



India state-sponsor of terrorism in occupied Kashmir: President AJK

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said India has emerged as a state-sponsor and promoter of terrorism that is not only involved in terrorist activities in occupied Kashmir but also in Pakistan, Canada and other parts of the world. (Details on Page 2)



Muslim Countries should stop Israel from genocide of Palestinians: Nader Al-Turk

Deputy Head of Mission of Palestine Mr. Nader Al-Turk has raised question for whole Muslim world that First Qibla is for Palestinians only or for all Muslims? The Muslim countries should play their role to stop Israel from Genocide of Palestinians. Moreover the Head of Alkhidmat organization of Pakistan has shared that the organization will set up a grand hospital at Rifah near the border of Gaza with Egypt. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Anit-Judiciary Campaign meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press conference along with relevant authorities including the Head of JIT constituted to investigate the anti-judiciary campaign on social media on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Malicious campaign' against top judiciary being probed as per law: Solangi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) was investigating the "malicious campaign" against the top judiciary on social media in accordance with the law. Addressing a news conference along with officials of the FIA, PTA and other relevant institutions, the minister said the JIT was formed on January 16 to probe into the anti-judiciary campaign on the social media networking sites.

He said the JIT's first meeting held was on January 17 while the second one convened on January 23. The process to probe into the drive was still underway, he added. So far, 600 social media accounts were investigated, he said, adding as many as 100 inquiries were registered. The minister said notices were served on 110 individuals that included 32 journalists and 22 politicians and political workers. The notices to the identified individuals were served in accordance with the law, Solangi said while brushing aside the reports regarding the harass-

ment of journalists in the matter related to a "malicious campaign" against top judges. The minister said it was imperative to bring forth the facts in this regard. So far no First Investigation Report was lodged against anybody, nor anyone was arrested for this matter. Solangi said the law would take its courts and actions against those who were involved in running the campaign against the judiciary would be taken in accordance with the law. To a query, he said there were reasonable restrictions on the freedom of expression and the law of the land prohibited from

running campaigns against the judiciary and armed forces. "This is not about criticism rather it is related to character assassination and ridiculing [of the judiciary]," he said in response to another query. "What has been done against the judges of the apex court during the last couple of days on social media, it does not come under the pretext of criticism," he said while clarifying that there should be a fine line between the criticism and ridiculing someone. To another query, he said the caretaker government could only take measures in accordance with its mandate. However, the legis-

lation on any issue was the job of the Parliament whose lower house did not exist as of now. "Nobody has been picked up since the JIT is formed," he said while dispelling the impression of a witch-hunt under the garb of the JIT. He said the intensity of the malicious campaign had decreased significantly since the formation of the JIT. FIA Director General Ahmad Ishaque Jahangir said notices were served to give an opportunity to the identified individuals to give their side of version on the issue. "Not every notice end up in the FIR," he added.

Sharifs bask in Sialkot's unwavering support, promise bright future to youth

Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday promised skill development and provision of loans for the youth, wondering who says the youngsters do not support the PML-N. Addressing a rally in Sialkot, Nawaz said the removal of his governments had pushed the country back and mentioned the unprecedented inflation rate, which have crushed the low-income groups. Question those who destroyed the country through their decisions and actions, he said, adding that the excesses committed against the masses could not be forgotten. He described Khawaja Asif as the most faithful friend, saying the relationship goes back to 55 years, as he also mentioned other close associates - including Rana Shamim, late



Zahray Shah, Manshaullah Butt and Armaghan Subhani - with whom the friendship started before 1985. Nawaz said the PML-N would reconstruct the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway because it wasn't constructed according to the desired standards and connect the two cities through a railway line. In her address, Maryam Nawaz said the Sharif family was thankful to Sialkot - at the leaders and people levels - for their steadfastness and loyalty. She asked the young men and women to use their ballot sensibly, saying the person giving petrol bombs

could not be sincere to them. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif said the massive crowd was a proof that the sunrise on Feb 8 would belong to the PML-N, propelling Nawaz to the prime minister office for fourth term. "Some political rivals are saying that the PML-N and Nawaz are not holding rallies. Is this mammoth rally being held in a room?" he remarked and promised that the opponents would be swept away on Feb 8. "People would show a yellow [red] card to the rival and remove him from the ground on Feb 8," he said about PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari without naming him. Shehbaz listed the past achievements of Nawaz during the three shortened terms, including the offers made to him by the then US president Bill Clinton to stop him from going for nuclear tests.

Only politicians know Pakistan's issues: Asif Zardari

Bureau Report

HUB: Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday asserted that only politicians know the issues of Pakistan, emphasising democracy only way out of crises. Addressing a public gathering in connection with elections 2024, the former president said PPP never talked about confrontation despite the injustices it faced. "The party [PPP] always fought for democracy and will do it forever," he said. Asif Zardari regretted that there was no "ideal democracy" in the country, noting that only the politicians know the real issues of Pakistan. Speaking of Balochistan, the PPP co-Chairman said he would try to protect the rights of the people living in the province. He mentioned that the provincial budget had been raised by four times but it was invisible anywhere.



Iran offers condolences to Pakistan over killing of nine labourers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Iran has offered condolences to Pakistan over the killing of nine of its labourers on its soil. Iranian envoy to Pakistan in his statement condemned the killings of Pakistani labourers in Iran and said Tehran and Islamabad will not tolerate affliction of damage to the countries' relations. "Iran and Pakistan will not allow enemies to cause damage to the countries' brotherly relations," the Iranian envoy said in his statement. His remarks came hours after unknown assailants gunned down at least nine Pakistani nationals and injured three others in the suburb of the city of Saravan in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan. According to available infor-



mation among the victims, five hailed from different areas of Alipur in Punjab province and had been working in Iran for the past decade. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Pakistan's envoy to Tehran condemned the "horrible killings" and called upon Iran to extend full cooperation with Pakistani authorities on the matter. The development came a day after Mudassar arrived in Tehran while his Iranian counterpart landed in Islamabad, signalling the full restoration of diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries following deadly cross-border attacks.

Two injured Pakistanis in Iran to be discharged soon: Ambassador

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Sunday said two Pakistanis injured in a terror incident in Iran will be discharged soon from the hospital while the third citizen required more treatment. In a post on X, he said "Our Consul in Zahidan reached hospital & met our three brave and hardworking Pakistanis



whose sacrifices I salute. Glad that 2 will soon be discharged while our third brother will require more treatment. Pakistan firmly stands with them and does whatever is required for their well-being."

IMF advises Pakistan to bring other social support programs with BISP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged Pakistan to introduce other social support mechanisms along with the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The IMF in a statement said that Pakistan should take more steps for extending social protection to the weaker classes. "Pakistan should take consistent efforts to run the social assistance programme," IMF stated. "The protected electricity and gas tariff slabs should remain continue," the monetary fund advised. "In current fiscal year the



targets of health and education expenditures were achieved in September, but the caretaker government could not attain the December target owing to limited capability," IMF stated. The lender has urged the next elected government to continue social security expenditures till the end of the ongoing financial year. The IMF lauded the BISP for its best mechanism to extend prompt support adding that the program still has capacity for further improvement.

FBISE to arrange speech competitions to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) has planned to organize speech competitions for the Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary School Certificate levels of students separately on February 1. The competitions will be arranged in the auditorium of the FBISE as a token of showing unity with the Kashmiri people and in order to support the sublime cause of the right

to self-determination of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The main objective of the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day is to highlight the illegal actions of India against the people of IIOJK and the resultant perpetration of atrocities committed by the Indian Armed Forces. The topics of the speech competitions are "Insani Haqooq aur Masla-i-Kashmir" for SSC and "Kashmir aur Aalmi Ikhtlaqiyat: Aik Alamgir Pehlo."

'One nation, one law': PTI unveils manifesto for Feb 8 polls

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: (Dunya News)-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Gohar Khan on Sunday presented the manifesto for the much-awaited elections slated to be held on Feb 8, 2024. Addressing a press confer-



ence in Islamabad, Gohar said PTI's manifesto was titled 'Shandaar Pakistan, Shandaar

Mustaqbil aur Kharaab Maazi sey chutkara'. While announcing the election manifesto, he said the PTI manifesto has been premised on 'Naya Pakistan and system of change' as he mentioned to introduce amendments to the constitution if voted to power. "Due to this amendment, the

PM will come to power directly due to the people's votes and he will not be dependent on the votes of a few MNAs," he added. Further, he said the party would reduce the term of the assembly from five years to four years as the Senate's term would be reduced from six years to five years while mentioning

that 50 percent of the Senators would be chosen directly by the people. He specifically highlighted that the party's manifesto is one nation, one rule so that all are equal while mentioning that two laws cannot work in one country as the rule of law is the most important thing.

India state-sponsor of terrorism in occupied Kashmir: President AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said India has emerged as a state-sponsor and promoter of terrorism that is not only involved in terrorist activities in occupied Kashmir but also in Pakistan, Canada and other parts of the world.

In a statement issued here today, the president said that India's expansionist designs pose a serious threat to the peace and security in South Asia. The Hindu supremacist regime led by Modi was hell bent on expelling Muslims of the occupied Kashmir and India to make India a Hindu Rashtra—a purely Hindu state for upper caste Hindus in India. "Muslims who have been living in India for centuries are being rendered homeless and forced to leave the country," he added. Referring to the post 5th August scenario in Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said that after stripping the region of its



special status and splitting it into two parts, the Modi regime had turned it into a colony.

Terming these actions as a violation

of all the UNSC resolutions and international treaties, he said the people of Kashmir have out rightly rejected this illegal move. "Since then the

political and human rights situation in the IoK has worsened," he said, adding that innocent youths were being arrested and subjected to the worst torture in detention camps and torture cells. He said that rape was being used as a weapon of war by the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir. About India's land grab policy in Kashmir, he said that under the so-called investment policy Kashmir's prime land was being sold to non-Kashmiris on nominal prices. On the other hand, the president, pointed out that the fascist regime had intensified its efforts to alter the region's demography. He said that granting domicile certificates to non-state subjects was part of the Modi government's policy to turn Muslim majority into a minority. Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that it was high time that the international community should take immediate notice of this and stop India from its terrorist activities.

Sardar Attique expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow



Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of mother of prominent lawyer and Member Central Executive committee Muslim Conference Zulfikar Ahmed Siddiqui Advocate during the Rawalakot visit. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed to Allah the almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace. Senior leader Muslim Conference Khawaja Javed Ahmad and Syed Azhar Ali Shah and other also present on the occasion.

Khanewal police arresting PTI candidates without warrant: Asim Chaudhry



Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Leaders Bar Association President Mian Chanu Asim Chaudhry, Ashraf Sial Advocate, while holding a press conference at Gilani Plaza, said that there are soldiers of Imran Khan, the police also raided the houses of the lawyers and arrested them without warrant. The series continues, he said since the election Earlier PTI candidate PP 208 Chaudhry Jamshed Shaukat and his workers were arrested and spoiled the election environment and concessions are being given to one party while the voters of PTI are conscious. We stood together, we worked as PTI workers for many years are doing but now some new faces are coming and claiming to be party ticket and PTI workers, he added that whoever leaves PTI, we will not support anyone, we will only support Imran Khan. The leaders said that the release of our candidates should be made possible and the series of unjustified arrests By closing it, we will be allowed to participate in the election in a good way so that we can come to the field and campaign for our candidates and win the election fully. Leaders including Advocate, Chaudhry Mudassar Raza Advocate and others A large number of workers were present.

359 polling stations in Sujawal district lack basic facilities

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Around 359 polling stations of Sujawal district have been deprived of basic facilities in Sujawal district, this Correspondent learnt on Sunday. Education works and services had received 90 millions for the purpose of maintaining the school buildings to be used as polling stations on the day of elections.



During the survey conducted by a team of journalists on Sunday it emerged that around 359 polling stations across the district lacked even basic facilities including the facility of latrine and drinking water. It was also disclosed by the concerned authorities that many of them have been declared as female-polling stations. Buildings of polling stations located in remote areas of the district including Shahbunnder and Jati taluka were in dilapidated condition. As many as 18 buildings were not even in usable condition. Local residents told reporters that no one among the high ups had taken this issue seriously. They warned that people would not come to vote in the areas where the polling stations were in derelict condition. Members of civil society lamented the alleged misappropriation of funds and called for strict accountability. When this Correspondent approached officials of the education works department they evaded from responding to his questions.

Saylani Mass IT Training Program

HYDERABAD: Students solve their question paper during the Grand entry test for the admission in "Saylani Mass IT Training Program", organized by Saylani Welfare Organization, at local hall.



Photo: Online

Rana Sarwar Group support for PTI Candidate PP 217 Multan in general election 2024

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf nominated candidate for Provincial Assembly PP 217 Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi Rana Sarwar's residence held a corner's meeting at Gana Mandi in which Rana Kaleem Sarwar, Rana Tahir Mahmood Advocate, Rana Nadeem Guddu, Rana Shahzad, Qasim Bhola, Maqbool Ansari, Rana Salim Sarwar and others were present on this occasion-



Speaking, Yashi said that the sun of oppression will set one day and a good morning will dawn. On the occasion, he announced the full support of Mohammad Nadeem Qureshi and Makhdoom Zain Qureshi of Rana Sarwar Group.

Malik Amir Bapi announced his full support for Gillani family in election

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former ticket Holder of PML-N Constituency PP 213 Malik Amir Bapi has announced his support for Gillani family in General Elections-2024.

Malik Amir Hussain Bapi organized a grand workers convention in Union Council Panjkoha in honor of candidate Pakistan Peoples Party Constituency NA148 former Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and candidate MPA Constituency PP213 Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Syed Ali Haider Geelani, Syed in NA151 Ali Musa Geelani and NA152 announced their full support for Syed Abdul Qadir Geelani, Malik Ayaz Hussain Bapi, Malik Riaz Hussain Bapi, Allah Dutta Bapi also announced their support for the PPP.

Exclusive Interview

Pakistan Customs is the Guardian of Pakistan Borders against Movement Against illegal Trade: Imran Bukhari

Kiran Asim

Chief Collector Customs Multan Region Syed Imran Sajad Bukhari Said Pakistan Customs is the guardian of Pakistan borders against movement of contra band goods and is facilitator of bona fide trade. It provides a major source of revenue to the Government of Pakistan in the form of taxes levied on the goods traded across the borders. Collector Customs Syed Imran Sajad Bukhari Said the Collectorate of Customs, Central Excise and Sales Tax, Multan was established in April 1990. It regulates the flow of goods into and out of a country. Most importantly, the customs deals with the collection of duties levied on imported goods. The basic function of customs is to

facilitate legal trade and prevent illegal trade. Legal Trade and import, export handles appraisement collectorate.

Syed imran Sajad Bukhari Said Anti-smuggling or enforcement collectorate like our collectorate, we catch the smugglers and for that there are different collectorates all over the country from the border area, everyone has their own chunk, their own jurisdiction, whatever problem they see. So they make a case for it.

He Further said In order to prevent smuggling from all over the country, when raids are carried out to prevent smuggling, there are different things depending on the season.

Like imported warm cloth, dry fruits, beetle nuts, imported blankets, velvet, etc are caught in winters. Apart from

this, skimmed milk which is used in sweets is also caught, it is also smuggled in large quantities, whey and protein powder which are used in industries, besides china salt and various chemicals which have higher duty taxes. So to avoid it, people bring it by smuggling.

Collector Customs Multan Region Syed Imran Sajad Bukhari Said Apart from this, our jurisdiction also includes airports where foreign currency, gold, mobile phones, LCDs, etc. are being smuggled from there, which we apprehend in large numbers on a daily basis.

Auto Parts, iPhone, Laptops, Currency and Gold These are routinely caught by us at the airport which are smuggled to other countries and when any flight reaches Multan it is routinely screened first by our scanners. Which

are deployed and we have different agencies working with us including ANF Anti-Narcotics Force, Customs and ASF Airport Security Force If there is any weapon or explosives they would immediately seize it.

After that, the smuggled goods are confiscated and the person is given time to prove his innocence. If the document is verified then we consider it as genuine trade and we do not impose any penalty on it.

And we return that person's luggage and those who come from international flights also follow the same process. if they pay the duty tax. Like if someone brought a mobile phone and if it is not allowed to bring a mobile phone without duty tax and he tells us that he did not know and he is ready to pay the duty

tax so he comes and pays his taxes and is allowed to leave with his mobile phone.

And if a smuggler is found to have not brought his goods legally, then fines and penalties are imposed on him, his goods are confiscated and we dispose of them through public auction after applying duty taxes on them.

And the auction we do is that we first see the physical condition of the item and then price it. It is not necessary that if the item is worth 50,000 in the market, we will also give it for 50,000. If it's been with us for six months and now it's a bit broken, a bit old and used, so we depreciate it and then you get it at a lower market price.

The same is the case with vehicles, if they have any tear over time, we consider them to reduce their price. Smuggling

is a worldwide phenomenon. There is no country or nation in the world like that is, if something is not smuggled into their country, our job is to outsmart them. If we have detected one of their methods, they will adopt another method tomorrow.

The deficiency in our institution is that the customs do not have enough manpower as an enforcement agency should have. The three divisions of Multan and airport have very less manpower, besides we do not have a customs court in Multan. We have to go to Faisalabad or Lahore for our cases, so our manpower becomes very involved in that, any case, big or small, we have to take them to Faisalabad or Lahore, then it will be easy and Time saving also if we have a custom court here.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 5:41 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 3:56 pm
Maghrib 5:34 pm
Isha 7:00 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Punjab Govt's 3-member ministerial delegation meet with the Sikh community in Toronto

PNP

LAHORE: A 3-Member Ministerial Delegation of the Punjab government met with the Sikh community in Toronto. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conveyed his good wishes message to them. Minister for Commerce SM Tanveer, Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir and Minister for Tourism Amir Mir exchanged views with the Sikh community. The Canadian Sikh community leaders were handed over the invitation to visit Punjab. It was principally decided during the meeting to undertake practicable steps for the promotion of religious tourism and trade between Canada and Pakistan. The proposal floated by the Sikh community to build 5 star hotels in Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur was unanimously agreed. A special Tourism Portal has been launched by the Punjab government for the facilitation of Sikh pilgrims. The Sikh pilgrims coming from abroad can obtain a complete Tourism Package. A State Security will also be provided to the Sikh pilgrims under the Tourism Package. The Pakistani diplomats also participated in the meeting between the Provincial Ministers and the Sikh community.

Gulmina Bilal marks history as first woman Chairperson of NAVTTC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) warmly welcomed Gulmina Bilal Ahmad as its new Chairperson, marking a historic moment as she became the first woman to hold a leadership position at the Commission.

With an illustrious career spanning over 24 years in the development sector, Gulmina Bilal Ahmad brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Her expertise focuses on peacebuilding, countering violent extremism, developing alternate narratives, communications, sensitization, research, and capacity building, a news release on Sunday said.



Internationally recognized as a facilitator, Gulmina Bilal Ahmad has worked with esteemed clients in the United States of America, Germany, Romania, and Bulgaria. Her proficiency also extends to countering violent extremism, public policy, and communications studies, making her a sought-after resource person in these domains. Additionally, she has numerous publications to her credit.

Her exceptional career and dedication to the development sector make Gulmina Bilal Ahmad a fitting leader for NAVTTC.

The organization looks forward to a new era under her guidance, embracing diversity and fostering excellence in vocational and technical training.

Welcoming Ms. Bilal this morning, Executive Director NAVTTC, Muhammad

Aamir Jan said: 'It is with great enthusiasm that we extend a warm welcome to Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmad as the new Chairperson of NAVTTC. Her proven track record in the development sector and commitment to positive change align seamlessly with NAVTTC's vision. Together, we look forward to forging a path of excellence in vocational and technical training.'

Address

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Shoaib Shaheen PTI candidate NA 47 addressing to a corner meeting.



Photo: Spokesman

Alternative Lifestyle Festival highlights alternate choices for a sustainable future

PPA

KARACHI: SEED Ventures, through its The Alternative (WTA) initiative, orchestrated the Alternative Lifestyle Festival in Karachi, Pakistan. The event served as a vibrant platform, uniting individuals in their pursuit of sustainable alternatives and mindful living. Shaista Ayesha, CEO & Director of SEED Ventures, emphasized, "The Alternative Lifestyle Festival has not only showcased the vitality of sustainable living but has also ignited a collective passion for conscious choices that resonate with our daily lives. As we reflect on the event's success, it's clear that festivals like this are essential—they catalyze change, uniting individuals under the common goal of a future where we make conscious choices for a more sustainable life-



style, and encouraging them to think about alternatives in the choices they make in their everyday lives. This gathering has proven that together, we have the power to inspire and drive meaningful impact in our communities and beyond."

The panel, "Choices for Change" engaged leaders from across industries: from Hassan Sheheryar Yasin, Designer; to Sadia Dada, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, K-Electric; Andleeb Uroos

Ahmed, Head of Communications, Philip Morris Pakistan Limited; and Sarah Nasiruddin, Co-Founder, Karachi Farmer's Market.

Hassan touched upon sustainable fashion and its impact on style and the environment; Sadia stressed the adoption of alternative energy for a better future; Uroos shed light on the importance of scientific & technological advancements leading to alternatives that reduce tobacco

harm, and Sarah enlightened the audience about the significance of organic food choices.

There was also a fireside chat with Tofiq Pasha Mooraj, Horticulture expert, and Dr Ayesha Mian, CEO & Founder Synapse and a mental well-being expert with extensive experience in academia and capacity building.

The event also featured a composting workshop by Trashit and a healing drum circle for the attendees.

Three-Day Community Resilience Strategy Workshop organized by Community Resilience Activity-North

PPA

KARACHI: The Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Sindh and Balochistan, organized a successful three-day Community Resilience (Flood Recovery) Workshop at Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi from January 24-26, 2024. The workshop aimed to enhance coordination and cooperation between CRA-North and government stakeholders, with the shared objective of supporting flood-affected communities to 'Build-Back-Better'.



Bakhsh Baloch also attended the workshop. Addressing the activity, he said "I wish to see the same standard of zeal and zest among the public and other private organizations, as I witnessed today in IOM ranks and files towards nurturing community resilience against disasters. I am confident that IOM work in this regard would magnetise others to deliver concerted outcomes."

Balochistan, Jahanzab Khan Ghorezai, said, "the commitment displayed by CRA-North through these strategic planning workshops are commendable. It not only addresses immediate recovery needs but also focuses on long-term solutions.

Deputy Chief of Party CRA-North, IOM, Jannat Durrani, while addressing the occasion, said, "the partnership between IOM and PDMA Balochistan is an embodiment of

shared goals. By working together on activities related to flood recovery, we are aligning efforts with the community's needs.

The workshop was attended by the stakeholders from PDMA Sindh & Balochistan, Education Department Balochistan, Irrigation Department Balochistan, University of Sindh & Balochistan, BUTEMS, District Administration from Sindh & Balochistan, Urban Planning & Development Department Balochistan, Social Welfare Department Balochistan, Sukkur IBA Disaster Management & Development Studies, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency, Pakistan Meteorological Department,

Planning and Development Department Sindh, Institute of Business Management Sindh, and Department Of Empowerment Of Person With Disabilities Sindh.

The Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North) program is designed to support community-driven resilience and conflict prevention activities within the newly merged districts (NMDs) of Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan, and Orakzai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province. The program also aims to assist flood-affected communities in Swat District (KP), Quetta District (Balochistan Province), Jacobabad, Dadu, and Khairpur Districts in Sindh Province to build back better.

CBD Punjab's Walton Railway Crossing Flyovers Forge Ahead Under CEO Imran Amin's Vision



PPA

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) is progressing in the construction of the CBD Punjab Boulevard Walton Railway Crossing Flyovers, spearheaded under the visionary leadership of CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin.

Key updates from the meeting include the completion of steel fixing for both piers and abutments, as well as the concrete pouring of Flyover Two caps. Present at the meeting were key figures, including Executive Director Technical Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Commercial Mohammad Omer, Director Project Management Asif Iqbal, and Director Construction Asif Babar.

The CBD Punjab Boulevard Railway Crossing Flyovers, connecting CBD Punjab Quaid District and CBD Punjab Bob District, aim to provide seamless access from Gulberg Main Boulevard to Walton Road. Ongoing activities involve excavation for MSC wall, casting of girders, and MSC wall block production. Additionally, steel fixing of piers and abutments for Flyover 1 is progressing, and asphalt work is underway on CBD Punjab Boulevard.

CEO Imran Amin expressed optimism about the project's timely completion, commending the collaborative efforts of CBD Punjab, NLC, Nespak, and the contractor. Ensuring a modern infrastructure for Lahore remains a top priority for CBD Punjab.

In parallel, work on the Walton Road Upgradation is addressing traffic and sewage issues, benefiting Walton and its surrounding population. CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin urged the efficient utilization of all resources to meet project deadlines. CBD Punjab has also initiated the Major Ishaq Shaheed Flyover project, contributing to the ongoing enhancement of Lahore's infrastructure.

CBD Punjab is committed to delivering a modern and efficient urban environment, and these projects underscore its dedication to the development and progress of Lahore city.

2000 participated in Islamabad marathon

City desk

ISLAMABAD: Nearly 2,000 participants, including both local and international runners, took part in the Islamabad Marathon that began on Sunday.

The marathon featured four categories, including full and half marathons, along with 5 and 10-kilometer races, said a private news channel.

It also included a special Kids Marathon, catering to the younger participants. The organizers emphasized their commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging physical activity among children.

These marathons not only provide a platform for professional athletes but also promote fitness and well-being in the community, fostering a culture of health consciousness and sportsmanship.

ANF recovers over 133 kg drugs in 16 operations; arrests 14

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), while conducting 16 operations across the country, managed to recover over 133 kg of drugs and arrest 14 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that 145 grams of weed and 47 grams of CBD oil were recovered from five parcels sent from the UK to a courier office in Rawalpindi, while two accused were netted.

54 kg of hashish was recovered near Kala Shah Kaku Toll Plaza, Sheikhupura and an accused was arrested. In an operation, 20 kg of hashish was recovered from an accused arrested in Muzaffargarh. Similarly, 18 kg of hashish was recovered near Mohammad Zai village in Kohat.

In another raid, 12 kg of hashish and 4 kg of ice were recovered from an accused nabbed from the hub area. 10 kg of hashish was recovered from a suspect rounded up near Burhan Interchange Attock, while in an operation near Lakpass Toll Plaza Quetta, 4 kg of heroin and 1 kg of ice were recovered from four suspects, including three women. 4 kg of hashish was recovered from an accused nabbed near Hayatabad, Peshawar.

Similarly, ANF arrested an accused near Chamkani GT Road, Peshawar, with 2 kg of heroin. 2 kg of hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza GT Road Attock.

The ANF team also recovered 500 grams of opium and 1 kg of hashish from a woman netted near Chungi No. 26. 630 grams of ice were recovered from Zero Line Torkham. The spokesman said that separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused.

Railways to ensure quality dining facilities in maximum passenger trains

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is planning to attach quality dining facilities with most of its passenger trains that would help the travelers to provide fresh eatable items during their journey in the trains across the country. In the new service, the passengers would enjoy a better environment with enhanced dining facilities as at a time, 45 passengers could take food in the upgraded dining car, an official in the Ministry of Railways told to media.

He said the premium dining car has a menu list of 40 food items, including barbecue and pizza while keeping in view demands of the passengers, ovens (Tandoors) have been installed to provide fresh roti (plain bread).

Initially, the official said that two dining cars have been attached to Zakariya Express (Up and Down), followed by two more to be attached with the up and down trains of Hazara Express.

The official said that after this, five more trains would be equipped with restaurant on-wheel service, followed by the other ones. "We are focusing on improving our other services too," he added.

Earlier, Pakistan Railways launched a state-of-the-art dining car called 'Restaurant on Wheel' last month. The modern dining car has been introduced initially for passengers travelling through Bahauddin Zakariya Express.

"Within its limited resources, the department is trying its level best to improve the services. Besides introducing the modern dining car facility, Pakistan Railways has also decided to improve the service related to cleanliness and passengers' rest and sleeping," he added.

The official said that it is an air-conditioned dining car having a beautiful ambience. It is a restaurant on wheels where the passengers can enjoy quality delicious food like the restaurants in the cities.

He said besides Tandoors, the dining car is equipped with microwave ovens and other facilities which are generally available in modern kitchens. If someone doesn't want to take a meal in the dining car, waiters would serve them food on their seat, he added.

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‘Pakistan Ko Nawaz Do’ - II

In reference to his affection, concern and love for the populace and Imran Khan's insensitivity toward the common people, he stated that he visited Aabpara market immediately after assuming power in 2013 and conducted personal interviews with vendors, shopkeepers, and customers to ascertain and inquire about the costs of essential commodities and their wellbeing. Conversely, he asserted that in Quetta, a terrorist attack claimed the lives of over hundred Hazaras, whose families refused to bury their loved ones until the prime minister personally addressed them and guaranteed them justice. According to him, Mr. Iman declined to pay a visit to the bereaved families and instead compounded the harm by publicly stating that this constituted coercion and he would not yield. He pondered the manner in which an individual with such an insensitive mindset could hold the position of prime minister of the nation.

He asserted that his party is the only one that consistently ensures the manifesto is formulated with the knowledge, expertise, and skills of party members, leaders, and subject matter experts incorporated. The PML(N) consistently ensures that the manifesto maintains its sanctity by excluding any unfulfillable pledges or commitments. According to him, the country was on the verge of utter collapse in 2013 when the PML(N) assumed power. A severe elec-

tricity shortage persisted with no apparent resolution in site. There was a severe gas shortage that had repercussions for both industries and households. With inflation on the rise, the PKR was rapidly depreciating. FATF was on the verge of blacklisting the nation, which was previously on its graylist.

He asserted that in spite of extremely detrimental sit-ins and long marches, his administration, in accordance with its manifesto, added 12,000 MW of electricity, resolved the gas crisis, reduced the inflation rate to between 2% and 5%, and maintained the rupee at Rs.105 throughout his entire term in office and restored the existing highways and motorways constructed additional highways motorways and farm to market road.

He stated that the country could have been on a faster trajectory of development and progress if he had been allowed to continue governing, as opposed to the current state of affairs, which includes the rupee groaning under the weight of a sluggish economy from Rs. 285 to Rs. 307 against dollar, the return of gas and electricity blackouts for households, the closure of industries due to high input costs and lack of utilities, and the relocation of businesses to other nations. He

stated that the agricultural sector has been hardest affected by rising costs for fertilizers, seeds, electricity, diesel, and gasoline. Tractors, which were once priced at Rs. 900,000 during his time, have since escalated to an exorbitant Rs. 35,00,000 each. The vegetable prices, which were between 10 and 20 Rupees per kilogram during his time, have since soared to between 100 and 300 Rupees, rendering them prohibitive for even the lower middle to upper middle classes.

Automobiles manufactured by Suzuki, Toyota, and Honda, which were purchasable for the middle class during his era for a price range of Rs. 900,000 to Rs. 30,00,000, have now surpassed the financial means of even the wealthiest classes, costing between Rs. 30,00,000 and Rs. 20,00,000. The family, previously owned automobiles, had switched to motorcycles as a result of the exorbitant expenses associated with vehicles and fuel. He claimed that had the PML(N) government persisted in its operations, the entire nation's cities could have been serviced by the orange lines trains and the metro bus services, and automobiles could have been affordable for the average citizen.

Sharif's speech, punctuated by pauses for Azan and Maryam Nawaz's

departure, reaffirmed his commitment to uplifting the common man. He emphasized a government attuned to people's hardships, dreams, and aspirations, particularly highlighting the youth's pivotal role in national progress, regardless of gender, ensuring they have the resources to fulfill their potential. The plan aims to fortify industries at all levels and foster youth entrepreneurship through accessible banking support. In agriculture, a cornerstone of the economy, initiatives will include superior seeds, subsidized fertilizers, and affordable utilities, alongside a robust R&D framework for continuous agricultural advancement.

He stated that, similar to previous administrations, the PML(N) will strive ceaselessly, with commitment, dedication, and a clear sense of purpose, to improve the deteriorating state of the common man and restore all necessities within his reach, without engaging in political victimization, blame-shifting, or the pursuit of confrontational and vengeful politics.

He concluded his candid discussion by asserting that those individuals who are viewing this discourse on their television screens and those prominent journalists positioned on the front lines must be convinced in their deepest selves that Nawaz Sharif is telling the truth. He claimed to have a feeling and intuition that everyone is thinking this way, and that this is the PML's manifesto.



Qamar Bashir

Israel vows to stop UN agency's activities in Gaza after war

Israel vowed Saturday to stop the UN humanitarian aid agency in Gaza from operating after the war, and called for its chief to resign, after the sacking of staff accused of involvement in the October 7 attack.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said Friday it had fired several employees over Israel's accusations, promising a thorough investigation into the claims, which were not specified.

Donors including Germany, Britain, Italy, Australia and Finland have followed the lead of the United States, which said Friday it had suspended additional funding to the agency over the accusations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called on UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini to quit his post.

"Mr Lazzarini please resign," Katz said on social media platform X late on Saturday in response to a post by the UNRWA chief warning that funding cuts meant the agency's operation in Gaza was about to collapse.

Katz had said in an earlier statement that the UNRWA "must be replaced with agencies dedicated to genuine peace and development" in Gaza's rebuilding.

Hamas slammed Israeli "threats" against UNRWA on Saturday, urging the United Nations and other international organisations not to "cave in to the threats and blackmail".

Relations between Israel and UNRWA have been strained for years but deteriorated in recent days, with the UN body condemning tank shelling it said had hit a shelter for displaced people in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis.

The agency said tens of thousands of displaced people had been registered at the shelter and Wednesday's tank shelling killed 13 people.

The Israeli military said "a thorough review of the operations of the forces in the vicinity is underway", adding it was examining the possibility that the strike was a "result of Hamas fire".

Lazzarini slammed Wednesday's bombardment as a "blatant disregard of basic rules of war", with the compound clearly marked as a UN facility and its coordinates shared with Israeli authorities.

The Israeli army is the only force known to have tanks operating in the Gaza Strip.



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

Army Chief interacting with general public - I

The foundation of a stable and secure society lies in the interplay between the military and civilian population. This dynamic interaction is pivotal for nurturing comprehension, trust, and a shared sense of responsibility. The primary duty of any military force is to protect the nation from external threats, and effective communication and cooperation between the army and civilians are crucial for sustaining a robust defense system. Civilian support ensures that the military possesses the essential resources, intelligence, and public confidence required to effectively address security challenges. In times of crisis, a well-established link between the military and civilian

facilitates a coordinated response, enhancing the nation's capacity to overcome threats. The interaction between the army and civilians contributes to building a sense of community and shared responsibility. Military personnel actively engage in community outreach programs, disaster relief efforts, and other civic activities, fostering a connection between the military and the broader society. This involvement breaks down stereotypes and promotes understanding. Through collaborative initiatives, both parties can strive toward common goals, strengthening the social fabric and creating a more unified and resilient nation.



Abdul Basit Alvi

In a democratic society, maintaining a delicate balance between military and civilian authorities is crucial. Transparent communication and mutual respect are essential for upholding democratic values. The interaction between the army and civilians helps establish clear lines of authority. This relationship is fundamental for preventing military coups and preserving the democratic principles that underpin

modern societies. During natural disasters, pandemics, or other emergencies, the collaboration between the army and civilians becomes even more critical. The military's logistical capabilities, discipline, and training make them valuable assets in disaster response efforts. Civilian authorities, on the other hand, provide local knowledge, administrative support, and a connection to the affected communities. Together, they form a formidable force capable of efficiently managing crises and mitigating their impact on society. Army and civilian interactions also create opportunities for cultural exchange, promoting mutual understanding and respect. Military personnel often hail from diverse backgrounds, sharing their experiences with civilians to foster a sense of unity. In turn, civilians gain insights into the challenges and sacrifices faced by the military, nurturing empathy and appreciation. This cultural exchange plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between the military and civilian worlds, diminishing stereotypes and misconceptions.

In the pursuit of a secure and harmonious society, the proximity and understanding between the military and civilian population are pivotal. Minimizing distances between these entities goes beyond physical closeness; it involves establishing a deep connection founded on trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

One significant benefit of reducing distances between the army and civilians is the cultivation of trust. Trust forms the foundation of any stable society, and a closer connection between citizens and the military fosters confidence in its capabilities and intentions. This trust is essential for effective collaboration in both peaceful times and moments of crisis. Physical and emotional closeness between the army and civilian

population contributes to a more resilient national security apparatus. When civilians are informed and engaged in security matters, they become integral to the nation's defense. An alert and involved citizenry serves as an additional layer of security, aiding in intelligence gathering and identifying potential threats.

Reducing distances encourages active community involvement and support for military endeavors, whether through recruitment drives, community outreach programs, or joint initiatives. A closer relationship fosters a sense of shared responsibility, vital not only during conflicts but also in peacetime activities such as disaster relief and humanitarian missions. In emergencies or natural disasters, the ability to coordinate swiftly between the army and civilians becomes crucial. Closer distances facilitate quicker response times, thanks to a pre-existing framework for communication and collaboration. This synergy ensures that resources, personnel, and expertise are deployed in a coordinated manner, minimizing the impact of crises on society.

Minimizing physical and social distances helps dispel misconceptions and stereotypes, opening avenues for cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

Military personnel, drawing on their diverse backgrounds and experiences, have the opportunity to interact with civilians, fostering mutual appreciation for their respective roles and challenges. This cultural exchange serves to narrow gaps and cultivate a more cohesive society. In a democratic setting, it is imperative to ensure a connection between the defense apparatus and the people it serves. The reduction of distances contributes to the democratization of defense, emphasizing collective decision-making on matters related to national security. This not only upholds democratic principles but also aligns military actions with the values and aspirations of the civilian population.

To be continued

How OIC and UN play a vital role in the Palestine and Israel Conflict?

Sawera Razoom

In 2023 civilians were targeted, attacked and killed on an unprecedented extent in the Palestine-Israel conflict.

On October 2023, Palestinian armed factions in Gaza launched thousands of missiles against Israel and broke the Gaza border fence in several spots killing and capturing Israeli personnel and civilians. The Israeli military announced a state of war alert and began attacking targets in the Gaza Strip, including residential buildings and health care institutions. Since then thousands have been slaughtered in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military has killed and injured thousands of people while destroying residential buildings, hospitals and United Nations installations. Add to this the horrific water and electricity outages, as well as the ongoing premeditated assassinations in the West Bank. The conflict is still ongoing.

The OIC was created in 1969 with its headquarters in Jeddah. The OIC seeks to represent Muslims around the world in order to protect and safeguard their critical interests.

On December 2023 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) firmly condemns Israel's continuous armed aggression against the Palestinian people. The OIC views the ruthless onslaught against the Palestinian people to be a clear breach of international and humanitarian law as well as a war crime. The OIC holds Israel completely responsible for the consequences of the continuance of this wicked action and it also calls for the international community to intervene promptly to force Israel to stop its continuous attacks and to facilitate the opening of humanitarian corridors.

The plight of Palestinians particularly in the Gaza Strip has sparked global concern. However, there is a growing recognition that the OIC has fallen short of giving significant aid to Muslim countries dealing with this massive catastrophe. As the world watches in horror it becomes clear that the OIC's effect does not match the scale of the difficulties confronting the Muslim world. This realization raises important questions about the OIC.

The OIC has the ability to play a critical role in promoting peace and justice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Practical steps such as an instant embargo on Israel by Islamic countries, including energy restriction and the expulsion of Israeli ambassadors if contacts with the Zionist administration have been formed must be taken.

Furthermore an Islamic legal team should be formed to document any Israeli war crimes in Gaza

The United Nations has played an important role in addressing the long-standing dispute between Israel and Palestine and it is actively working to find a peaceful settlement.

On October Secretary General Guterres criticized Hamas attacks. He expressed concern for civilians and urged all diplomatic measures to prevent an escalation of conflict. UN Secretary General Antonio has repeatedly stated that international humanitarian law is being violated in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian armed group Hamas. The WHO has assisted in the delivery of medical supplies to the besieged Gaza. However the amount of aid entering Gaza is insufficient to meet the population needs. UN Secretary General referred to the donation as a drop of aid in an ocean of need. Thousands of Gaza Palestinians have evacuated their houses to seek sanctuary in UN schools. Because of their UN association these schools were considered safe havens for refugees. Unfortunately schools are also no longer safe.

In mid-October the United States vetoed a resolution calling for humanitarian pauses in Gaza but abstained on a similar resolution in November. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution similar to the one that the US vetoed calling on Israel and Palestinian armed groups to protect civilians and follow international humanitarian law. The council issued its first resolution on Israel and Palestine since 2016. However, in December the United States rejected a Security Council resolution asking for a truce between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed organizations. The General Assembly voted two resolutions calling for a cease-fire one in October and another in December.

In December 2023 South Africa filed a complaint at the International Court of Justice claiming that Israel violated its responsibilities under the 1948 Genocide Convention during its armed operations in Gaza.

Conclusion
 The UN and OIC's activities in the Palestine-Israel conflict are part of larger international attempts to find a peaceful solution. The United Nations serves as a platform for diplomatic initiatives and resolutions, whereas the Organization of Islamic Cooperation promotes for Palestinian rights and expresses solidarity with their cause.

Writer is B-DDS student in the seventh semester at Fatima Jinnah Women's University. She can be reached at sawerazoom@gmail.com

Muslim Countries should stop Israel from genocide of Palestinians: Nader Al-Turk

Alkhidmat of Pakistan to set up grand hospital at Rifah border for Palestinians: Hamid Ather Malik

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Head of Mission of Palestine Mr. Nader Al-Turk has raised question for whole Muslim world that First Qibla is for Palestinians only or for all Muslims? The Muslim countries should play their role to stop Israel from Genocide of Palestinians. Moreover the Head of Alkhidmat organization of Pakistan has shared that the organization will set up a grand hospital at Rifah near the border of Gaza with Egypt. 3 Thousand Pakistani doctors are ready to leave for Rifah to provide medical treatment to the injured people of Gaza. 50 % doctors are female who will take care of their sisters and children of Gaza who survived Israeli attacks but their health is not fine. Alkhidmat has also pledged to construct the schools, hospitals destroyed in Israeli bombardment. Alkhidmat is also determined to establish orphan centers to provide shelter to the children who lost their parents in the attacks.

Mr. Nader Al-Turk and Mr. Hamid Ather Malik head of Alkhidmat Islamabad said this in a forum on "100 Days of Genocide of Palestinian Citizen" hosted by Mr. Tazeen Akhtar at his platform "Pakistan in the World" in collaboration with Friends Group Islamabad. Deputy Head of Mission of Palestine Mr Nader Al-Turk was chief guest while Chairman of Friends Group Mr. Nadeem Manzoor Bega also expressed



his views on the topic. Nader Al-Turk raised question that if USA and the West is supporting Israel, it means the whole Islamic world is not as important for USA and the West as Israel alone. He lamented on the response of big Muslim countries on the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and questioned them Al-quds is sacred for Palestinians only? This is the first Qibla for Palestinians only or for the whole Muslim World? If it is for whole Muslim world then when they will perform their duty toward their first Qibla?

Nader Al-Turk briefed the guests about the conspiracies of Israel to establish a Greater Israel from Nile river to Euphrates river. He showed a map in this regard as well. Here it is worth mentioning that the two lines on the flag of Israel represent the two rivers. He also apprised the

participants about the chronology of occupation of Israel on Palestinian territories during different phases since 1948.

The Israelis destroyed infrastructure, mosques, churches, schools and universities in the Gaza Strip and destroyed about 80% of homes and buildings. Alkhidmat Global started its assistance operations in Palestine in 2019. Alkhidmat sent relief soon after 7 Oct 2023 as well. A plane was sent with National Disaster Management Authority while 5 planes have been sent with the help of Pakistan Air Force so far.

Mr Nader Al-Turk highlighted the gruesome acts of violation of humanity as well as international law by Israeli forces in Gaza and West Bank. He shared, "Since October 7, 2023, Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people have continued, and genocide and ethnic cleansing

have continued. In the Gaza Strip, we have 25,000 martyrs and 62,000 wounded, most of whom are children and women, and we have 10,000 missing people under the rubble of demolished buildings. We have more than 350 martyrs in the West Bank and hundreds of wounded."

How long will the injustice against the Palestinian people continue since 1948, and even since the British occupation of Palestine in 1918, which came to implement the Balfour Declaration in 1917 to establish a national homeland for the Zionists in Palestine? He provided a historical background on the Palestinian issue and the projects to divide Palestine to establish a national homeland for the Zionists on the land of Palestine to implement the Balfour Declaration in 1917. To emphasize that the Palestinian issue did not



begin on October 7, 2023.

DHM Palestine said, "Since October 9, 2023, there have been 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip subject to collective punishment. Since that day, they have been without water, food, medicine, or medical supplies, and without electricity, gas, or fuel as well. About 2 million Palestinians were displaced from their homes, many of whom live in tents, after about 80% of the buildings in the Gaza Strip were destroyed. Every day we have 10 Palestinian children who lose a limb (hand or leg)."

Some days ago, there was a video of a Palestinian doctor father whose daughter was injured and had to amputate her leg in the kitchen of his home in Gaza because he was unable to reach the hospital.

"There are 36 hospitals and dozens of medical centers in the Gaza Strip, most of which are out of service, and the rest of the hospitals are unable to provide services to the injured due to the lack of medical supplies, as they only have medical gauze, salt water, and some medical disinfectants. The failure of this colonial plan begins with the failure of the Zionist plan in the Gaza Strip. There is still an opportunity for all of humanity to cooperate to thwart this, Nader Al-Turk shared.

Nadeem Manzoor Bega said that our founder of Pakistan quaid e azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah said that Israel is illegal state and Pakistan will never recognize Israel as state. He said we will never leave our Palestinian brothers and sisters alone. This is our national and religious

duty to support them in whatever capacity we can.

The forum was attended by the representatives of different segments of civil society of Pakistan, selected opinion makers and intellectuals. They included Ms Rubab Tabassum, Naveed Ahmad Khan, Shams Abbasi, Nayyer Siddiqi, Afzal Shakir, Raja Burhan ul Haqq, Mirza Zia ul Islam, Mateen Khan, Adnan Haidar and others. They reiterated their solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters. They have condemned Israeli brutal attacks on the civilians' residential areas and termed these attacks as Genocide of Palestinians that should be stopped immediately and Israel should be brought to book for her heinous war crimes against innocent children, women and elderly of Gaza strip.

Xinhua's economic info service provider unveils Shanghai headquarters

Xinhua

SHANGHAI: China Economic Information Service (CEIS), a subsidiary for the economic information services of Xinhua News Agency, unveiled its Shanghai headquarters on Saturday.

Chen Jining, secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Xinhua News Agency President Fu Hua attended the inauguration ceremony and delivered speeches.

Chen said that as Shanghai is striving to build an international center for economy, finance, trade, shipping and sci-tech innovation, the CEIS Shanghai headquarters is expected to enhance economic information services, financial information in particular, to better serve the development of businesses and Shanghai.



Noting that Xinhua has been a pioneer in China's economic information service sector, Fu said that Xinhua is ready to take the launch of the CEIS

Shanghai headquarters as a new starting point for deepening all-around cooperation with Shanghai. Xinhua will support Shanghai to

play a greater role in building a financial system with Chinese characteristics and promoting high-quality development of China's financial sector, Fu said.

At the ceremony, Xinhua and the city's banks and governmental agencies exchanged documents of cooperation in fields such as digital transformation, big data, index development and think tank service.

With more than three decades of development, CEIS has evolved into one of the providers of the most comprehensive and trusted economic information products and services in China. It comprises over 1,000 analysts and experts, supported by an expansive information collection network spanning across China as well as 180 countries and regions globally.

Nepal ships 1st batch of exports under transit deals with China

Xinhua

KATHMANDU: Nepal started the first batch of exports on Thursday under transit deals with China, five months after the South Asian country shipped its first batch of imported goods via the northern neighbor.

Instant noodles were set to be shipped to Japan via the Tianjin port in northern China.

"The continuity of exports through China to third countries opens new horizons for cooperation, fostering innovation and economic resilience," said Narayan Prasad Sharma Duwadee, secretary of Nepal's Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.

"This event marks the beginning of a new chapter in our economic partnership," he said at a commencement ceremony. "It is not just about the export of goods, it is about forging a path toward sustainable development, mutual prosperity and enduring cooperation."

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song voiced hope that the deals will help diversify Nepal's international trade and facilitate its trade with the whole world.

The Chinese side is "taking measures from all aspects to actively promote bilateral trade," he said, noting that the time and cost of importing and exporting goods via China will be further reduced after more border points are opened and the roads and other infrastructure are improved.

Nepal imported the first batch of 15 tons of turmeric powder from Vietnam in early September 2023, also via Tianjin, under the transit transport agreement signed in March 2016 and the subsequent protocol inked in April 2019 between Nepal and China.

Under the transit deals, China allows the landlocked country to use Tianjin, Shenzhen, Lianyungang and Zhanjiang as well as Lanzhou, Lhasa and Shigatse to handle traffic in transit.



This photo shows a truck loaded with instant noodles to be exported to Japan via China, in Kathmandu, Nepal on Jan. 25, 2024. (Photo by Hari Maharjan/Xinhua)

China-Macao-Spring Festival-Culture (CN)

The Spring Festival is traditionally celebrated in Macao around the time of the Chinese New Year, with its origin and tradition deeply linked to Chinese history and culture. This is one of Macao's traditional festivals that has a long-standing history. The celebrations of the Chinese New Year last until the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated on the 15th day of the first lunar month. The Spring Festival is an occasion with various celebratory events taking place, with families and friends visiting each other. These celebrations represent a departure from the "old" and a welcome of the future, in order including offerings to the deities

and to the ancestors, expressing the people's wishes for a prosperous new year. In its most diverse forms, these celebrations join together the essential characteristics of traditional Chinese culture.

The Spring Festival celebrations in Macao mainly originated from Lingnan region. A series of activities has been maintained until our days, including the thanks to the so-called Kitchen God, family reunion dinners, putting up the so-called fai chun (spring couplets), visiting flower

markets on New Year's Eve, giving lucky money and red envelopes (so-called Lei Si), welcoming the year, staying at home on the 3rd day of the new year to avoid

disputes, paying a new year call and celebrating on the so-called People's Day. There is also a range of new year typical delicacies that are shared at this time of the year, including candies and cakes. The Spring Festival is a traditional celebration that is greatly valued by the Macao society. The first three days of the Chinese New

Year correspond to public holidays for local residents to celebrate the festival and carry forward traditional customs.

The Spring Festival is an important traditional festival of Macao and a symbol of the transmission and continuity of the traditional Chinese culture in Macao. Its cultural dimensions, profound cultural significance and value as a testimony of the diverse local is also relevant for the study of regional folk culture. Being celebrated especially as an occasion for family reunion and gathering with friends, the Spring Festival plays a crucial role in the local community and is also significant for strengthening social relationships.

Pakistan unveils its tourism potential at the Travel and Adventure Show, New York, 2024

Spokesman Reprt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in collaboration with Provincial tourism departments, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (T-DAP), Pakistan Counsel General at New York and private sector companies, showcased the nation's diverse tourism potential at the "Travel and Adventure Show New York", held from January 27 to January 28.

A 60 members' delegation having representatives of PTDC, TDAP, and 24 private sector companies represented Pakistan at the Travel and Adven-

ture Show, New York. The Pakistan Pavilion at Travel and Adventure Show New York, was formally inaugurated by the Pakistani Ambassador to the USA, Ambassador Masood Khan while Tourism Minister of Gilgit Baltistan, Ghulam Muhammad and former Minister for Tourism Gilgit Baltistan, Raja Nasir Ali Khan were also present at the inauguration ceremony.

Building on the success of the previous year, where the Pakistan Pavilion received the prestigious "Best New Exhibitor Award" for 2023, Pakistan also received best stall of the year award for 2024 from the organizers of the event.

The event aims to provide a platform to exhibit the immense potential of Pakistan's tourism industry.

The Travel and Adventure Show will feature live performances by artisans specializing in lacquer woodwork and doll making. The delegation seeks to establish valuable connections with leading international players in the tourism sector, fostering collaboration to attract a greater number of tourists.

In his message on this occasion, Wasi Shah, State Minister for Tourism and Chairman PTDC congratulated the team of PTDC for making all the

arrangements to put up a nice pavilion of Pakistan in this international travel fair and ensuring presence of all regions of Pakistan through joint marketing strategy. He hoped that all these effects will greatly contribute to attract more foreign visitors to Pakistan which will not only improve foreign exchange earnings from tourism in Pakistan but will also greatly help in the image building of Pakistan in the western world.

"The event will provide an opportunity to showcase the great potential of Pakistan's tourism industry and create linkages with the leading internation-



al players of the tourism industry, which will greatly help attract more tourists," said Aftab Rana, MD PTDC.

This participation is anticipated to enhance the influx of foreign tourists, allowing them to explore and discover the rich tourism potential of Pakistan. Such tourism initiatives play a vital role in contributing to the socio-economic development of

the country.

The Travel and Adventure Show is an ideal platform for interaction with top international and domestic travel destinations, tour operators, cruise lines, and travel providers. This engagement offers a unique opportunity to present Pakistan's breathtaking landscapes, rich culture, and heritage to a global audience.

Pakistan, renowned as a land of beauty, beckons travelers to experience its unmatched tourism opportunities, from cultural exploration and ecotourism to the discovery of Sikh heritage. The nation is poised to attract a significant number of foreign tourists and expatriate Pakistanis, showcasing the diversity and charm that defines Pakistan as a must-visit destination.

Malik for taking benefit of regional trade



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has called for taking full advantage of the trade potential existed among Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner here Sunday, he added, Pakistan can unlock new avenues for economic prosperity and contribute to the advancement of the entire region through enhanced cooperation and implementing strategic initiatives.

Malik said, "In an era where regional cooperation plays a pivotal role in economic growth, it is imperative for Pakistan to take proactive measures to have stronger trade ties with neighbors." He said the strategic geographical proximity of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan offers a unique opportunity for Pakistan to establish and enhance trade routes that can stimulate economic development for all three Muslim countries.

He said, by capitalizing the potential, Pakistan can diversify its trade portfolio, strengthen diplomatic relations, and contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the region. It is crucial to prioritize the development of infrastructure of transportation networks and border facilitation to streamline the movement of goods and services.

He said collaborative efforts in energy, agriculture, and technology sectors can further enhance economic interdependence, paving the way for sustainable growth.

With leveraging the strengths of each countries and promoting cross-border cooperation, he said, a robust economic ecosystem can be established that benefits all stakeholders.

Surging Pak-China trade in yuan to stabilize reserves, support rupee: PIAF

PNP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), hailing the improvement in China-Pakistan bilateral trade volume in the Chinese Yuan (RMB), reaching more than 14 percent in 2023 from just two percent of 2018, said that it would reduce dependence on the US dollar, stabilizing foreign exchange reserves and strengthen the rupee against the greenback.

The PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol also appreciated the SBP to take concrete steps to facilitate this shift by designating three banks - the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Bank of China, and Standard Chartered Bank to establish local RMB clearing and settlement setups. He said that this move was seen as a part of a broader strategy to ease pressure on Pakistan's balance of payments and stabilize its fluctuating foreign exchange reserves, which are predominantly in US dollars.

Power sector situation grim amid Rs165b more burden on consumers by tariff hike

PPA

LAHORE: Amidst the government claim of making efforts to improve efficiency the power sector situation remains grim despite putting an additional burden of Rs165 billion on consumers in the past one year by increasing electricity prices, as the country's power sector circular debt has reached Rs2.55 trillion during first six months of July-Dec 2023-24 (2HCY23).

These views were expressed by the FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar while addressing a meeting here on Sunday. Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the Discos' losses and inefficiencies stood at Rs77 billion during July-December 2023-24 as compared to Rs62 billion in the same period of 2022-23, showing addition of Rs15 billion in total circular debt stock. The total amount of losses, inefficiency were Rs160 billion during FY 2022-23.

Discos' under recoveries reached Rs149 billion during first half of 2023-24 as compared to Rs62 billion during corresponding period of 2022-23; however, their cumulative under recoveries stood at Rs236 billion as of June 30, 2023. Other adjustments were Rs74 billion during July-Dec 2023-24 against Rs246 billion in July-Dec 2022-23.

Petroleum Division to host 'Petroleum Conference 2024' in Islamabad

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Conference 2024 is scheduled to take place at a local hotel. This prestigious event brings together industry leaders, experts, and government stakeholders to highlight the industry challenges and discuss the latest trends, and policy initiatives in the petroleum sector.

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, will preside over the event as chief guest, with provincial chief ministers attending to represent their respective provinces. The conference will be attended by international delegates, government representatives, policymakers, regulators, and investors from the Energy & Petroleum (E&P) Sector.



The petroleum sector in Pakistan is facing a lack of desired level of investment due to multiple challenges causing a decline in indigenous production and an increase in energy import bill. Pakistan is heavily relying on imports for meeting its energy needs. Around 85% of oil consumption is from imports while

25% of gas is also imported as LNG, which puts a heavy burden on the current account.

The Petroleum Conference 2024 will offer ample opportunities for networking and fostering connections among professionals, researchers, and decision-makers. Attendees will have the chance to engage with industry experts, explore potential partnerships, and stay updated on the latest industry developments.

This conference will build on the Ministry's initiative of arranging two focused workshops involving all petroleum exploration and production companies of Pakistan. The workshops provided an important and direct platform to all stakeholders for meaningful interaction aimed at resolving issues and boosting

investment in the industry. Through consultation with all the stakeholders, the Ministry had determined policy and regulatory changes, necessary for Pakistan's E&P Sector.

The Petroleum Division of the Ministry of Energy plans to communicate policy initiatives with all pertinent stakeholders during this conference. The ministry shall also present recommendations and seek support to foster collaboration between all stakeholders, addressing critical issues and exploring opportunities for synergy.

Petroleum Conference 2024 promises to be a pivotal event for professionals seeking to stay informed, connect with peers, and contribute to the advancement of the petroleum sector.

Food Festival

ISLAMABAD: Women enjoying food during Eat Food Festival at Islamabad Sports Complex in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Jubilee Life Insurance Partners with NOWPDP to Empower Persons



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NOWPDP (Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities), Pakistan. This strategic alliance marks a significant step in Jubilee Life's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) within its workforce.

As an equal opportunity employer, Jubilee Life is committed to a robust DEI strategy, setting tangible targets to promote a more diverse and inclusive workplace. A major focus of this agenda is to recruit persons with disabilities (PWDs), thus

integrating them into various roles across the organization. Jubilee Life has identified various positions across different departments to be filled by PWDs over the coming year, demonstrating a practical approach to its DEI goals. In this regard, NOWPDP is an ideal partner since it is a renowned disability inclusion initiative that has been playing a pivotal role in the identity, welfare, education, skill-building, and economic empowerment all of which fall under the umbrella of Rozgar (Employment).

Mr Javed Ahmed, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Jubilee Life Insurance stated, "Embracing diversity and inclusion is not just a moral imperative but a business necessity. By hiring

PWDs, we are not only diversifying our talent pool but also enriching our organizational culture and enhancing our business potential."

At the signing ceremony, Mr Omair Ahmed, CEO of NOWPDP, expressed his hopes for the partnership by noting: "Our collaboration with Jubilee Life is a demonstration of their dedication towards an inclusive and diverse workforce. Together, we aim to break barriers and create meaningful employment opportunities for persons with disabilities."

Through this partnership, Jubilee Life is underscoring a shared vision of creating more inclusive employment opportunities and a supportive work environment for PWDs.

DFPA seeks industry status for disposable food packaging sector

PNP

LAHORE: While seeking the industry status the Disposable Food Packaging Association (DFPA) has said the disposable food packaging is one of the major and very important sectors of the country and the government should grant industry status to it in order to reap maximum benefits and employment generation.

Talking to media here at a function, the DFPA President Ahsan Shahid stressed that the disposable food packaging sector has been holding significant importance in all industries.

Elaborating, he said that the widespread popularity of online businesses and e-commerce had increased the importance and value of this sector further. The disposable food packaging is the first choice for many product and service businesses due to their efficiency, durability and dependability, he remarked.

Ahsan Shahid observed that the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector was the backbone of the economy and it contributed immensely to uplifting the industries and creating employment opportunities. The SME sector only



requires exposure to export its products and once it is achieved, Pakistan's balance of trade will improve, he added.

The DFPA president said

that the process to finance is a significant barrier to SME growth, as highlighted in a study conducted by the Competition Commission of Pakistan. The study reveals that despite policy measures aimed at increasing financing to 17%, the SME sector in Pakistan only receives 6-7% of private sector financing. In comparison, SMEs in Bangladesh receive 25% financing, and in India, it's 18%. The findings are based on data from 50 Financial Institutions (FIs), 18 focused group discussions, and 362 SMEs across 11 cities, as well as a seminar on women entrepreneurs.

6th Pak - UK Business Opportunities Conference Leeds, UK



PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized 6th Pak-UK Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) at Queens Land hotel Leeds, UK. Mayor of Yorkshire Ms. Tracy Brabin was the chief guest on the occasion. The main purpose of the trade conference was to increase bilateral cooperation in various sectors, especially IT services, food, poultry, garments, textiles and machinery.

In his welcome address Saqib Rafiq highlighted the aim of organizing BOC in Leeds and added that Britain is a major trading partner of Pakistan. Saqib Rafiq also highlighted SIFC role and establishment of Business facilitation in 6 major cities in Punjab including Rawalpindi and further added that such initiatives

will build more confidence and attract more Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in Pakistan. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) was also signed between RCCI and West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce (WNYCC) to increase collaboration and networking.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, James Mason President/CEO West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, Zahid Jatoti Consul General of Pakistan, Amjad Bashir Chair of British Friends of Pakistan and Muhammad Akhtar Trade and Investment Attache at Consulate General of Pakistan, Manchester, distinguished RCCI members, Khurshid Barlas, Fahad Barlas and representatives from the companies based in UK were also present on the occasion.

Passenger train derails near Jand

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The railway traffic between Attock- Mianwali section was halted for around three hours as a four bogies of a passenger train derailed near Jhamat railway station in the Jand town of Attock in the early hours of Sunday, railway authorities confirmed. Controller, rail traffic, Divisional Headquarters Peshawar, when contacted, confirmed that the Attock bound passenger train 201 Up coming

from Mari Indus derails near Jhamat railway station in the Jand town of Attock as the wheel of the bogie has developed some problems which resulted in derailment and no loss or injury was reported. Sources said that four bogies of train left the site and passengers were accommodated in three other bogies which left for Attock. After the incident, railway authorities dispatched a relief train from Kundian railway station of Minawali to the site.

Rising circular debt, unstable oil rate dangerous for economy: APBF

PNP

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) President Syed Maaz Mahmood has warned the government of worsening circular debt in the power sector, which would continue to haunt it along with the challenge of dealing with the unstable oil prices in the global market.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the power sector circular debt issue should be resolved holistically without escalating electricity cost, as its size has more than doubled during the three and a half years in spite of raising the power tariff multiple times in the past.



At present, oil and gas sectors are reeling from Rs1.7 trillion worth of circular debt whereas the power sector has a circular debt close to Rs2.5 trillion. The rising gas demand forced the previous government to divert expensive LNG to the residential consumers in winter.

However, there was no mechanism in place to recover dues from the domestic sector.

Pakistan's first marathon kicked off in Karachi with massive participation

Sports Desk

KARACHI: More than 1,500 runners, including local and foreign athletes, participated in the first certified international marathon in Karachi. The event was organized by Sports in Pakistan in collaboration with the government of Sindh.

Speaking as a chief guest, Dr. Junaid Shah, Minister for Sports, Culture, and Youth, Government of Sindh, said the international marathon in Karachi was a notable success for Pakistan, as this was organized on a high standard similar to marathons held in Paris, London, and New York. The marathon recorded a great achievement for the country to be a regular feature for the country and the city in the future.

The distance categories on offer were the full marathon (42.2km), half marathon (21.1km), 5k (5km), and marathon relay. The Marathon Relay featured teams of participants, in which each participant completed one quarter (10.55km) of the full marathon distance.

The course of the event was certified by AIMS and World Athletics, the international governing bodies for long-distance running. The starting line was at Nishan, Pakistan, from where the course headed southeast along the coastline. The timing system made use of state-of-the-art electronic chips.



Handsome cash prizes were handed out to the top finishers in the full marathon, half marathon, and relay categories. As an affirmation of gender equality, the prize amounts were kept equal for both men and women. The winners were given cash prizes of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 500,000 in different categories for different positions.

"We are proud of our efforts to bring a certified marathon to this great city," said Shoaib Nizami, CEO of Sports in Pakistan, the agency behind the event. "This sports event was not just a race, but a celebration of the enduring spirit of Karachi."

The marathon gave a platform to hundreds of athletes in Pakistan to show

their best talent to the world, and it is expected that more runners will be participating in the next event. We are thankful to all the individuals who brought the event to life with their determination and love for running. We hope to see even more runners at the next edition of the event."

42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship came to a successful conclusion at the remarkable and most captivating par-72, Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Course that has over 4000 trees and is brimming with fauna, all green fairways, stimulating greens and non polluted environment. This title bearing event was a competition for the top golf champions of the country and in accordance with its importance the golf arena had been prepared exceedingly well and met the required standards and for this all credit to the inspirational support of the Management Team at the Golf Club.

The Punjab Open Golf Championship was contested over five days from 24th January to 28th January and the events contested included Event for Professional Golf Champions, Event for Senior Professionals above 50 years of age, junior professionals 21 years and below and Events for amateurs, senior amateurs and ladies.

And in the final round on Sunday, Matloob Ahmed of Lahore Garrison the leader over the past two rounds produced

an extraordinary finish, keeping the lead throughout the final 18 holes and emerging triumphant and glorious. His card for the final day reflected a resplendent effort which yielded a virtuous result in the shape of five birdies on holes 3,5,7,15 and 16. As for bogies, he faced just one on the 13th hole. The other holes were parred through regulation golf giving him a final round score of gross 68 and a championship aggregate of 208, eight under par. A pre-tournament favorite, Matloob thrived in this championship of champions and held sway over super champions like Muhammed Alam and Muhammed Shahzad (Garrison) and the charismatic one of our national golf scene Ahmed Baig. While Matloob emerged as the title holder with a championship score of 208, the runners up position was shared by three sturdy and resolute golf players namely Muhammed Alam, Muhammed Shahzad and Ahmed Baig. These three ended the Championship at an aggregate score of 215, three under par and shared the prize money assigned for 2nd,3rd and 4th position.

Another astounding performer was Minhaj Maqsood Warraich of Rawalpindi Golf Club with a three rounds score of

71,72 and 75 and a championship aggregate of 218.

A few other exceptional performers were Ansar Mehmood (Margalla Greens) with a score of 219, Muhammed Imran (Defence Raya) 220, Waheed Baloch (Karachi Golf Club)220, Muhammed Munir (Rawalpindi Golf Club),221, Muhammed Nazir (Rawalpindi) 221 and Kashif Masih (Lahore Garrison) 221.

Top professionals have shown steely nerves during this competition and applied their ability and golfing skills with a touch of perfection and consistent excellence.

Results of Other Events ;Senior Professionals ;Muhammed Tariq, first ;Muhammed Siddique and Abdul Hameed, second ;Muhammed Akhtar and Muhammed Auranzeb, third ;

Junior Professionals ;Shebaz Ali, first ;Muhammed Sahil, second ;Rehan Babar, third ;

Senior Amateur;Umair Butt, first gross;Asim Tiwana, second gross;Lt Col Raja Asif Mehdi, third;Col Mohsin Ali Minhaj, first net ;Brig Masood Akhter, second net;Lt Col Ikram ul Haq, third net;Veterans ;Tariq Baloch, first gross;Brig Iftikhar Ahmed, second

gross;Col Tashfeen Baig, third gross;Col Shaukat Qamar, first net ;Khawaja Rizwan, second net ;Lt Gen Khalid Maqbool, third net;Invitational ;Amir Akram Chaudry, first gross;Shah Alam Bodla, second gross;Brig Saqib Nawaz, third gross;Ghulam Dastgir,1st net ;Brig Kamran Aslam,2nd net ;Brig Ayyaz Masood Khan, third net ;Ladies ;Humna Anjad, first gross;Bushra Fatima, second gross;Hadiya Usama, third gross;Minna Zainab, first net ;Shahbana Waheed,2nd net ;Sobia Waseem, third net ;

Amateurs ;Salman Jehangir, first gross;Muhammed Arsalan, second gross ;Tipu Raja, third gross;Nouman Ilyas, first net ;Saim Tahir, second net ;Bilawal Khan, third net ;Longest Drive by Lt Col Zaeem ur rehman;nearest to the pin, Lt Col Asif Mehdi;

At the conclusion of the 42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship, the prizes were awarded to the performers by Maj Gen Shoaib bin Akram, GOC 10 Div and Salman Siddique, Chairman, Lahore Gymkhana in the presence of Brig Ayaz Masood Khan of Punjab Golf, Brig Fayyaz of Rumanza Golf Club, Col Rustam Chatta of PGA, participating golfers and families.

Faizan, Enub bag top spots in Islamabad Marathon

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faizan Zulfiqar and Enub claimed top spots in the Islamabad Marathon 2024 organized here at the Trail 3 Parking on Sunday.

Faizan Zulfiqar bagged the first position in the male category Full Marathon while Umair and Mubaris Bukhari grabbed second and third positions, respectively.

In the Full Marathon female category, Enub, Amina Shah and Ayesha Mastoor took first, second and third positions, respectively.

In Half Marathon, male cate-



gory, Naveed, Irfan and Nageen took first, second and third positions, respectively. In the Half Marathon female

category, Jennie, Christina Vezel and Huma Rehman took first, second and third positions, respectively.

In the 10km male category, Akhtar, Riaz and Waqar Ahmed took first, second and third positions, respectively.

In the 10km female category, Rabeela Farooq, Maheen Tahir and Anum Tahir took first, second and third positions, respectively.

In the 5km male category, Samiullah, Kamil Hussain and Junaid Dikdar took first, second and third positions, respectively.

In the 5km female category, Amna Khan, Laila Kazmi and

Kanwal took first, second and third positions, respectively.

People from all walks of life including children featured in the marathon to promote and encourage healthy activity in the federal capital.

A total of five categories were kept in the marathon to encourage enthusiastic people towards running.

There was a full marathon of 42.2km which began from Margalla Road to 7th Avenue to Shakaparia and then back.

Then there was a half marathon of 21.1km, 10km run, 5km run and also a race kept for children.

A. S. Natural Stone U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-II Whites moved into Quarter Final after winning all matches in Group "C". Zone-I Whites also moved into Quarter Final after secured 2nd Position in Group "C".

Summarized Scores: Zone-II Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 171 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-II Whites 249/6 in 45 overs. Iftikhar 60 7x4 1x6, Abdullah Waleed 52 6x4 not out, Aun Abbas 48 4x4, Muhammad Danish 33, Muhammad Shehryar 23, Burair Ali 20. Syed Sulman 2/34.

Zone-VI Blues 78 all out in 24.2 overs. Abdul Sami 26. Waheed Khan (mf) 4/23, Muhammad Ayan (sla) 3/16, Adnan Ansari (ob) 2/10.

SL cricket suspension lifted

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board on Sunday lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) with immediate effect.

SLC was suspended in November for being in serious breach of its obligations as an ICC Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka, said a press release.

The Board have been monitoring the situation since the suspension and is now satisfied that SLC are no longer in breach of membership obligations.



Pakistan beat Nigeria 11-5 in Hockey5s World Cup



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan launched their campaign in the FIH Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024 on a winning note, thrashing Nigeria 11-5 in their first match in Muscat on Sunday. Pakistan's captain Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf scored five goals, including a hat-trick, while Abdul Hanan Shahid chipped in with four goals. He also scored a hat-trick. Arshad Liaquat and Zakaria Hayat scored one goal apiece, according to information made available here by Pakistan Hockey Federation.

Pakistan will now next take on Netherlands in their second fixture later this day. The tournament is the first-ever Hockey5s World Championship, organized by International Hockey Federation and played with a different format of five players on each side.

FIH Hockey5s World Cup: Pakistan win one, lose one

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's joy of celebrating a thumping victory against Nigeria in their opening match of the FIH Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024 was short-lived as the team fell down fighting hard against the Netherlands in their second match of the day in Muscat on Sunday. Pakistan launched their campaign in the FIH Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024 on a winning note, thrashing Nigeria 11-5.

Captain Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf scored five goals, including a hat-trick, while Abdul Hanan Shahid chipped in with four goals, including a hat-trick. Arshad Liaquat and Zikriya Hayat scored one goal apiece, according to the information made available here by Pakistan Hockey Federation.

Nigeria's Solomon Dennis scored two goals, while Ibrahim Benjamin, Godwin Sunday and John Peter scored one goal each. In their second pool match against the Netherlands, Pakistan gained an edge in the 5th minute when Ghazanfar Ali scored a splendid field goal. But Alexander Schop ended the lead in the 10th minute. At the start of the second quarter, Pakistan's captain Rana Abdul Waheed re-established Pakistan's superiority once again. However, Netherlands' Van Der Drift Yannick equalized the scoreline in the 20th minute. One minute later, Alexander netted another field to give his side a lead. Pakistan's Abdullah scored a scintillating field goal in the 23rd minute to make it 3-3. But Middendorp Lucas (25th minute and Alexander (30th minute) scored two more goals for their side to hand Pakistan 3-5 defeat. Sixteen teams, divided into four pools are featuring in the event. Pakistan are in Pool A along with Nigeria, the Netherlands and Poland. Pakistan will play their third pool match against Poland on Monday. The tournament is the first-ever Hockey5s World Championship, organized by International Hockey Federation and played with a different format of five players on each side.

Matthew Breetzke, Noor Ahmad power Durban's Super Giants to crush Paarl Royals

A Sports

DURBAN: Matthew Breetzke's half-century, followed by Noor Ahmad's five-fer powered Durban's Super Giants to a crushing 125-run victory over helpless Paarl Royals in the 22nd SA20 fixture on Sunday.

The home side opted to bat first after winning the toss, however, the decision did not bear fruit early on as they flipped to 48-3 inside the powerplay.

Breetzke, who was ticking the scoreboard single-handedly for the Super Giants, was joined by Marcus Stoinis and together they turned the game on with belligerent batting prowess.

They put together a 102-run part-

nership for the fourth wicket in 65 balls before Breetzke was stumped off Tabraiz Shamsi after scoring 78 off 43, laced with five boundaries and six maximums.

Shamsi struck again in the same over to send Stoinis (30) back to the pavilion with the scoreboard reading 150-5.

Heinrich Klaasen then played a blistering 17-ball cameo, scoring 50 runs with the help of two fours and six sixes before getting out on the last ball of the innings.

Durban's Super Giants gave Paarl Royals a mammoth 209-run target.

For the Royals, Obed McCoy and Shamsi picked two wickets each, while, Bjorn Fortuin, Lungi Ngidi and Fabian

Allen grabbed one each.

In response, the visitors failed to get the desired start to chase the huge total as they lost opening batters Jason Roy (14) and Jos Buttler (6) inside three overs with a meagre 24 runs on the board.

Mitchell Van Buuren joined Wihan Lubbe (6), who soon departed as Quinton de Kock caught him off Naveen-ul-Haq.

Noor Ahmad was introduced into the attack and he stuck twice, getting the wickets of David Miller and Andile Phehlukwayo on back-to-back deliveries to reduce the Royals to 51-5.

Mitchell Van Buuren continued to hold one end with an anchoring innings



while wickets kept falling from the other end.

Van Buuren carried his bat through

the innings with a 27-ball 36 with the help of five boundaries as Ahmad and Keshav Maharaj wrapped the Royals

innings at 83 in 13.2 overs. Ahmad returned with brilliant bowling figures of 5-11, while Maharaj got 2-23.

Elections 2024

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: Online

Bilawal asks PTI workers to vote for 'Arrow'

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and supporters to vote for the PPP instead of the independent candidates backed by the latter.

Addressing a public gathering at Rawalpindi, Bilawal asked the PTI workers and

supporters to realise their founder is not contesting the elections and will not be able to become the prime minister.

"This is the time to be cautious but not to be emotional. The emotional PTI voters should understand that the PPP has been facing them for three generations," he added.

He said that all the candidates backed by the PTI are 'planted'. "Go out of the homes

and vote for Arrow," he told the PTI workers and supporters.

Bilawal said that Pakistan is going through severe economic and democratic crises. The PPP chief said that once again terrorism is emerging, adding that the politics of hatred and division as well as political victimisation have led to these crises.

"Only the PPP could get Pakistan out of trouble. We

have announced 10-point agenda to cope with inflation, unemployment and poverty," he added.

Bilawal said that there will be no "Good or Bad Taliban" in Pakistan anymore and every terrorist will be brought to justice. "Only those who recognise Pakistan's constitution will be pardoned and those who take up arms against the country will be given a befitting reply," the

PPP Chairman warned.

Bilawal said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif wants to be the prime minister for the fourth time using 'undemocratic' means. "This is their (PML-N's) misapprehension that that he (Nawaz Sharif) will become the premier for the fourth time by using undemocratic means," the PPP Chairman added.

He went on to say that the

Police drive away Hammad Azhar's father moments before PTI rally in NA-129



PPA

LAHORE: Former Punjab Governor and senior PTI leader Mian Hammad Azhar was arrested by the police on Sunday as he was about to lead a rally in his constituency of NA-129 in connection with the Feb 8 elections.

The news was shared by his son and PTI's Punjab chapter general secretary Hammad Azhar on X, formerly Twitter.

"Have some shame, Nawaz Sharif," Hammad Azhar wrote on X, and announced that his 82-year-old father has been arrested.

"He wanted to lead a rally as per his democratic and constitutional right. Pakistan has today been reduced to a total fascist state with zero human rights or rule of law. One Nawaz Sharif & his daughter calling the shots and ruining the country," Hammad wrote on X.

He urged the workers of PTI to continue the rally as per the schedule.

Earlier, Hammad Azhar was the candidate from NA-129 but his nomination papers were rejected. In the absence of Hammad, the veteran politician and former Punjab Governor Mian Azhar once again entered the politics after two decades.

The founder chairman of PTI has earlier directed the party workers to hold rallies across the country on Sunday (today) in connection with the Feb 8 polls.

It would be the first power show of PTI since May 9 riots.

JUI-F chief Fazl warns against blaming politicians for election outcome



Bureau Report

LARKANA: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday advised against blaming the politicians for everything by shifting all the responsibility to them in democracy and said February 8 was the day for the people to perform their duty.

The days leading to February 8 were the time when the people had to fulfil their responsibility, Fazl said, as he described the elections as a process which depended upon the masses.

"People would be responsible

for the good or the bad [result on February 8]," the JUI-F chief told his supporters in Larkana as he is aiming at a strong showing in upper Sindh where has been able to garner a large support base due to a number of economic, social and political factors.

In his address, the seasoned politician also talked about the supremacy of parliament. "We have made the law. Only we will interpret it," he said, asking the institutions to respect the politicians, and made it clear that Pakistan could not be run without following the law and the constitution.

He promised a comprehensive accountability of those "robbing the mankind" – a reference to the inability to protect people's rights and the practice of denying the very basic needs to them in the context of Sindh.

Mushahid Hussain elected Vice President of IPU Human Rights body

Spokesman Report

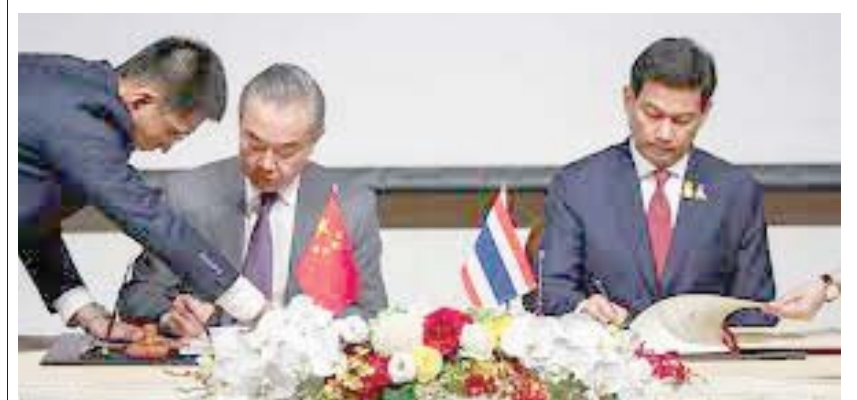
Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, who represents Asia in the Committee of Human Rights for Parliamentarians (CHRP) of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), was unanimously elected as Vice President of the Committee at its meeting in Geneva. Ms Millie Odhiambo of Kenya was elected as President.

Senator Mushahid Hussain is the first parliamentarian from Pakistan to be elected to a high level office of a key body of IPU, which is a global organisation representing the world's parliaments. Two years ago at the IPU General Assembly in Rwanda, Senator Mushahid Hussain was elected as Member of the CHRP, the only Asian in this important 10-member Committee. Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is member of the Senate Human Rights Committee, served as Leader of the Pakistan Delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In the year 2000, Mushahid Hussain was honoured by being declared as



'Prisoner of Conscience' by the prestigious London-based organisation, 'Amnesty International' due to his illegal detention without charges for 440 days, the only Pakistani political prisoner to be so honoured then. Senator Mushahid Hussain is also Convenor of the Pakistan Parliamentary Forum on PKR (Palestine, Kashmir & Rohingya) and he also serves on the Executive Board of the Istanbul-based 'Al Quds Parliament', supporting the Palestine Cause.

China, Thailand to enter 'visa-free era': Chinese FM



Xinhua

BANGKOK: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Sunday that China and Thailand will officially enter a "visa-free era" from March 1 as the two sides have just signed an agreement on mutual visa exemption.

Wang made the remarks in a joint press conference after an annual consultation with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara, adding that it will surely bring bilateral people-to-people exchanges to a new height.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China

Central Committee, said that China always sees Thailand as a priority in its diplomacy with neighboring countries.

He added that China appreciates Thailand's firm commitment to the one-China principle and its active support for the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Noting that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of China-Thailand diplomatic relations, Wang said that over the past half a century, the bilateral relationship has withstood the test of the changing international landscape and grown from strength to strength.

Police besiege Javed Hashmi's residence in Multan

Kiran Asim



MULTAN: The Police besieged the senior politician Javed Hashmi's residence in Multan.

The senior politician took to

X platform and informed the public about police raid in his house.

Earlier, two days ago, Police had regis-

tered a case against Javed Hashmi for holding worker convention in his house. The case was registered against thirty six accused including his son-in-law, and grandsons.

Earlier, the Police has also arrested the father of Hammad Azhar in Lahore.

The PTI founder has instructed the party workers to hold rallies and political gatherings for election campaign for Feb 8 polls.

The party workers and candidates are all geared up for election campaigns to woo public support.

Elections 2024 Pakistan: Asifa Bhutto address in Lyari

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Asifa Bhutto on Sunday asserted that the party considers the protection of poor, oppressed, needy citizens of Pakistan as their faith.

The PPP leader Asifa Bhutto during her speech at Lyari's public rally maintained that the PPP established the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) for the patients to get the best possible medical treatment.

She expressed gratitude for the unwavering support of the people of Lyari and pledged continued commitment to PPP.

As part of her promises, she assures to double the salaries, provide free education to children, and construct 300,000 houses for residents of Pakistan.

Additionally, she announced plans to provide free electricity to up to 300 units, urging the public to mark February 8 on their calendars and vote for their PPP.

ECP's active WhatsApp helpline ensures complaint registration, resolution

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken a proactive step by introducing an active WhatsApp helpline, providing citizens with a platform to register and resolve their election-related complaints swiftly.

This initiative aims to enhance accessibility and responsiveness in addressing concerns leading up to the upcoming general elections in 2024.

Using this WhatsApp number, 0327 5050610 individuals, particularly those who are speech and hearing

impaired, can submit their complaints via video.

The ECP has established the Election Monitoring and Complaint Centre (EMCC) to facilitate and address the voters' grievances pertaining to the upcoming general elections 2024.

According to official sources, apart from WhatsApp, the complaints can be submitted through email at complaints@ecp.gov.pk, or the dedicated helpline 111-327-000.

The election watchdog has set up control rooms at its secretariat, as well as provincial, divisional, and district-level offices to handle

the registration and resolution of complaints.

At this center, the public will have the opportunity to contact and register their election-related grievances. Trained staff has been appointed at the center to ensure prompt resolution of these issues.

The ECP urged people to promptly share footage of any code of conduct violations in their areas for swift response and resolution.

The control center also has social media and electronic media monitoring facility. Complaints can also be sent through fax number 051-9204403.

بل کو پروٹیکٹڈ بنانے کا راز جانیں!

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سردیوں کے 4 مہینے گیس کا ماہانہ استعمال 0.9hm³ سے کم رکھیں اور سال کے 12 مہینے گیس کا بل کم سے کم ادا کریں

گیس کا استعمال 0.9hm³ تک کیسے رکھا جاسکتا ہے

• گیس میٹر کا استعمال پرگزرت کریں
• روزانہ گیز میٹر سے ہونے والی نوسیب کریں
• ہیشٹ گیز میٹر استعمال کریں

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