair of the Pakistan Men's Selection Committee Wahab Riaz approved Mohammad Nawaz as Noman Ali's replacement for the series remainder.

Earlier, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that leftarm spinner Noman was ruled out of the series due to acute appendicitis.

"Noman Ali has been ruled out of the Test series against Australia due to acute appendicitis," stated PCB.

"Noman Ali complained of sudden and severe abdominal pain yesterday, leading to examinations and scans in emergency that confirmed a diagnosis of acute appendicitis.

"On Surgeon advice; he underwent Laparoscopic Appendectomy today in the morning. Post-surgery he is stable and doing fine. He will be discharged later this afternoon," PCB concluded.

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Earlier today, the two-day practice match between Pakistan and Victoria XI ended in a draw.

The previous day saw Pakistan declare their first innings at 323-8, helped by half-centuries by Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha.

In reply to Pakistan's 323, Victoria XI posted 272-4 before declaring.

Pakistan then posted 57-3 in their second innings, when stumps were called.

Following their practice match against Victoria XI, Pakistan will enjoy a rest day before resuming their training at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on December 25.

Meanwhile, the Australia team will report to Melbourne on December 23 and partake in the training session for two days before kicking off the Boxing Day Test on December 26.

#### **Pakistan Test squad**

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

#### AbrarAhmed 'not ready' for second Test against Australia



Since he was not

Daniel Sams, who was 170/6 to 172 all out.

20 runs in three overs.

neutral venue held no worth.

# Safeguarding India women wrestlers may be key to federation's return

#### 😂 Reuters

NEW DELHI:- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), battling a sexual harassment scandal, may need to safeguard women wrestlers to get its suspension lifted, the game's global governing body said on Saturday.

The Wrestling Federation of India was suspended by the United World Wrestling (UWW) in August after failing to hold its election on time.

The UWW had asked for a fresh election after the WFI's then-president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a lawmaker from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, was charged with sexual harassment and criminal intimidation.

Singh has denied wrongdoing and is out on bail, but the victory of a candidate



election has triggered fresh protest.

he backed as his successor in Thursday's quit the game in protest, while male

highest civilian awards.

Conditions to address the concerns about safeguarding could also be requested," a UWW spokesperson said, when asked about the possibility of lifting the suspension on the WFI.

"We are still gathering feedback from representatives onsite to determine if the conduct of the election was valid and well organised," the spokesperson said by email.

"Before we can lift the suspension, we need to receive the official information from the national federation and the confirmation by the NOC (National Olympic Committee) and the Ministry of Sports."

Wrestlers staged a sit-in protest against Singh in New Delhi and had to

#### Sports Desk

MELBOURNE: Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed will not be available for Pakistan's second Test of the three-match series against Australia, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared Saturday.

According to the PCB, Abrar Ahmed's symptoms have significantly improved but the mystery spinner did not fully recover and thus will not be considered for selection for the Boxing Day Test against Australia. "Abrar Ahmed's symptoms have significantly improved, and he has started bowling at 50 per cent intensity. Although he has worked really well since his diagnosis in Canberra, he still is not 100 per cent asymptomatic," stated PCB.

"Considering the nature of the injury and the workload required from a spinner in a Test match, Abrar is not yet ready and will therefore not be available for the second Test.

"He will undergo a preliminary fitness test on 25 December, which will determine his probable return-to-play date."

Notably, Abrar Ahmed complained of discomfort in his right leg after bowling eight overs on the third day of a four-day game against Prime Minister's XI.

Consequently, the 25-year-old spinner was taken off the field and was then sent for an MRI scan.

Sajid Khan was then added to the Pakistan squad for the Australia Tests to provide a cover for the injured mystery spinner.

For the unversed, Abrar was the first Pakistan player to suffer an injury on the Australian shores while Khurram Shahzad and Noman Ali became the latest victims.

# Manchester City cruise to first Club World Cup triumph

#### 😂 Sports Desk

Manchester City won the Club World Cup for the first time to end 2023 with five trophies after a 4-0 win over Fluminense in Jeddah on Friday.

City's victory extended Euro- major titles shows the unique pean clubs' domination of the competition since 2012 and was never in doubt once Julian Alvarez opened the scoring inside the first minute.

Nino's first-half own goal realistically ended the Brazilians' dreams of an upset, before the next one." Phil Foden and Alvarez rounded off the scoring in the final 20 minutes.

After clinching the treble of the club's first ever Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season, Manchester City also lifted the UEFA Super Cup for the first time in August.

Pep Guardiola also made history as the first coach to lift the Club World Cup on four occasions and

with three different clubs after previously winning the competition twice at Barcelona and once in charge of Bayern Munich.

"To win the treble was truly special, but to win two more trophies and now hold these five

mentality of this team," said Guardiola. "As a manager it is what I am

most proud of: that we are always there. No matter how much we win, no matter what trophies we lift, we are there again to fight for

City's poor Premier League form before flying out to Saudi Arabia had raised Fluminense

hopes that Guardiola's men could be vulnerable. But the growing chasm

between Europe's elite clubs and the rest of the world thanks to huge financial imbalances in the global game was instead exposed. European clubs have won 22 consecutive games at the Club

World Cup. Manchester City laboured for

45 minutes to break down Japan's Urawa Reds in the semi-final before cruising to a 3-0 win. This time, they needed less

than 45 seconds. Alvarez scored the fastest goal

ever in a Club World Cup final as he chested into an unguarded net after Nathan Ake's shot came back off the post.

At just 23, the Argentine added to his remarkable haul of silverware that includes the World Cup and Copa America at international level, the Copa Libertadores during his time at River Plate, plus Premier League,

Champions League, FA Cup and UEFA Super Cup medals during just over a year at City. Fluminense were then dealt

the killer blow when captain Nino turned Foden's cross into his own net after Rodri's pass opened up the Brazilian defence.

Ederson was called into action

to maintain City's two-goal lead before the break as the Brazilian international made a stunning save from Jhon Arias' header.

But his opposite number Fabio was the busier goalkeeper. The 37-year-old kept the score down

and saved Fluminense's blushes. Fabio turned Jack Grealish's fiercely struck effort behind before half-time and twice denied

Foden early in the second half. City were able to coast through

the second period to end a glorious year on a high, but victory could come at a cost.

Rodri was forced off with an injury 20 minutes from time. City have lost all three Premier League games this season when the influential Spanish midfielder has been absent and they travel to in-form Everton on December 27.

However, that did not take the shine off a marquee 12 months that marks the high-point in a trophy-laden 15 years since City's



fortunes were transformed by a takeover from Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Manchester City's third as Foden ed off the scoring two minutes slid in to meet his driven cross. And the man deputising for the the season.

Alvarez was the creator for injured Erling Haaland roundfrom time with his 10th goal of

wrestler and fellow Olympic medallist be talked out of their plans to throw their Sakshi Malik, a top woman wrestler Bajrang Punia returned one of India's medals into the River Ganges in May.



# The Spokesman

Sunday, December 24, 2023

## **Education in Masjid**

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Dr. Aneeq Ahmed attending meeting with the delegation of Darul Uloom at Governor House on Saturday.



# **Efforts in collaboration with** mosques vital to educate outof-school children: President

#### 腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr of literacy in the country. Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the need for making all possible efforts in collaboration with the mosques to educate around 28 million out-ofschool children in the coun- representatives of Auqaf and try. The president, chairing Religious Affairs departments a meeting to discuss the role attended the meeting. of mosques in promotion of

could be used for promotion

Program. It was told that Caretaker Minister for over 70,000 out-of-school Religious Affairs, education children in Islamabad were ministers of Sindh and Azad enrolled in the schools. Jammu and Kashmir, provin-The Accelerated Learning cial education secretaries, and Program Model envisages the In the meeting, the presschool children. The meeting Religious Affairs Minister

education, said the mosques ident was briefed about was told that the grown chilthe Accelerated Learning dren, who were deprived of education, could benefit from the said program. It was told the said program was flexible, focused and low-cost initiative which could also be implemented at the placprovision of five-year educa- es provided by the commution within 24 to 30 months nity, religious seminaries and enrollment of the out-of- and second shifts in schools.

Aneeg Ahmed said the federal government would extend all possible facilities to educate the out-of-school children. The participants of the meeting agreed to formulate a policy paper to utilise the platform of mosques for the education purpose. The draft of the policy paper would be presented before the federal cabinet for approval.

## Importance of information group increased manifold in age of narratives: Solangi

😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for



ing of the information group was imperative to meet the challenges of modern times

## **Chaudhry Nisar says** 'don't want to win elections on behalf of any party'



#### 😹 ΡΡΔ

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar claimed Saturday that he does not want to win elections on behalf of any political party.

While addressing an election rally, Chaudhry Nisar said that he wants to win elections solely on behalf of the people of the Sawan.

He said that he had successfully served the people of the constituency after grabbing victory in the elections for the first time in 1985.

"In this scenario, Pakistan can only be saved through a miracle. I want to assure you to play a role for a miracle after reaching the assembly?

"I believe in character but not vote. Everyone knows my services and my symbols can be seen everywhere in the area."

"My opponents had only constructed one road but in my tenure, several development projects were completed in this constituency."

Nisar hoped for his 'historical victory' Rawalpindi-III.

in the February 8, 2024, general elections. He added that he has never disappointed his voters nor involved in any sort of corruption.

The former interior minister said that he is contesting the general elections on two National Assembly (NA) and one Provincial Assembly (PA) seats [as an independent candidate].

He announced to closely monitor the election results and asked his supporters to stay vigilant during the counting of votes and inform him after witness ing any kind of violation.

Chaudhry Nisar, after being elected as an MPA from a Rawalpindi constituency in 2018, took an oath as the provincial lawmaker in May 2021.

The former federal minister had been elected from the Punjab Assembly constituency PP-10 in the 2018 general elections as an independent candidate.

He didn't take the oath in protest against alleged rigging which he claimed led to his defeat in the National Assembly's constituency NA-59,

Jahangir Tareen to contest polls from another constituency

#### 😂 Asim tanveer

MULTAN: Patron In-chief of Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Jahangir Tareen will also contest general elections from another constituency

IPP Patron In-chief Jahangir Tareen will also contest general elections from NA-149 Multan.



Sources told that the politi

Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that in the age of propaganda, narratives and counter narratives, the importance of the job of the officers of Information group had increased manifold.

Delivering his keynote address at "Graduation Ceremony of Training Programmes Domain Specific 38th MCMC and 40th Specialised Training Programme", here the other day, he said the responsibility of officers of this group was countering propaganda of inimical forces and promote and project Pakistan's soft and positive image.

information group officers

their skills by continuous of the officers of the informastudy. "You have to love your tion group should be to adopt job to improve your knowl- to rapidly changing media edge. You have to learn not landscape. The minister said only about media, media laws that when internet and social He said unlike many other but politics, history, geogra- media were introduced, it was restructuring of the informagroups of civil service, the phy, art, culture, music and thought that new window of languages of the country," he knowledge had been opened had to work hard to improve added. He said that the focus and the dependency of main- She opined that restructur-

Sitara e Imtiaz award

stream media would end.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid said that efforts were afoot for tion group as per requirements of the modern times.

Shahera Shahid urged the officers and probationers of the group to work hard to improve the standing of their group.

**Executive Director General** of Information Service Academy Dr Tariq Mehmood in his welcome address, threw the light on the aims and objectives of the two courses.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi distributed the certificates among the participants of the two courses

Senior officers from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting including Additional Secretary Information and Broadcasting Syed Mubashar Tauqir Shah and MD Associated Press of Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

received nomination papers and his team is likely to submit the papers tomorrow.

Tareen had earlier received nomination papers to contest the general elections 2024 from one National Assembly and two Punjab Assembly seats.

According to details, the nomination papers were received by Tareen's Tareen acquired nomination papers Lodhran-IV and PP-228 Lodhran-V. Chaudhry and Ishaq Khaqwani.

Ali Tareen will be covering the candidate of Jahangir Tareen, who has also received nomination papers for the same constituencies.

Earlier, it was reported that PML-N had agreed to support Jahangir Tareen-led IPP candidates in Lahore, Lodhran and Sahiwal.

PML-N would support IPP senior leader Aleem Khan on NA seat in legal team on his behalf. Jahangir Lahore and Nauman Langrial on NA Sahiwal seat, say sources, adding to contest elections from election that the party will not field its candifrom NA-155-Lodhran-II, PP-227 date against IPP candidates Awn

# PTI set to challenge ECP verdict to regain electoral symbol



#### 腾 🛛 Amjad Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf is set to move court on Tuesday [Dec 26] against the decision given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on the petitions challenging the PTI intra-party elections, party leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has said.

Interacting with media outside Adiala Jail on Saturday, Barrister Gohar called the revocation of PTI's electoral symbol of 'bat' a part of conspiracy.

While rejecting the ECP verdict, Gohar asserted that the PTI would regain its electoral symbol.

The PTI, he said, could challenge the ECP verdict either in the Supreme Court under Article 184 of the constitution or in the high court. "Both options are available."

Gohar requested courts to take up PTI's appeal on a priority as soon as it way it was being run before.

was filed. He expressed confidence and hope that the court would grant relief by ordering the restoration of PTI's electoral symbol.

But the ECP had yet to provide the PTI with certified copies of the verdict, he added.

According to Gohar, the incarcerated PTI founder has instructed the team to challenge the ECP decision in court.

He said they had completed their consultations and were ready to move court on Tuesday, Dec 26, but added that it was yet to be decided whether to challenge the ECP verdict in the Supreme Court or a high court.

It is important to note here that after the ECP invalidated PTI's intra-party polls on Friday, all positions within the party ceased to exist.

But Gohar, who also ceased to be the party's new chairman, categorically stated that the PTI would be run the

#### Don't make the villain -PTI founding chairman – a hero: PPP

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The PPP on

Saturday said the cipher

saga was a drama staged for

personal political gains that

had led to the May 9 events,

as senior party leader Shar-

jeel Inam Memon blasted

villain a hero," the PPP

leader said and added that

the real political leaders had

spent years in prison and

faced much tougher situa-

on their principles.

tion, but didn't compromise

He said that the parties

using their constitutional

right were declared traitors

by using the cipher drama

misguided - a reference to

the tactics used by the PTI

leadership before and after

passage of no-confidence

motion.

and the youth had been

for his actions.

the PTI founding chairman

"Don't make the nation's

## returned in protest after Balochistan march crackdown

#### 腾 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Author and journalist Mohammad Hanif returned his "Sitara e Imtiaz" award on Saturday in protest against government's crackdown on participants of the Balochistan march, which was conducted against enforced disappearance of their family members.

Hanif made the announcement in a post shared on social media platform X. "In protest, returning my Sitara e Imtiaz, given to me by a state that continues to abduct and torture Baloch citizens," he wrote.

"Journalists of my generation have seen @SammiBaluch and @MahrangBaloch\_ grow up in protest camps. Ashamed to witness a new generation being denied basic dignity," he added.

A women-led march from Turbat, initiated on Dec 6 following the alleged extrajudicial killing of a Baloch youth, reached Islamabad earlier this week. However, the capital police blocked entrances to the city and major routes leading to the National Press Club.

Later, the police started detaining



Baloch men and women in an action against them. Videos shared on social media showed security forces using water cannons and tear gas on the protesters, forcibly dragging Baloch individuals into police vans, and using batons against them.

Furthermore, the police dismantled protest camps and loudspeaker setups outside the National Press Club.

The actions drew massive criticism forcing the caretaker government to form a release of all detainees.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

It nothing from Pakistan, nothing at all, it are forcibly disappeared' words of



negotiation team comprising Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and Jamal Shah to engage with the protesters' families.

Later, the interim government announced that all women and children detained during the police crackdown on Baloch protesters had been released.

However, Baloch sit-in continues in the capital city as they are now demanding the