

Mazari's ruling in Punjab CM election legal: Kaira

Advisor on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira says Deputy Speaker Punjab assembly Dost Mohammad Mazari has issued ruling as per law and the constitution. Mazari rejected the vote of Pakistan Muslim League Q party members in light of the apex court decisions. The members of the political parties were bound to follow the decision of the party leadership and it was the prerogative of the party head to take decisions in the favor of its voters.



PML-N's CM election victory in line with law: Tarar

Punjab Home Minister Attaullah Tarar says the success of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in election for the Punjab chief minister slot is in accordance with the law and Constitution. Justice should not have double standards. 25 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members of the provincial assembly were de-seated on the basis of a reference, sent by the party head against them.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Further deliberations

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and PML-Q head Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain are discussing post CM Punjab political situation here on Saturday.



Photo agencies

Annoyed' over current political situation

Nawaz orders PML-N's reorganization after Punjab defeat

LAHORE/LONDON: Following the chief minister (CM) election in Punjab, former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo has expressed displeasure over the current political situation in the country. According to details, the PML-N supremo has expressed his displeasure with the party leaders over the current political situation in the country. Sources said that Nawaz Sharif believes PML-N was suffering due to its allied parties and some party leaders. The former premier will once again hold talks with allied parties in case of change of the government in Punjab, sources added.

Sources, while quoting PML-N leaders, claimed that the party will go for immediate election if its Punjab government collapse. Nawaz Sharif has directed strengthen the organizational structure of the party in the wake of the party's dismal performance during Punjab by-elections. The former prime minister issued these directives during a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is also a party head. The PML-N supremo also held a detailed conversation with PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz and other senior party leaders.

Matters pertaining to the overall political situation, Punjab CM election and other issues came under discussion, say sources. A well-placed source in the PML-N told that the PML-N leadership decided that Maryam Nawaz would be given responsibilities to make the party more active in Punjab as general elections can be held anytime soon.

PM, Zardari, Shujaat discuss political situation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A day after election of Hamza Shahbaz as Chief Minister of Punjab, an important meeting took place between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and PML-Q head Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

According to details, the trio discussed political situation of the country while the premier and former president thanked PML-Q head for his support in crucial CM Punjab poll. Economic situation of the country as well as upcoming general elections were also discussed during the meeting.

Mazari's ruling

Coalition govt demands full court for hearing petition

Joint statement says Imran Khan's attitude, thought like a termite eating away at Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government on Saturday demanded that a full court hear the petition filed against the ruling issued by Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Dost Muhammad Mazari about rejection of PML-Q votes. According to details, a joint statement has been issued in this regard, urging the chief justice to constitute a full bench to hear the case.

It added that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was repeatedly trying to fan anarchy in politics and his motive was to get into power through a backdoor channel and protect his corruption. The ruling coalition denounced making any compromise on the Constitution, democracy, and the people's right

to rule and refreshed their resolve to move together on every forum.

In the statement, the parties said it will be fair that the full court bench, comprising all the respected judges of the Supreme Court, review the the Supreme Court bar application, the present application, and other related applications, and schedule them for hearing together and issue a single ruling because these are matters of national, political and constitutional importance.

The country is paying a heavy price of the resulting political instability is paying a heavy price, with the economy at risk of bankruptcy and the people suffering from inflation, unemployment and poverty, the statement said. Turning their guns to PTI Chairman

Imran Khan, the coalition rulers said that the former prime minister was moving the country's politics towards chaos.

"Imran Khan is repeatedly creating chaos in politics with the aim of avoiding accountability, hiding his corruption and gaining power through illegitimate means," they said in the statement. The constitution draws clear lines of authority between the Legislature, the Judiciary, and the Executive, but an "arrogant violator of the Constitution" — Khan — wants to erase those lines, the statement said.

The coalition government said that the PTI chairman wants to move Pakistan's democracy and right to governance towards "default", "just as he did with the economy". "Imran Khan's attitude

and thought are like a 'termite' eating away at Pakistan [...]" but the ruling coalition reiterates its commitment that there will be no compromise on the constitution, democracy and people's right to rule," they said. They added that the coalition parties will move forward on every forum together and they will "fight against the darkness of fascism".

A handout issued from the coalition government read that the apex court must take up a review petition from Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and other petitions jointly. "This is a matter of national and political importance," it said, adding that the masses are paying the price of political instability in the face of inflation, unemployment, and poverty.

Propaganda

Imran misleading nation: Rana

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday that a group under Imran Khan wanted to mislead the nation through its lies and baseless propaganda. Talking to the media, he said that Niazi had been propagating for the last three days that his men were being purchased through greasing their palm, but the number of votes in the Punjab Assembly for chief minister's election had exposed his propaganda as not a single member of either sides (PTI and PML-N) voted against his party.

He said that Niazi was untrustworthy person and he (Imran) was pursuing the agenda of dividing the nation and mislead-

ing youth, adding that the person (Niazi) could cause colossal loss to the nation.

Citing the trespassing of Supreme Court Lahore Registry by PTI workers on Friday night, the Interior Minister said that Deputy Registrar should have informed the government about the situation. As a lawyer, he said that courts should be respected, adding that Imran Khan used derogatory language against courts while the courts were opened for him in the midnight.

The minister said that Election Commission of Pakistan was not announcing verdict on Foreign Funding Case in fear that Imran Khan may use derogatory and abusive language against them.

Thieves won't be allowed to sell national assets: Imran

Says people won't let Zardari-Sharif mafia to continue its loot

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Saturday while launching a tirade against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said that the thieves should not be allowed to sell national assets. In his latest Tweet, the former PM said, "How can Imported govt brought to power through US conspiracy, led by Crime Minister, who's family along with Zardari have volumes written on their corruption, be trusted with sale of national assets & that too through bypassing all procedural & legal checks?"

He said, "These peoples have been plundering Pakistan for last 30 years and are now responsible for the present economic meltdown." "These thieves should never be allowed to sell our national assets in the devious manner they are attempt-



ing," Imran Khan said and added the nation will never trust them with our national assets.

Earlier today in his Tweet, the PTI chairman said that in just over three months the Zardari-Sharif mafia has brought the country to its knees politically and economically. The former PM said that PML-N and PPP want to save their illegally accumulated wealth amassed over 30 years of plundering Pakistan. The PTI Chairman further said that he can say with certainty after his interaction with nation and its response to

his call that people of Pakistan have had enough and will not allow these mafias to continue their loot and plunder.

The former premier warned that country is not far from Sri Lanka moment when public pours out into streets. Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said that in just over three months the Zardari-Sharif mafia has brought the country to its knees politically and economically. Former prime minister, in his message on Twitter, said that PML-N and PPP want to save their illegally accumulated wealth amassed over 30 years of plundering Pakistan.

The PTI Chairman further said that he can say with certainty after his interaction with nation and its response to his call that people of Pakistan have had enough and will not allow these mafias to continue their loot and plunder. The former premier warned that country is not far from Sri Lanka moment when public pours out into streets

Floods

Pakistan expresses solidarity with Iran

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday extended heartfelt condolences on behalf of the country and its people to Iran on the loss of precious lives and material damage as a result of floods in the southern Fars province. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, and we wish speedy recovery to those injured as a result of this natural disaster," read a statement by the Foreign Office. "We stand in solidarity with the government and people of Iran at this moment of grief," the statement added.

At least 18 people were killed in flash floods caused by heavy rains in Iran's southern province of Fars, state media said on Saturday. Khalil Abdullahi, head of the province's crisis management department, said heavy rains near Soltan Shahbaz village in Estahban caused flooding from the Rodbal Dam. He said 55 people had been rescued in the flood which submerged 15 cars.

Enough is enough

Don't expect us to follow one-sided decisions: Maryam

Says a new interpretation is being made of verdict on Article 63A to benefit PTI chairman.

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Saturday said that the party will not accept "one-sided" decisions by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, after it said that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz will work as a trustee CM till Monday (July 25). The Supreme Court's decision came during a hearing on PML-Q leader Pervaiz Elahi's petition against Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari's ruling in the provincial CM election.

"Amid pressure due to bullying, threats, misbehaviour and abuses, if the house of justice makes specific decisions via the same bench and negates itself, negate its own decisions, puts its weight behind a single side then do not expect us to bow our heads before such one-sided decisions. Enough is enough!" tweeted the PML-N leader. The PML-N leader said that the current political chaos and instability started with the Supreme Court's court decision on Article 63A, adding that it made an "arbitrary interpretation" of the constitution to not count the MPAs that voted voluntarily.

"Today, a new interpretation is being made [of the decision]. So that



the same favourite, who took benefit from it yesterday, uses it! Disappointed!" said Maryam. Maryam Nawaz while reacting to the Supreme Court's verdict said that no one should expect them to bow down to one-sided decisions. In a statement on the social networking site Twitter, the vice president of the PML-N wrote that if the court under pressure from the threats, intimidation and abusive language repeatedly make certain decisions through the same bench, deny their own decisions and put all the weight in one part of the scale, then the expectation should not be made from the party's leadership to bow their heads in front of such unilateral decision.

Maryam further wrote that the current political chaos and instability began with the court's decision, which issued an arbitrary interpretation of the Constitution to not count the votes of voluntary voters. It is being reinterpreted to benefit Imran Khan again like in the past, which is not acceptable, PML-N Vice President added.

Once again

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman taking oath from newly elected Chief Minister of Punjab Hamza Shahbaz Sharif at Governor House in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Elahi's plea

SC directs Hamza to work as 'trustee' CM till Monday

The Supreme Court directs deputy speaker to submit written response

LAHORE: Supreme Court of Pakistan on Saturday while restoring July 1 status has made Hamza Shahbaz as interim Punjab Chief Minister. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial read out the short verdict. In its verdict, the top court restored Hamza Shahbaz's July 1 of interim CM. The court observed that if the words of the party chief are to be believed, it would mean that a dictatorship should be established in the party.

The CJP remarked that in prima facie, the Deputy Speaker gave a ruling against our decision, we have our decision in which this law has been declared. The court ordered the Deputy Speaker to submit a written reply and said that it should be told on what basis he gave the ruling, and the Punjab government should also submit its detailed written reply. The court ordered Hamza

Shahbaz to work as per the law and constitution and also ordered him to only perform routine affairs.

CJP says it seems deputy speaker gave ruling against SC's decision

The top court also barred Hamza Shehbaz from exercising the powers of the Chief Minister till July 25 which could benefit him politically and remarked that the court will supervise the affairs of the Chief Minister. The court observed that if any appointment in the province is made without merit will be declared

null and void. The court adjourned the hearing till Monday. Earlier today, the apex court had summoned Hamza Shahbaz, attorney general, chief secretary Punjab and advocate general Punjab, and further directed the deputy speaker to bring the record of the CM Punjab election.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan had constituted a bench on Tuesday to hear Chaudhry Parvaiz Elahi's plea against the rejection of votes of PML-Q MPs by the Deputy Speaker in the Punjab Assembly (PA) Session of Punjab Chief Minister Election. During the hearing, the chief justice remarked that there was nothing in their decision that the deputy speaker mentioned during the assembly proceedings. "We are here to learn and will summon the deputy speaker so that he could identify the paragraph from the apex court's decision which he used to decide on the matter," he said.

Pak financing needs fully met for this year: SBP

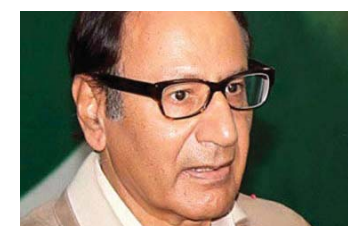
Acting governor says market concerns about financial position to dissipate in weeks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's \$33.5 billion external financing needs are fully met for the financial year 2022-23, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) chief said on Saturday, adding that "unwarranted" market concerns about its financial position will dissipate in weeks. Fears have risen about Pakistan's stuttering economy as its currency fell nearly 8% against the US dollar in the last trading week, while the country's forex reserves stand below \$10 billion with inflation at the highest in more than a decade. "Our external financing needs over the next 12 months are fully met, underpinned by our ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme," the acting governor of Pakistan's central bank, Murtaza

Syed, told Reuters in an emailed reply to questions. Pakistan last week reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the disbursement of \$1.17 billion in critical funding under resumed payments of a bailout package.

"The recently secured staff-level agreement on the next IMF review is a very important anchor that clearly separates Pakistan from vulnerable countries, most of whom do not have any IMF backing," he said. However, the lender's board needs to approve the agreement before the disbursement, which is expected in August, before which there remain prior policy actions to be fulfilled, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Elahi still my candidate for Punjab CM slot: Ch Shujaat



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Saturday that Pervaiz Elahi has always been his candidate for the Punjab Chief Minister slot. Giving a clear stand once again, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said, "I have relations with the institutions for the past 30 to 40 years and how can he support those who criticize institutions."

He said that there is stability in Pakistan until there are institutions, adding that criticizing is a different thing, but using abusive language against institutions is not tolerated as the institutions consider the integrity of the country as their duty. The PML-Q president went on to say that the shameful language against the institutions cannot be allowed and a patriotic Pakistani would respond immediately if they hear such a thing.

PTI-PML-Q meeting

People, MPAs standing with Imran Khan: Elahi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A joint consultative meeting of the parliamentary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was held in which Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi, former Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, senior leaders of Tehreek-e-Insaf Fawad Chaudhry, Zulfi Bokhari, Sibtain Khan, Ahsan Salim Briar, Sardar Asrullah Dareshk, Chaudhry Shahbaz Hussain, Wasim Badozai, Sohail Zafar Cheema and both were present in the meeting. Members of Punjab Assembly of the parties participated.

In the meeting, it was condemned to impose a minority on the majority of Punjab and it was said that the House of Punjab Assembly gave a majority decision in favor of Ch Parvez Elahi, is it not a joke that minority members should be imposed on 186 members. Ch Parvez Elahi said that the people and the members of the assembly are standing with Imran Khan and the decision of the majority of the house was in our favour.

People hate politics of horse-trading: Sh Rashid

Bureau Report



LAHORE: Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Saturday said that people hate such politics where consciousness of people are up for sale. Sheikh Rashid, in a statement on Twitter, said that Asif Ali Zardari has further worsened the political and economic crisis in the country and now Supreme Court of Pakistan is the last hope. The former Interior Minister said that after Supreme Court verdict, a no confidence motion should be filed in Punjab and Centre and warned that 100 million Pakistani will be pushed in poverty if dollar reaches Rs250.

Earlier in the day, Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman administered oath to Hamza Shahbaz in Governor House Hamza had won the election after getting 179 votes and Parvez Elahi got 186 votes; however, after Chaudhry Shujaat's letter, the Deputy Speaker rejected 10 votes of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) in Elahi's favour. The Deputy Speaker refused to count the 10 votes cast by the PML-Q MPs citing Article 63 (1) (A) of the Constitution of Pakistan. Therefore, the parliamentary strength of the opposition alliance was reduced to 176

CM Punjab vote

Auction, not election: Fawad

Says Shujaat's illness limits his capacity to make decisions

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Saturday said that yesterday election was not held but it was an auction. While talking to media here, the PTI leader said that the constitution has been destroyed. He said that the country cannot accept politics of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. "If you want to do such politics, then there should be an auction, not an election," he added.

PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's ability to make decisions is "limited due to his illness" — after the former prime minister decided to not back PTI's candidate for the Punjab chief minister, his own relative Pervez Elahi. It seemed like the PTI and PML-Q



were going to win the CM Punjab election yesterday as they had the numbers, but at the last minute, Shujaat asked his party MPs to cast their votes in Hamza Shahbaz's favour.

He went on to say that the Deputy Speaker of Punjab Dost Mohammad Mazarri has stolen the mandate of people. He said that he has violated the constitution and

ethics of the politics.

Fawad further said that the economy has suffered irreparable damage and Pakistan is on verge of getting bankrupt.

Former Information minister questioned that how did the letter of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) head Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain came out from the pocket of the Deputy Speaker? "Supreme Court (SC) must summon Mazarri in contempt of Court case," he said. Fawad while talking about Chaudhry Shujaat, said that our fears came out true as PML-Q supremo has said that his party will not support the candidate of Imran Khan. He concluded saying that the masses must brace themselves for the protest as not only economy but the politics is on verge of "bankruptcy".

Hamza sworn in as CM Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hamza Shahbaz took oath on Saturday as the Punjab Chief Minister. He was administered the oath by Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in the Governor House. Hamza got 179 votes and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) got 176 votes in the CM Punjab Election. After Chaudhry Shujaat's letter, the Deputy Speaker rejected 10 votes of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) in Pervaiz Elahi's favour.

Although 186 votes were cast in favor of Pervaiz Elahi. However, the Deputy Speaker refused to count the 10 votes cast by the Muslim League (Q) MPs citing Article 63 (1) (A) of the Constitution of Pakistan. Therefore, the parliamentary strength of the opposition alliance was reduced to 176.

CM Punjab

Hamza's election in accordance with SC' verdict: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said that Hamza Shehbaz was elected Chief Minister of Punjab as a result of the implementation of the Supreme Court verdict. She said that Supreme Court in its verdict had given the authority of vote only to the party chief. She said that the President Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain had issued the same instructions to his party MPs that Imran Khan had issued.

She advised Imran Khan to accept the decision of the Supreme Court and refrain from threatening.

The SC empowered the speaker to reject the votes in the light of the party head's instructions and it ordered the removal of the members who violated the



decision of the party chief. She remarked that the interpretation of the constitution could not be done by Imran Khan's bullying, threats and abuse, adding she said the Parliament was constituted by the constitution, it operated by the authority of the constitution.

In reaction to PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's remarks, she said that 10 votes of (PML-Q members) were rejected during election of the Punjab Chief Minister in the light of the Supreme Court's decision.

The minister said that the constitution and law could not be changed by PTI leader Imran Khan's threats and use of abusive language.

"If the ruling is in favour of Imran, it is constitutional and if it is in favor of Hamza Shehbaz, it is unconstitutional," she said while taking a jibe on Imran Khan. "Your (Imran's) lies, corruption and hypocrisy are causing irreparable damage to the country," she added. The minister further said no development was done in the country during four years of PTI rule, rather it was pushed to the bankruptcy as its resources were looted and plundered. The minister said during PTI regime the country was deprived of employment opportunities and it suffered economic collapse as cartels of Bushra-Gogi mafia ruled the country for past four years.

Scams during PTI govt should be probed: Fazl

Claims govt told to follow orders or face crisis

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has demanded an investigation into the corruption during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan-era. Fazlur Rehman said in a statement that the incumbent government should launch ruthless accountability. He demanded the constitution of a full bench and controversial judges should be sidelined.

The JUI-F chief said, "We will not accept any kind of interference in national matters. All institutions must work within their

constitutional limits if they prioritise national security." He alleged that interference has been started in parliamentary and administrative matters after Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) came into power. Fazlur Rehman added that they will neither get blackmailed nor accept any pressure. "All decisions will be taken by the parliament in accordance with the Constitution."

He said that Imran Khan was not possessing any political importance in the country. He added that corruption during Imran Khan-era should be investigated in accordance with

the law. Earlier, PDM president Maulana Fazlur Rehman strongly criticised Imran Khan for allegedly violating the Constitution. He had said that the former premier wished to divide the country into three parts. "Ending the Imran Khan-led government was crucial for the country's survival," he added.

He had said that President Arif Alvi and PTI Chairman have violated the constitution and should be punished. Maulana Fazl had also urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to direct Rana Sanaullah to take action against the ex-premier. Fazlur Rehman



had warned Imran Khan that they will warm the atmosphere so hot for him and his followers

that they will not be able to stand on their feet. He also urged the people of Pakistan not to support Imran Khan and stand with the loyal forces of the country

PDM chief revealed that the coalition government has been told to follow instructions otherwise a crisis would be created for them. The PDM chief said that if institutions are quiet then there would be no crisis. "Imran Khan is nothing in front of us and should not be presented as a threat," said Fazl adding that they know the worth of the PTI chief and he knows theirs. The JUI-F chief said that Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif has the status of unity of command, however, the government is told to follow directions.

He went on to say that he has complained to the coalition government over its silence on Imran Khan's scams during his tenure. Talking about the establishment's "soft intervention" under which it may mediate between PTI Chairman Imran Khan and the coalition parties, Fazl said that the coalition government does not accept "soft or hard interference". "I want to see the army, generals and the judiciary neutral."

AJK's dev hinges on tourism, IT, power generation: AJK PM

Says tourists from across the globe would visit the beautiful valleys

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan Saturday said that the development and prosperity of state was hinged on information technology, tourism and hydroelectric power generation sectors.



these three areas. "Tourism Authority

can only be opposed by those who are against the development and prosperity of the state", he added. By activating the tourism authority, he said that the state would be recognized worldwide and tourists from across the globe would visit the beautiful valleys of Azad Kashmir. He said that local people would

also get the same opportunity in the tourism sector. "Those who are making hue and cry over the formation of Tourism Authority should go ahead and participate in this sector", he said adding that paddling negative propaganda won't deter the government from pursuing its agenda of development and prosperity. Agencies

Dangerous

KARACHI: A view of open hole in the middle of Gizri Defence road due to heavy rain in Provincial Capital, which may cause any incident any time and needs attention for concern authorities.



Photo: Online

MTIs providing best services across KP: Faisal Amin

D.I.KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur on Saturday said that due to commitment of Provincial Health Minister Taimu Khan Jhagra, the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) have improved a lot their services and providing best services across the province.

He said the people of Dera Ismail Khan and adjoining districts including the newly merged areas of South Waziristan, FR Dera and FR Tank were fully benefiting from these health services.

He appreciated the services of field health staff associated with these institutions and assured them of all possible cooperation in fulfilling their profes-

sional responsibilities. He was talking to doctors and medical staff during surprise visits to various MTI centers in the district.

He expressed his satisfaction on the overall performance of these centers. The minister also listened to the complaints, suggestions and recommendations of the health department officials for further improvement of health sector.

Appreciating their good intentions, he said their suggestions would be conveyed to the provincial cabinet.

He said the government has taken multiple initiatives for the improvement health sector in D.I.Khan including establishment of women and children's ward, establishment of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), installation of

latest 32-slices CT scan machine, health card and Ehsaas Tahufaz program.

He said the Dera Hospital was among the 14 best hospitals in the province. Faisal Amin Gandapur paid tribute to the Chief Minister and Health Minister for the excellent health reforms and initiatives in Dera Ismail Khan.

He said that progress on Regional Blood Center at Dera, approval of regularization of project staff, construction of burn center at MMT with capacity of 20 male/female patients were significant achievements of the health department.

He said that all such people-friendly measures would remove the feeling of deprivation among the people of D.I.Khan. Agencies

Disposal stations to remain functional in rainy season

FAISALABAD: Managing Director (MD) Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) Abu Bakar Imran said that disposal stations would work with full capacity during monsoon and rainy season.

Visiting disposal station of Achkera and Ghulam Muhammad Abad here on Saturday, he said that WASA staff was alerted and various teams were busy in pumping out rainwater especially from low-lying areas. He said that stagnant water was removed from 19 major points in the city so far which were inundated due to heavy rains during last 48 hours.

Now all main roads were free from rainwater, he said and added that WASA field staff worked day and night and removed water from Samundri Road, Saad Bela People's Colony, Susan Road Madina Town, al-Masoom Town, Allama Iqbal Colony main road, Mandi Mor Samundri Road, Chaudhry Flour Mills Road, Dijkot Road, General Hospital Samanabad, Samundri Road, Nishatabad Overhead Bridge and Abdullah Pur Underpass.

Heavy machinery was being used to remove rainwater from streets and roads whereas WASA staff was also actively redressing individual complaints regarding water supply and sewerage system to facilitate the consumers at maximum extent, he added. APP

Samina urges to accelerate relief activities in rain-hit areas

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Saturday called upon the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and district administrations to speed up relief and rescue operation in the calamity hit areas of Balochistan.

"Relief and rescue activities should be accelerated in all the affected districts of Balochistan on an emergency basis", she said in a statement issued here.

She said that in the coming days, in view of further expected rains, precautionary measures should be taken to avoid further loss of life and property. She expressed concern over the epidemic spread in 17 districts in Balochistan soon after the monsoon rain.

Muhammad Waseem takes oath as chairperson SPSC

KARACHI: Acting Governor Sindh Agha Siraj Durrani administered oath of office to Muhammad Waseem as Chairperson of the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) in a ceremony held at the Governor House here on Saturday.

The Chief Minister Sindh, after the approval of the Acting Governor Sindh, had appointed Muhammad Waseem, a retired officer of Grade 22, as the Chairperson of SPSC.

The ceremony was attended by Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharjo, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Waqar Mehdi, Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon and provincial secretaries.

Muhammad Waseem has been serving in various important roles and positions in the province for three decades. He has extensive experience in administration and finance. He has served as chairman of planning and development board, additional chief secretary planning and development, chairman anti-corruption, senior member board of revenue, secretary home and secretary general administration. Agencies

Commissioner for provision of all facilities in Revenue Dept

D.I.KHAN: Commissioner Aamir Afaq on Saturday directed to ensure provision of all facilities to the people in Revenue department and their revenue cases should be resolved on priority.

He instructed this while presiding over a meeting held in his office to review the performance of Revenue and Divisional departments.

Additional Commissioner Khalid Mahmood, Deputy Commissioners of Dera Ismail Khan and South Waziristan, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Dera Ismail Khan and Tank, Secretary to Commissioner, Assistant to Commissioner (Political), Assistant to Commissioner Revenue and other relevant departments were attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the commissioner was given a detailed briefing regarding the revenue in the division and the performance of the three districts.

Speaking on the occasion, the commissioner said that provision of revenue-related facilities should be ensured.

Similarly, open courts should be held continuously which not only gives an



opportunity to the authorities to directly listen to the problems and complaints faced by the people but also ensures their timely redressal.

He directed to continuously inspect markets and bazaars to ensure the availability of quality food items at government fixed prices.

He directed all the deputy commissioners to review DSR on daily basis so that better measures could be taken.

Similarly, the redressal of grievances sent by the people on the Pakistan Citizen Portal and Deputy App should be ensured within the stipulated time.

He asked the DCs to make inspections of medical stores and different mills in their respective areas. Moreover, he said, the strict action should also be taken against encroachments in the region. All resources should be utilized for expeditious disposal of pending cases in revenue and appellate court cases. Land acquisition cases should also be disposed of speedily, he said. Besides, the commissioner also instructed for speeding up the process of collection, field inspection, settlement, usher and land computerization.

3 terrorists killed in N Waziristan IBO: ISPR

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted two Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) in different areas of North Waziristan District.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a high-value terrorist commander was apprehended in injured condition, along with three other terrorists.

In the second operation, three terrorists got killed. Weapons, ammunition and IEDs were also recovered. "All the terrorists (killed and apprehended) were affiliated with Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group," the military's media wing said. These terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces, extortion for ransom and killing of innocent citizens.

87 power pilferers held

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) have caught 87 power pilferers during separate operations launched throughout the South Punjab in a day, MEPCO official said on Saturday.

MEPCO teams accompanying task forces raided different places in Multan, Vehari, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, and DG Khan and detected theft of 1,37,000 electricity units.

A sum of over Rs 2.2 million fine was imposed on power pilferers over Involvement in tampering with body of meters, direct supply, Installing loop in meters slowing down meters, meter dead stop and meter screen wash.

Police hold flag march in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH: Muzaffargarh police on Saturday took out a flag march, aimed to maintain and promote peaceful environment in the whole district.

According to a police spokesman, SP Investigation Zia Ullah led the flag march which was jointly attended by officials from Traffic, Dolphin, Elite Force and SHOs of different police stations.

He said the flag march aimed to promote sense of security among the masses and warned of strict action against violators.

Lumpy Skin

141,700 animals vaccinated in Sargodha

SARGODHA: As many as 141,700 animals were vaccinated against lumpy skin disease since the epidemic broke out in the division.

Talking to APP here on Saturday, Livestock Department Director Dr Asif Suleman that 385 animals were infected by the disease and 23,530 were given the dose of ring vaccination in Sargodha city.

He said that so far 310 affected animals had been disinfected after vaccinating while 71 others were under-treatment. The department confirmed that 97 cases were reported in Mianwali and 43,200 cattle heads were vaccinated.

In Bhakkar, 71 cases were reported and 49,560 animals were vaccinated, while in Khushab, 117 cases were reported and 25,410 were vaccinated.

Dr Asif said that 67 animals in Mianwali, 59 in Bhakkar, 101 in Khushab and 310 in Sargodha city recovered through vaccination and proper medication. He appealed to the people to quarantine the infected animals for the health of other animals.

CTP conducts traffic awareness lecture



MULTAN: City Traffic Police (CTP) Education unit has organized a traffic awareness lecture here on Saturday.

In line with special directions of Chief Traffic Officer Jalil Imran Ghalezi, In-charge Education Unit Inspector Muhammad Sohail has briefed the employees about the dangers of overloading and over speeding.

The participants were instructed not to take more than two rides while driving motorcycle and don't exceed from four rides in car. Similarly, they were advised to use seat belts and helmets while driving and not to let young children drive their vehicles.

The parents were asked to get the driving license of their kids who reached the age of 18 years and then allow them for driving. Later, pamphlets and brochures containing awareness of traffic rules were also distributed among the employees by the education unit.

Covid-19

Pakistan's positivity rate reaches almost 3%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported as many as 693 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the positivity rate to 2.96%, the National Institute of Health reported on Saturday.

At least two more deaths consequent to coronavirus infections were reported on Friday. This takes the total number of reported deaths from the covid-19 to 30,464.

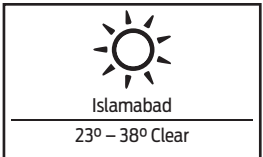
According to the NIH Pakistan, total 23,423 covid-19 diagnostic tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. Of these, 693 were reported positive. Currently, 180 patients are under observation in critical care units of different hospitals.

Punjab Food Authority seals grinding unit

FAISALABAD: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has sealed grinding unit of a food factory on the charge of producing adulterated spices in Faisalabad on Saturday.

A spokesman said that the PFA team, headed by deputy director operations, conducted surprise raid at grinding unit of a food factory situated at Jhang Road near Bhatta Stop where adulterated and spurious turmeric powder was being produced by mixing coriander and chemical in it.

The raiding team also seized 200-kilogram spurious turmeric powder, 80-kg turmeric and huge quantity of other items. The team also confiscated three grinding machines and sealed the factory unit whereas a case was got registered at Raza Abad police station for arrest of the accused who managed to escape from the scene, he added. Agencies



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:35 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:10 pm
Maghrib	7:15 pm
Isha	8:53 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

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

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CDA	9208301-04
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Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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

President felicitates newly elected PFUJ office bearers

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Saturday felicitated the newly elected office bearers of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ).

The president congratulated Afzal Butt and Arshad Ansari on their election as PFUJ president and general secretary respectively. The president also extended his felicitation to other elected office bearers of the body.

The president underlined that the government and the representative bodies of media should work together for the protection of the rights of journalists and the resolution of their issues.

He also expressed the hope that the newly elected office bearers of PFUJ would play their active role for the promotion of journalistic values.

Youth should play role for motherland's welfare: Mirza Afridi

NUML 18th Convocation held at Convention Center

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The 18th Convocation of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) was held at Jinnah Convention Centre Islamabad on Saturday.

Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. In this Convocation 558 students were conferred degrees and 39 gold medals were awarded to the graduates of different programs. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Pro Rectors, Deans, Registrar, Directors, Heads of Departments, and a large number of students along with their parents attended the Convocation.

Speaking on the occasion chief guest Mirza Muhammad Afridi said that it is matter of great pleasure for him to attend the 18th Convocation of NUML as a Chief Guest. He congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers on the successful completion of degrees in various disciplines. He said that students are the future and the asset of Pakistan, and they should play their due role for the progress and prosperity of the motherland.

Chief guest said that Students' must realize that role of teachers in their education journey and remember the sacrifices made by their parents to make them



educated. He said that success demands hard work, and this is the only way to be succeeded in every field of life.

Deputy Chairman said that it is the era of science & technology and role of universities has increased to equip students with modern day technologies to compete in the world. He said that our youth is our greatest treasure which makes up about 64% of our population. He urged the younger generation to play a positive role for the welfare of the motherland in particular and for the whole humanity in general.

Earlier, Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd) welcomed the honourable chief guest and highlighted the achievements and contributions made by NUML in various fields of education, especially oriental and occidental languages, being one of the largest language universities in Asia. He said that NUML has 300 PhDs faculty members, and 127 teachers were sent abroad for higher studies on various scholarship programs.

Rector NUML said that the Impact Ranking 2022 published by Times Higher Education has placed NUML in the top 100 to 200 universities in terms of Quality Education; whereas all over Pakistan, out of 64 universities which participated in the ranking, NUML has been ranked at 4th position.

At the end he hoped that all the successful students will play their due role in the uplift of the country and make NUML proud for their work for motherland.

Mesmerizing

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way after heavy rain in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Green, Blue lines bus service to get more buses

ISLAMABAD: At least 20 more buses were being included to the current fleet of Green and Blue Line bus service within a week to meet the ever increasing rush of commuters, Capital Development Authority (CDA) said on Saturday.

These directives were issued to the concerned by CDA

Chairman Aamir Ali Ahmed during his visit to Blue and Green Line service station at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

The chairman was told that right now eight Blue Line buses were carrying the total load of 5,800 passengers per day. Likewise eight buses of

Green Line were accommodating nearly 6,000 passengers daily.

The chairman inspected various other routes and bus stops of Islamabad bus services and directed ensuring optimum facilities to specially-abled passengers at bus stops.

The chairman CDA and officers boarded the orange bus from N5 station to G-13 station. The chairman appreciated the work of horticulture department, and instructed the metro team to serve the people with dedication as no lapse in this regard would be tolerated. Agencies

UN must listen to Kashmiris as Yasin's life in danger: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik was battling for life in notorious Tihar jail as he was deprived of all legal, constitutional and fundamental human rights.

Speaking at a hunger strike camp set up in front of the Islamabad press club along with her daughter Raziyah Sultana here on Saturday, Mushaal said that Yasin Malik was forced to fast unto death against Indian fascist authorities which denied him the right to fair trial.

Mushaal, who is the wife of Yasin Malik, revealed that fascist Narendra Modi-led Hindutva regime crossed all limits of barbarism and cruelties to silence the most powerful voice of Kashmir's peaceful freedom struggle but they failed to materialize in their nefarious designs.

The chairperson stated that people of Kashmir set up hunger strikes camps worldwide to express solidarity with their beloved leader and to expose the dirty and criminal face of Modi-led Hindutva regime.

She said that the biased kangaroo courts convicted Yasin Malik in false and fictitious fraudulent cases in order to pressurize him shun his struggle to break the shackles of Indian slavery.



However, Mushaal said that despite using all inhuman and unlawful tactics, the lion of Kashmir refused to surrender and vowed that he would sacrifice his life but won't compromise on the birth rights of Kashmiris the right to self-determination.

Hence, the Hurriyat leader expressed her apprehension about her husband life who was put in the death cell, as the occupation author-

ities had already tortured to death dozens of seniors Kashmiri leaders and the youth. She urged the UN to listen to Kashmiri people voice as Yasin Malik life was in danger.

Mushaal said that Modi-led government should learn lesson as they failed to achieve anything despite unleashing wave of terrorism and genocide of Kashmiri people for the last seven decades.

The Chairperson went on to say that India was an extremist state and a risk to the regional as well as world peace.

Mushaal urged that the world powers and UN bodies should shun the duplicity and adopted a clear and unanimous stance to press the brutal regime to not only ensure release of Yasin Malik but to give Kashmiri people their long-denied birth rights.

Health Corner

Major step forward for organ biofabrication

ISLAMABAD: Heart disease — the leading cause of death in the U.S. — is so deadly in part because the heart, unlike other organs, cannot repair itself after injury. That is why tissue engineering, ultimately including the wholesale fabrication of an entire human heart for transplant, is so important for the future of cardiac medicine.

To build a human heart from the ground up, researchers need to replicate the unique structures that make up the heart. This includes recreating helical geometries, which create a twisting motion as the heart beats. It's been long theorized that this twisting motion is critical for pumping blood at high volumes, but proving that has been difficult, in part because creating hearts with different geometries and alignments has been challenging.

Now, bioengineers from the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) have developed the first biohybrid model of human ventricles with helically aligned beating cardiac cells, and have shown that muscle alignment does, in fact, dramatically increases how much blood the ventricle can pump with each contraction.

This advancement was made possible using a new method of additive textile manufacturing, Focused Rotary Jet Spinning (FRJS), which enabled the high-throughput fabrication of helically aligned fibers with diameters ranging from several micrometers to hundreds of nanometers. Developed at SEAS by Kit Parker's Disease Biophysics Group, FRJS fibers direct cell alignment, allowing for the formation of controlled tissue engineered structures.



"This work is a major step forward for organ biofabrication and brings us closer to our ultimate goal of building a human heart for transplant," said Parker, the Tarr Family Professor of Bioengineering and Applied Physics at SEAS and senior author of the paper.

This work has its roots in a centuries old mystery. In 1669, English physician Richard Lower — a man who counted John Locke among his colleagues and King Charles II among his patients — first noted the spiral-like arrangement of heart muscles in his seminal work Tractatus de Corde.

Over the next three centuries, physicians and scientists have built a more comprehensive understanding of the heart's structure but the purpose of those spiraling muscles has remained frustratingly hard to study.

After spinning, the ventricles were seeded with rat cardiomyocyte or human stem cell derived cardiomyocyte cells. Within about a week, several thin layers of beating tissue covered the scaffold, with the cells following the alignment of the fibers beneath.

The beating ventricles mimicked the same twisting or wringing motion present in human hearts.

The researchers compared the ventricle deformation, speed of electrical signaling and ejection fraction between ventricles made from helical aligned fibers and those made from circumferentially aligned fibers. They found on every front, the helically aligned tissue outperformed the circumferentially aligned tissue.

"Since 2003, our group has worked to understand the structure-function relationships of the heart and how disease pathologically compromises these relationships," said Parker. "In this case, we went back to address a never tested observation about the helical structure of the laminar architecture of the heart. Fortunately, Professor Sallin published a theoretical prediction more than a half century ago and we were able to build a new manufacturing platform that enabled us to test his hypothesis and address this centuries-old question."

The team also demonstrated that the process can be scaled up to the size of an actual human heart and even larger, to the size of a Minke whale heart (they didn't seed the larger models with cells as it would take billions of cardiomyocyte cells). Courtesy Science Daily

PAC organizes Shahadat Hazrat Imam Hussain Conference



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab arts Council organized 15th International Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain Conference in collaboration with international Panjatan Pak Movement.

The conference was presided over by Pir Azmatullah Sultan, while Assistant Director arts Council Muhammad Suleman was the host of the event. Addressing the reference, Pir Azmatullah Sultan said that the incomparable sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain teaches us that in order to obtain the pleasure and pleasure of Allah Almighty; we should sacrifice our life, wealth, honor and dignity, family and friends in the right way.

The goal of a believer's life is to sacrifice his children and everything. The martyrdom of Hazrat Syedna Imam Hussain RA is a bright chapter in the history of Islam which is unique and unparalleled in terms of its status, its greatness is still the same as it was centuries ago, he added.

In Muharram al-Haram, the holy life of Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) should be described, which will improve the atmosphere of love, peace and brotherhood in different sects. For the elevation of Islam, one must pledge to follow Allah and His Messenger.

Pir Azmatullah Sultan further said that Pakistan belongs to all of us and under the shadow of this flag we are all one. All minorities are free in Pakistan. And they are living according to their own religion. From today's conference, the statement of inter-faith harmony has gone to the whole world, where scholars of different religions are gathered under one roof. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said in his speech that hussainism is fight against the tyranny.

Nine more test positive for Coronavirus

RAWALPINDI: Nine more people were diagnosed with coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,112.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Saturday, the total infected cases included 43,554 from Rawalpindi and 3,558 from other districts.

Among the news cases, four were from Potohar Town, three from Rawalpindi Cantonment and two from Rawal Town area. "Presently, 95 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes, and no one at the health facilities", the report added.

The report further said that 6,981,783 people, including 44,797 health workers had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. The District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,019 samples were collected, out of which 1,010 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.88 per cent.

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Globalization: A new way of interaction



Raja Furqan Ahmed

Analysis
Globalization term used to describe the growing interdependence of the world's economic, social, and technological exchange within the framework of capitalism in the cross border. It also refers to the integration of markets in the global economy, leading to the increased interconnectedness of national economies. Countries have built economic partnerships to facilitate these movements over many centuries but the term gained popularity after the Cold War in the early 1990s, as these cooperative arrangements shaped modern everyday life. Thomas Friedman one of the American political writers stated that 'Globalization is a system that replaced the Cold War system.' The wide-ranging effects of globalization are complex and politically charged. As with major technological advances and development, globalization benefits society as a whole, while also harming certain groups. Globalization has also created new jobs and economic growth

through the cross-border especially the flow of goods, capital, and labour but on the other hand; this growth and job creation is not distributed evenly across industries or countries. If we look at the development of industries in certain countries, such as textile manufacturing in the US or corn farming in Mexico, have suffered severe disruption or outright collapse as a result of increased international competition. About the objectives and goals of globalization we can see that this phenomenon is idealistic, as well as opportunistic, but the development of a global free market has also benefited large corporations based in the Western hemisphere. Its impact remains mixed for workers, cultures, and small businesses around the globe, in both developed and emerging nations. Globalization has increased the production of goods and services throughout the world. As there are numbers of driving forces which play a key role in globalization such as Technology, the principal drivers of globalization. Advanced information technology has transformed our economic life as well as in business sector since developed new tools to cope new opportunities, including faster and more informed analyses of economic trends around the world and communication with partners. Thomas Friedman has said that today globalization is "farther, faster, cheaper, and deeper."

Low barriers to trade and investment drive globalization significantly. Many of the world trades are currently done through free trade, bilateral, and multi-lateral agreements. Interestingly, countries which were very hostile or unfriendly to foreign investment a few years ago, are inviting other countries for inward foreign direct investment (FDI). China is a very good example in this regard. Communication is faster and more convenient due to the improvement in technology. For example, we can communicate through telephone, e-mail, 3G video conferencing easily, also satellite allows messages to send out and receive at the same time. Improvement in transportation technology in air, sea and rail systems to accelerate the globalization activities. Also, the decline in transportation costs and less time needed to travel from one place to another. The high-tech transport system has reduced the travelling time and increases the efficiency of transferring goods, thus boost globalization. For example, 19th century: use the steam engine for transport; 20th century: use commercial jet aircraft, large ocean-going vessels and containerization. Globalizations have many advantages but there are few disadvantages such as it really affects National Security of a State. National security faces both benefits and risks from globalization. The consequences of globalization for national security, however, need not

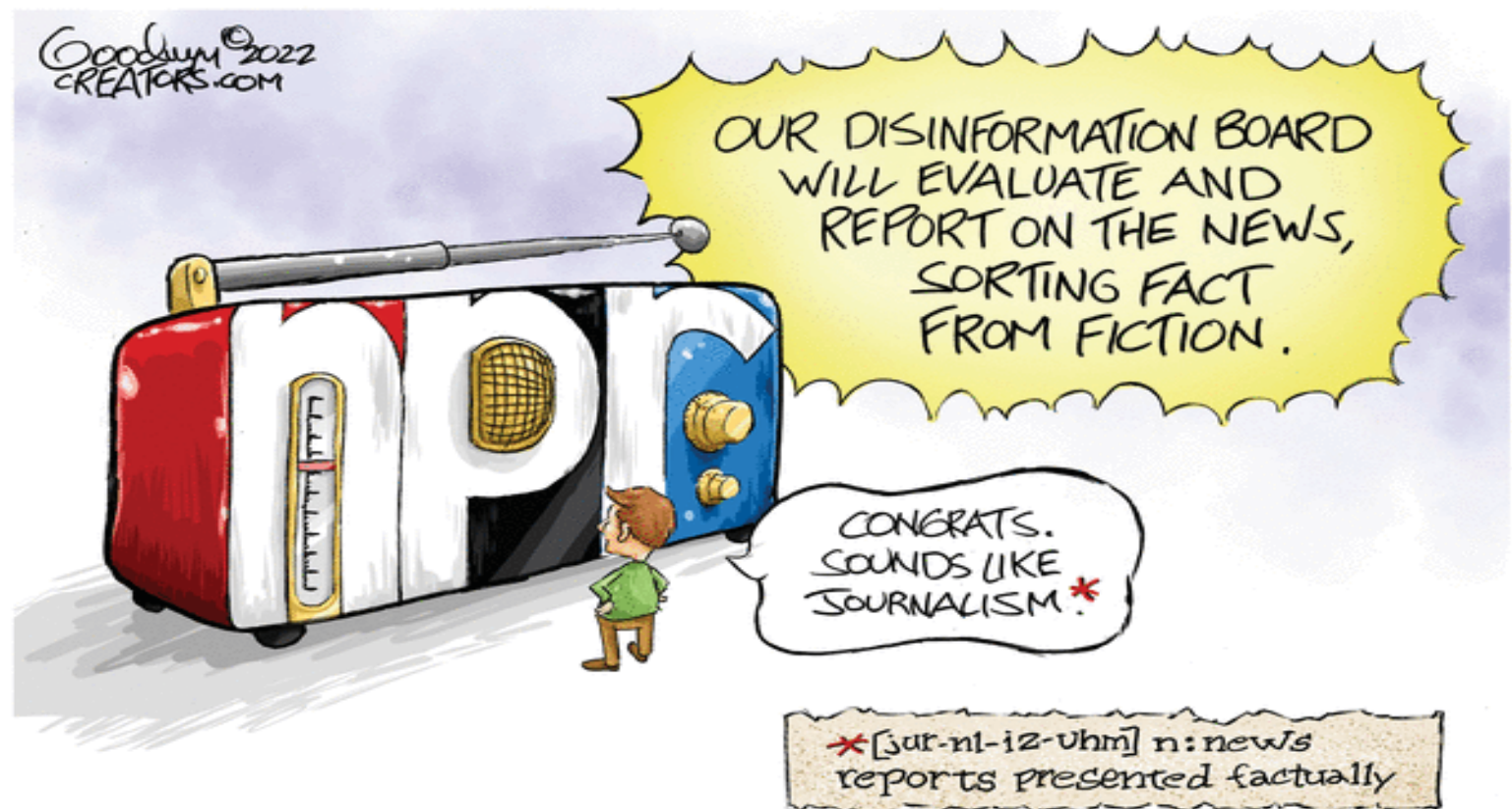
be limited to war or insurgency, but include as well how forces of globalization affect the balance of power, change the offence-defence balance or other factors that might affect the security dilemma and the likelihood of war, or transform the ability of the state to defend its own interests. Developments such as decreased defense budgets, increased military use of civilian products and technology, privatization of defense R&D, consolidation of defense industries, and increased military use of sophisticated information systems are the results of decisions based on changes in the foreign threat, technological innovations, and domestic political and economic changes. Globalization and other developments affecting the defense industry and government research, acquisition, security, and export control policies have shaped a security environment sharply different than that of the Cold War. Globalization may actually reduce the risks of conflict among closely connected nations. Economic integration probably contributes to international political stability by increasing economic interdependence and helping the spread of democracy. In conjunction with related defence developments, globalization has contributed to enhanced U.S. military capabilities through the efficient application of commercial technologies and commercial services and

has improved interoperability of allied forces. If we see Globalization in the Political Context, the role of the US as Unipolar Power remained important. The forces of globalization such as technology may make it much easier to transmit information, or more difficult to control capital flows, but if the world's only superpower had different policy preferences, say those of caution, closure, and control, then the pressures of globalization, while still present and powerful, would not be as pervasive. Globalization also plays its role to minimize the role of the flow of capitalism. As there are mainly three ways in which national security affected such as it affects state capacity and autonomy that is, the relative power of the state vis-à-vis non-state actors, social forces, and market pressures. It also affects the balance of power between states, because even if changes in the system left each state absolutely less able to advance its interests, there would still be a reshuffling of relative capabilities. And by creating new sources of conflict between states, new opportunities for entrepreneurs of political violence, and by reshaping the costs and benefits of both warfare and conquest, the forces of globalization can recast the nature of the armed conflict. *The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan.*

Renaming Muslim localities

The BJP leadership in India is using these communal tactics to win over their voters because the economy and prosperity are at their lowest points ever. They are humiliating themselves by doing this. They have become so pitiful as to be laughed at. BJP has nothing to show to their people, so they are trying to divert people's attention towards communal issues. BJP's motto is clear. They want to erase the chapters of history. Instead of focusing on development, they divert the attention of people from the basic issues. Such tactics won't help the BJP in coming elections, as people are fully aware of ill designs. It has indulged such wrong activities. The infamous renaming politics, popular in Uttar Pradesh, got introduced in Jammu after BJP swept the JMC polls, winning 43 of the 75 wards in urban local body elections which were held in the erstwhile state in four phases from October 8 to 16 in 2018 after a gap of 13 years. In the year 2020, the civic body renamed the historic City Square Bharat Mata Chowk, Panjthirithi as Atal Ji Chowk, and Narwal Square as Raja Mandlik Chowk. The names changing politics started on J&K after the Abrogation of 370 when the government changed PHE, a water supply department to Jal Shakti department. The Chenani-Nashri tunnel was named after Hindutva ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The tunnel was renamed on October 24 – almost two months after J&K was stripped of its special status. In June, Jammu Municipal Corporation passed a resolution to rename Sheikh Nagar in Jammu to be called Shiv Nagar, and Amphalla Chowk could be renamed Hanuman Chowk. The move has been criticized by many people including Opposition leaders. The resolution was moved by Sharda Kumari, a Bharatiya Janata Party councillor from ward 47 where Sheikh Nagar is located, moved a resolution seeking the change in names at the 16th general house meeting of the JMC held in Town Hall Jammu on 11th June 2022. The two city squares were renamed following separate resolutions passed by the general house of the BJP-led JMC. While moving the resolution the local councillor claimed that it was a long pending demand of residents because of the confusion as the area was also known by different names like New Bahu Fort and G D Colony besides Sheikh Nagar. Renaming these places will end the confusion, she observed. After passing the resolution unanimously, there is Shiv Mandir in the area and the people also want the place to be renamed. Therefore, it was decided to rename Sheikh Nagar to Shiv Nagar. Resolution has been passed in the house. The resolution will now be sent to the civil secretariat of Jammu and Kashmir for approval. Jammu Municipal Corporation has claimed that they are changing these names for public demands but the maximum number of business holders in these areas express unawareness about these developments. These businessmen say that none have approached us or sought our consent; we came to know about these developments through media reports. Many people have criticized this move of the Mayor, saying that instead of focusing on development Jammu Municipal Corporation seems more interested in hate politics.

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BRICS' Possible Expansion

Sinem Cengiz
At a time when the organizations involved in global and regional cooperation seem to have lost momentum in their efforts to find tangible solutions to the conflicts, poverty, climate emergencies and food crises that many countries around the world are facing, BRICS is looking to expand and introduce an alternative global governance. At the same time, its attempts are considered a challenge to the existing world order. BRICS is a heterogeneous organization composed of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Established in 2006 by the first four countries, it was called BRIC until South Africa joined in 2010. The members hold summits every year and take turns hosting them; This year's gathering was in Beijing and the 2023 summit is scheduled to take place in South Africa. The member countries, which collectively represent about 27 percent of the world's geographic area and are home to 42 percent of the global population, share significant structural features, such as rapidly growing economies, substantial military capabilities, and increasing political influence in global governance institutions. According to the International Monetary Fund, China accounts for more than 70 percent of the group's economy, India about 13 percent, Russia and Brazil about 7 percent each, and South Africa 3 percent. Lately, BRICS has once again caught the attention of the media after the president of the organization's International Forum, Purnima Anand, revealed that Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt plan to approach BRICS about official membership. Her statement

came soon after Russia's announcement that Argentina and Iran had begun the preparatory process for joining BRICS. The applications are the first expansion move since South Africa joined more than a decade ago. In 2018, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was a guest at the 10th BRICS summit, in Johannesburg, during which he said: "I wish they (BRICS members) would take the necessary steps to let us (Turkey) in and we could take our place in BRICS." He noted that Turkey considered the summit an opportunity to develop economic, investment and development cooperation, and that his country also aimed to enhance cooperation with BRICS nations in the energy field. Erdogan has also raised Turkey's possible membership application during talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Taken together, all these developments indicate that BRICS could see an expansion process but it might not happen overnight. International media outlets are taking an interest in this possible trend. US magazine Newsweek, for example, said that as NATO's "largest expansion in decades" takes place, "Beijing and Moscow were looking to take on new members" in their own blocs and BRICS was mentioned. The impetus for a BRICS expansion has grown stronger against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, intensifying competition between China and the US, and the increasingly intense confrontation between East and West. Both East and West aim to consolidate their camps by expanding their networks of friends and partners. BRICS members aim to recruit "node" countries that occupy key strategic locations and growing economies. It is no surprise, therefore, that there is interest in bringing Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia into the camp. There is some debate about the potential contributions of these three

countries, which have a combined population of about 220 million, to BRICS if they were to become permanent members. Much of the discussion has centered around material incentives, such as a variety of economic benefits, reduced dependence on other nations, and multifaceted foreign policy options. Among the three, Saudi Arabia is one of the world's largest exporters of crude oil, holding 15 percent of global oil reserves, and a founding member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Meanwhile, Russia is a member of OPEC+. This is a larger grouping that includes the 13 members of OPEC plus 10 other oil-producing nations, with the latter led by Russia. Egypt, the largest of the three potential BRICS members in terms of population (about 102 million), is also an important petroleum producer and exporter. Turkey, which has a population of more than 85 million, is a member of NATO and so occupies a unique position in the confrontation between East and West. In the past decade, the trend in Turkish, Egyptian and Saudi relations with Russia, China and India has been positive and they are increasingly entwined in terms of trade and defense. Trade volumes between the two camps has risen significantly. Although traditionally Western allies, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have been actively seeking alternative partners. In part, their tilt toward China, Russia and India is a result of the changing role and position of the US in the region and the resulting shifts in relations with Washington. BRICS membership might bring them political and economic benefits, but how the expansion process will actually play out remains to be seen. *The writer is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkey's relations with the Middle East. Courtesy Arab News*

Reassessing the US Global Role

Fawaz Turki
On the final leg of his four-day tour of the Middle East last week, American President Joe Biden told leaders at the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the regional union bringing together Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, that "the US is not going anywhere", implying that America continues to be a central player in the international system and still wields the will and the power to influence which way the geopolitical winds blow in the region. This claim gives the lie to one unfortunate fact of life that seems to have passed largely unnoticed by the Biden administration but not by countless expert analysts, area studies academics and policy wonks informed of world affairs: An increasing number of countries around the globe, including those in the Middle East, are asserting their right to have an independent role in the determination of what constitutes their own national interests, be they political, economic or security ones. Since the end of the Second World War, when the United States emerged as a superpower and so-called "leader of the free world", Americans were socialised to think of their country as world leader in everything good — and what was good for America was good for the rest of the world, a self-image bolstered by the smug belief that the country was an "exceptional" nation. This was a belief that cultural historians have traced back to the American Revolution, whose founders at the time argued (to be sure, not altogether convincingly) that their nation's social values, political system and cultural ethos were unique in human history, and thus America was both destined and entitled to play a leading role on the world stage. And since the end of the Cold War, when in Dec. 26, 1991, the Soviet Union voted itself out of existence (and coincidentally Cold Warriors found themselves out of a job), that self-image was bolstered even further after the US found itself enjoying a preponderance of power, facing no credible competitor state, which

effectively rendered it the only geopolitical kid on the block with enough swagger to turn heads. Those were heady days that drove America to, as it were, go where no man had gone before and make the transition from a mere, humble "exceptional" nation to an overconfident "indispensable" nation, a term then Secretary of State Madlein Albright repeatedly invoked while in office (1997-2001) to define the new, putative role the US intended to play in the 21st century. He wrote: "Humanity has reached not just the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such — that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government." Sure, sure, he added, stuff will happen in the countries found on the periphery of the Western core, but "it matters little what strange thoughts occur to people in Albania and Burkina Fasso?" History, however, is more complex an enterprise than the one perceived by a young academic whose intellectual bravado is exceeded only his Eurocentric, indeed racist fantasies. History, in short, is known to always have a few tricks up its sleeve — and in this case it has been playing them in recent years against the United States. Even before, long before President Donald Trump's incoherent and at times belligerent America First policy upended America's relationship with the rest of the world, America had progressively been losing its role as global leader. To say that, however, is not to echo the claim by declinist historians like Paul Kennedy (The Rise and Fall of Empires, 1987) that America will soon whither away as a big power. Let us forget, the nation remains still a military, economic and political colossus. To say that, rather, is to say that the power of other countries has grown to a point where they are now able to determine their own affairs independently of US wishes, let alone dictates. An American-led world is now history. And Pax America is no more. And, you know what? I say it's about time the world has outgrown American power. *The writer is a journalist, lecturer and author based in Washington. Courtesy Gulf News*

Russian missiles strike Ukraine's Odessa port

Kyiv says attack dealing blow to grain export deal



KYIV: Ukraine said Saturday that Russian missiles had struck the Odessa port, a key Black Sea terminal, one day after Moscow and Kyiv penned a deal to resume grain exports blocked by the war. "The enemy attacked the Odessa sea port with Kalibr cruise missiles. Two of

the missiles were shot down by air defences. Two hit port infrastructure," Sergiy Bratchuk, a representative of the Odessa region said in a statement on social media. Russia will 'bear full responsibility' if grain deal collapses, Kyiv said in statement. Putin 'spits in the face' of UN, Turkey

with Odessa attack, it said in a statement. Ukraine and Russia signed landmark deal on Friday aimed at relieving a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain deliveries, ending months of negotiations. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Kremlin state media after attending the signing ceremony that he expected the deal to start working "in the next few days". He pointed out that Russia had managed to secure a separate pledge from Washington and Brussels to lift all restrictions on its own grain and other agricultural exports. Ukraine's foreign ministry called on the United Nations and Turkey, which mediated Friday's deal, to ensure that Russia fulfils its commitments and allows free passage in the grain corridor. A blockade of Ukrainian ports by Russia's Black Sea fleet since Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion of its neighbour has trapped tens of millions of tonnes of grain and stranded many ships. This has wors-

ened global supply chain bottlenecks and, along with Western sanctions on Russia, stoked food and energy price inflation. Friday's export deal seeks to avert famine among tens of millions of people in poorer nations by injecting more wheat, sunflower oil, fertilizer and other products into world markets including for humanitarian needs, partly at lower prices. Senior U.N. officials, briefing reporters on Friday, said the deal was expected to be fully operational in a few weeks and would restore grain shipments from the three reopened ports to pre-war levels of 5 million tonnes a month. Under the deal, Ukrainian officials would guide ships through safe channels across mined waters to three ports, including Odesa, where they would be loaded with grain. Moscow has denied responsibility for the crisis, blaming Western sanctions for slowing its own food and fertilizer exports and Ukraine for mining the approaches to its Black Sea ports.

Putin to award Order of Alexander Nevsky to Uzbek President

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree bestowing President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev with the Order of Alexander Nevsky, according to the document posted on the government's legal information web portal on Saturday. "To bestow President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev with the Order of Alexander Nevsky for great merits of strengthening friendship and cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan," the decree reads.

WYDF

Experts highlights youth power in green development

BEIJING: The World Youth Development Forum had discussions about the power of the youth in achieving green development Friday, with hundreds of experts and youth representatives from China and abroad attending the event. The youth should be guided to form a sense of contributing to the building of a community of the Chinese nation, a community with a shared future for humanity, and a community of life for humans and nature, said Wang Xiqin, president of Tsinghua University. The forum was held online and offline from July 21 to 23, with nearly 2,000 youth representatives from over 100 countries attending the conference, according to the event organizer. Initiated by the All-China Youth Federation, the forum has seen attendees discussing topics such as employment and entrepreneurship, climate change and green development, the digital economy, and high-quality education.

Deadly bombardment

Iraq requests urgent meeting of UNSC

BAGHDAD: Iraq on Saturday requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council after the deadly bombardment on a resort in Iraq's Northern Province of Duhok. "The ministry submitted a complaint to the Security Council and requested an urgent meeting to discuss the Turkish attack, which resulted in the killing and wounding of many civilians, in Duhok Province," said Iraqi Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ahmed al-Sahaf said in a statement. A suspected Turkish bombardment hit a Duhok resort in Iraq's semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan on Wednesday, leaving nine civilians dead and dozens wounded. The Iraqi government accuses the Turkish forces of carrying out the attack, a charge Ankara has denied.

Also on Saturday, the Iraqi parliament held an urgent session, with the presence of Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Defense Minister Juma Inad and some top military commanders, to discuss the bombardment on the Iraqi territories. Hussein said during the session that diplomacy should be used to resolve the conflict and that military escalation with Türkiye avoided, said. He demanded the issues of the presence of the Turkish military forces and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) inside Iraqi territory be addressed, added the source who wished to remain anonymous. On Thursday, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry handed a sternly worded protest note to Turkish Ambassador to Iraq Ali Reza Guney over the deadly resort bombardment in Duhok, demanding the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory. Turkish forces frequently carry out ground operations, airstrikes, and artillery bombardments in Iraq's Kurdistan, especially the Qandil Mountains, the main base of the PKK. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the United States and the European Union, has been rebelling against the Turkish government for more than three decades.

N. Korea condemns US over remarks on cryptocurrency stealing

SEOUL: North Korea on Saturday condemned remarks by a senior White House official about Pyongyang's cyberattack capabilities and said it would continue to stand against what it called US aggression towards it. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that branding North Korea as a "group of criminals" revealed the true nature of Washington's hostile policy towards North Korea. Ms Anne Neuberger, the US deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technology, reportedly said on Wednesday that the North Koreans were a criminal syndicate pursuing revenue "in the guise of a country".

North Korea is widely believed to have thousands of trained hackers and stealing of crypto currencies has become a major source of funding for the sanctions-hit country and its weapons programmes. "After all, the US administration has revealed the true picture of its most vile hostile policy, once covered under the veil of 'dialogue with no strings attached' and 'diplomatic engagement,'" state news agency KCNA said, citing the foreign ministry spokesperson. "In a similar fashion, the DPRK will face off the U.S., the world's one and only group of criminals."

Sri Lankan President orders fuel distribution

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday instructed officials to accelerate the fuel distribution process and focus on providing fuel for school and public transport. He ordered officials to provide fuel to vehicles transporting school children from all state-run fuel depots. The economic crisis has particularly impacted food security, agriculture, livelihoods, and access to health services. Food production in the last harvest season was 40-50 per cent lower than last year, and the current agricultural season is at risk, with seeds, fertilizers, fuel and credit shortages.



The instruction was given at a meeting to address the fuel crisis in the country, as schools will be reopened after several weeks of closure due to fuel shortages. Fish-

ermen, farmers and those engaged in tourism also need to be provided adequate quantities of fuel, the newly elected President said. Ranil Wick-

remesinghe was sworn in as President of Sri Lanka on July 14 in Parliament before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya.

Sri Lanka's economy is bracing for a sharp contraction due to the unavailability of basic inputs for production, an 80 per cent depreciation of the currency since March 2022, coupled with a lack of foreign reserves and the country's failure to meet its international debt obligations. China has offered a relatively small amount of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka, and even Colombo's requests for USD 2.5 billion in credit support have met with a chilly reception. "Sri Lanka still matters a lot to China, but other things also matter. In particular, they seem to not want to set a precedent in Sri Lanka of offering debt relief that other countries can then also request," Alan Keenan, senior consultant on Sri Lanka at the International Crisis Group, said as quoted by Nikkie Asia.

Kazakhstan reaffirms position on Ukraine conflict



KAZAKHSTAN: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reaffirmed in a phone talk with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky the republic's position on the need to settle the situation in Ukraine by diplomatic methods, the press office of the president of Kazakhstan reported on Saturday.

"The president of Kazakhstan spoke positively about the three-party deal on Ukrainian grain exports reached with the UN assistance in Turkey. The head of state also reaffirmed Kazakhstan's principled position on settling the situation in Ukraine diplomatically," the statement reads. During the phone talk held at the initiative of the Ukrainian side, Tokayev and Zelen-

sky exchanged greetings on the 30th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries celebrated on July 23. "Kassym-Jomart Tokayev pointed to positive results achieved over this period in developing bilateral cooperation in the economic and humanitarian spheres," the press office said. Speaking at a special panel session of the Qatar Economic Forum in Doha on June 21, Tokayev said that he considered it important to continue the negotiating process for settling the situation in Ukraine. He said that in his opinion the good will of each of the sides was required to resolve the Ukraine conflict.

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Int'l Congress VI of the World Society concluding today in Samarkand

Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan—the basis of a new Renaissance

SAMARKAND: Samarkand is hosting an International Congress VI of the World Society "Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan—the basis of a new Renaissance". The event is organized by the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan with the support of over 10 international and 5 national organizations. The event will conclude today (Sunday)

The key event of the Congress will be the presentation of 10 new volumes of books-albums of the series "Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in the collections of the world" (51-60 volumes). Thus, a collection of illustrated books, on which more than 350 scientists from more than 25 countries worked, 100 libraries and museums of world renown, has already reached 60 volumes.

In addition, a presentation of unique edition of an ancient manuscript is planned. One of Europe's leading publishing houses Mueller & Schindlershow a facsimile of the rarest manuscript, commissioned by the outstanding Uzbek man astrologer Mirzo Ulugbek. The historical value and authenticity of this rare ancient manuscript, are kept in the collection of the National Library of France, doesn't have any doubts.

The bright moments of the Congress will also be round tables on such topics as "Heritage that unites peoples: Central Asia



and Azerbaijan", "New directions of the World Society: plans and prospects", "National museums and collections in the focus of the World Society". Also within the framework of the Congress there will be a presentation of

two unique books about the art of Uzbekistan. These are deluxe editions "On the banks of the Aral and Amu. Art of the Karakalpak" and "Ornament: Aesthetics, Magic, Meaning". The International

Scientific Conference "Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the Focus of Modern Science" will be held at the Palace of Youth Creativity in Samarkand. The grand opening of the VI International Congress "Cultural Heritage of



Uzbekistan—the basis of a new Renaissance" will take place. Over 100 reports by well-known orientalists from more than 35 countries of the world dedicated to the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and the countries of Central Asia will be heard during two days.

More than 250 world-famous oriental scholars will take part in the work of the Congress, including 33 directors of famous international museums, 15 directors of national museums, 6 representatives of international organizations, more than 15 academicians, more than 20 professors, more than 20 doctors of science. "The project "Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the Collections of the World" can be safely called one of the brightest results of the policy of New Uzbekistan, the reforms are carried out by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the field of culture.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,077.30	39,831.75
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,180.78	39,541.09
Index Value	Change
3,703,525,155	+ 245.55
Percentage	Time
+ 0.62%	22 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,276.37	+5.86
Percentage	Time
+ 0.081%	22 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,978.49	-58.41
Percentage	Time
-0.18%	22 Jul, 11:51 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,914.66	+111.66
Percentage	Time
+0.40%	22 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	155.14	156.39
Bahrain Dinar	597.45	601.95
Canadian Dollar	174.75	176.1
China Yuan	33.31	33.56
Danish Krone	30.87	31.22
Euro	224.5	227.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.66	29.01
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	729.26	734.26
Malaysian Ringgit	50.54	50.99
New Zealand \$	140.32	141.52
Norwegians Krone	22.62	22.92
Omani Riyal	584.22	588.72
Qatari Riyal	61.82	62.32
Saudi Riyal	59	59.9
Singapore Dollar	161.65	162.95
Swedish Korona	22.02	22.32
Swiss Franc	231.45	233.2
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	60.5	61.5
UK Pound Sterling	264	267.5
US Dollar	228	230

China's Grand Canal Overseas Tourism Promotion Season launched

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The "China's Grand Canal Overseas Tourism Promotion Season 2022" is officially launched and will continue until August 20, 2022.

The launching ceremony of the event was held in Liaocheng City, Shandong Province of China.

The event is organized by the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Department of International Cooperation of the State Administration of Radio and Television, and Network of International Cultural Link Entities, together with the cultural and tourism departments (bureaus) of eight provinces (cities), including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Shandong, and Henan.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan will host the event online, where each day we will expose you to an intriguing program about China's Grand Canal, including the promotion of local cultural and tourism projects, the screening of documentaries about intangible cultural heritage, photo exhibitions, and much more.

Volkswagen to change CEO

FRANKFURT: Volkswagen unexpectedly announced Friday (Jul 22) that its CEO Herbert Diess will step down in a few weeks after four years at the head of the German auto giant as it attempts an ambitious shift towards electric vehicles.

Diess's will leave the helm from the top of the world's second-largest automaker "by mutual consent" on September 1, Volkswagen said in a statement.

The outgoing CEO had been in the hot seat at Volkswagen for months amid clashes with workers' representatives and a nagging troubles at the group's software division.

The change at the top comes as Volkswagen is aiming to leave behind combustion engines to become the world's biggest electric car manufacturer by 2025—a target boosted by Diess himself.

Speakers call for creating national-level ESG framework for Pakistan

ENSOGO holds event to focus on simplifying ESG journey for businesses

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: ENSOGO and British Deputy High Commission Karachi arranged an exclusive gathering of corporate leaders to discuss the adoption of the ESG frameworks and sustainability practices in Pakistan.

The event was held at Acton House British Deputy High Commission Karachi. Corporate leadership from the financial sector, banking, textile, FMCG, manufacturing, technology and development sector gathered at the event organised by ENSOGO, British Deputy High Commission, Karachi, in partnership with ACCA, Nutshell Group, SEED Ventures and Matriarch Ventures under the title "Simplifying the ESG journey for businesses".

The leaders, in general, discussed that the operating context for organisations implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies is changing exceptionally fast. There are pressures from investors, customers, employees and regulators to take substantive action and strengthen reporting and disclosures.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson of Pakistan Stock Exchange, PICG and Former Federal Minister, stressed creating a national-level ESG framework for Pakistan to bring harmony and comparability.

Sadia Sajjad, Country Manager UK, Ireland, Denmark and Malta, IFC, Jonathan Freeman, CEO, Sustainability Director, CareTech plc; Managing Director, Earlsbrook Consulting Limited, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder, Nutshell Group & Corporate Pakistan Group, Former Minister of State & Chairman, Board of Investment and Maheen Rahman, CEO InfraZamin Pakistan stressed on the urgency climate action and adoption of ESG framework.



Muhammad Ali Tabba, CEO of Lucky Cement Limited and Yunus Textile Mills Limited, part of YBG business conglomerate, Shazad Dada, CEO and President of UBL, Farrukh H. Khan, MD & CEO, Pakistan Stock Exchange, Naz Khan, Chief Strategy Officer, K-Electric, Shaista Ayesha, CEO, SEED Ventures, Assad Hameed, Head of ACCA Pakistan discussed the success and progress of sustainability and ESG frameworks' adoption in Pakistan.

Corporate leaders and participants appreciated the efforts of ENSOGO (in simplifying the ESG journey for businesses in Pakistan. ENSOGO is an ESG tech and data-led start-up delivering a bitesize sprint model to accelerate ESG transitions for companies in Pakistan and abroad.

The main aim of the discussion is to gather companies under one roof and let them discover new sources of competitive advantage by focusing on benefits and embedding sustainability in the business and across the value chain.

Mike Nithavrianakis, British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi, shared his views at the launch event of ENSOGO "The environmental, social, and governance challenges the world faces today are complex, alarming and urgent. Businesses must make bold commitments, build robust plans and take tangible actions. Boards have the primary role of simplifying ESG adoption and benchmark the progress against global standards."

"A strong sustainability strategy transforms a company's relationships with its workforce,

suppliers and customers, and resources utilisation models and creates long-term value for all its stakeholders", Faraz Khan, Founder and CEO of ENSOGO.

The companies are embracing sustainability and ESG to break harmful practices, accelerate business and societal transformation, and create value. This transformation focuses on long-term value creation for the company and its stakeholders and the broader environmental and human context in which it operates.

By focusing on benefits — sustainable and circular product cycles, equitable employment, sustainable sourcing, investment in innovation — and embedding sustainability, companies in the vanguard are discovering new sources of competitive advantage.

Bank Alfalah, ACE Money Transfer give Kia Sportage to lucky remittance senders

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, in partnership with ACE Money Transfer, rewarded six lucky overseas Pakistanis for using legal remittance channels with a Kia Sportage Alpha SUVs each in a ceremony held on Saturday.

A promotional campaign in this regard was launched for customers sending remittance

via ACE Money Transfer between April 1 and June 30, 2022 from the UK, European Union, Switzerland, Canada, and Australia to any of Bank Alfalah account or for cash pickup at any of its over 790 branches in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Saad Ur Rahman Khan, Group Head Bank Alfalah Corporate, Investment Banking & International Business,

said "A successful marketing campaign has come to a conclusion today as we show appreciation to our valuable customers for choosing Bank Alfalah to send their remittance. We hope to continue to be the choice for innovative and convenient solutions for our overseas Pakistanis and encourage them to remit money through legal channels".

Mr. Rashid Ashraf, CEO of ACE Money Transfer, has reiterated his support of the campaign by saying, "ACE Money Transfer remains committed to facilitating overseas Pakistanis with fast, secure and convenient remittance options. We are excited to continue our partnership with Bank Alfalah in promoting legal channels of remittances to Pakistan".

KSA, Greece to sign energy, telecoms deals

ATHENS: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit Greece on July 26 to meet Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek foreign ministry said, in his first visit to an EU country since the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The ministry said the pair were due to sign bilateral deals, without giving details. A Greek diplomatic source said the deals were in the fields of

energy, military cooperation, and an undersea data cable, among others.

Greece and Saudi Arabia agreed in May on the main terms to set up a joint venture to lay the data cable that will link Europe with Asia. The "East to Med data Corridor" will be developed by MENA HUB, owned by Saudi Arabia's STC and Greek telecoms and satellite applications company TTSA.

T-Mobile to pay \$350 mln in settlement over massive hacking

WASHINGTON: T-Mobile US Inc (TMUS.O) agreed to pay \$350 million and spend an additional \$150 million to upgrade data security to settle litigation over a cyberattack last year that compromised information belonging to an estimated 76.6 million people.

The preliminary settlement was filed with the federal court in Kansas City, Missouri. It requires a judge's approval, which the second-largest U.S. wireless carrier said could come by December.

T-Mobile denied wrongdoing, specifically, including accusations that it breached its duties to protect customers' personal information and had inadequate data security.

The Bellevue, Washington-based company expects an approximately \$400 million pre-tax charge in this year's second quarter for the settlement. It said it contemplated the charge and \$150 million of spending in prior financial guidance.



ance. T-Mobile disclosed the data breach last August, saying at the time it affected more than 47 million current, former and prospective customers.

The number soon grew past 50 million, and T-Mobile said in November its investigation uncovered an additional 26 million people whose personal information was accessed.

T-Mobile has said the information included names,

addresses, birth dates, driver's license data and Social Security numbers.

Settlement covered nationwide litigation combining at least 44 proposed class-action lawsuits.

Class members may receive cash payments of \$25, or \$100 in California, and some could receive up to \$25,000 to cover out-of-pocket losses, settlement papers show. They will also receive two years of identity theft protection.

ICCI, TDAP organize training session on Amazon

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized a training session on Amazon.

The session was attended by a large number of trading community, Adil Mukhtar, Assistant Director, TDAP gave a detailed presentation about Amazon Seller Registration Procedure, Product Projection and account management.

Ms. Urva Hassan of TDAP gave a presentation on Payment Procedures and Amir Khan gave a presentation on Logistics.

The participants were briefed about how to create an account on Amazon, its documentary requirements, how to write product features to get into top ranking during search on

Amazon and Amazon's criteria for suspension or cancellation of account due to supply of defective products to the consumers.

Addressing the session, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that Amazon provided a wider market to the sellers and buyers and they should capitalize on this e-commerce platform to achieve better growth in business.

He said that the global e-commerce market was projected to cross USD 5 trillion in 2022 while online retail sales was projected to cross USD 6 trillion in 2023 and stressed that the Pakistani business community should try to capture better market share in this growing market to boost trade and exports.

He said that Pakistan's e-commerce market was

projected to cross USD 7 billion in 2022 and USD 9 billion by 2025, which showed that Pakistan was emerging as a promising market for online businesses.

He said that Covid-19 pandemic has created many new opportunities for growth of e-commerce as offline businesses suffered losses and online businesses achieved better growth during the pandemic. He stressed that the traders should not make any compromise on the quality of products during online sales to retain the confidence of consumers.

He urged the government to further expand the ICT infrastructure across the country and ensure uninterrupted power supply as e-commerce and online businesses could not grow in an environment of frequent power shutdowns.

EU gives Hungary a month to act before moving to suspend funds

BRUSSELS: The European Commission gave Hungary a final month to address its concerns about the rule of law before asking European Union governments to suspend some of the funds Hungary is to get under the bloc's 2021-2027 budget.

The new deadline is part of an EU process, called the "conditionality mechanism", meant to protect the EU's financial interests against breaches of rule of law by an EU government. It is separate from other procedures over the rule of law that the EU has launched against Hungary.

The Commission believes EU money is at risk in Hungary because of what it says is corruption, which can take the form of tenders for EU funded projects in which only one bidder, usually linked to the ruling party, takes part.

The EU executive also has concerns about the independence of the judiciary, media and non-governmental organisations.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has in the past dismissed EU and U.S. concerns over corruption in Hungary, but top Hungarian officials have said over the past weeks Budapest was willing to work with the Commission to address the concerns.

Hungary offered this week to cut the number of public tenders in which only one bidder participates to 15% of the total. It has also offered to allow courts to order prosecutors to pursue cases even if prosecutors had decided not to and to make law-making in Hungary more transparent and inclusive.

Because of its concerns over EU budget money, the Commission launched the "condi-

tionality mechanism" against Hungary in April. In the end, it could lead to the suspension of the 21 billion euros (\$21.3 billion) for Hungary in the EU budget.

The Commission said on Friday it had mandated Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn to inform Budapest of the measures that the EU executive intends to propose to EU governments if Hungary's remedial measures are not adequate.

"Hungary has now one month within which it can submit its observations and any additional information, in particular on the proportionality of the measures envisaged by the Commission," the EU executive arm said. It added Hungary still had the opportunity to submit adequate remedial measures.

The funds affected are known as cohesion

funds—which EU countries that are poorer than the EU average get to develop their infrastructure such as roads and bridges, water treatment plants or transportation.

A senior EU official, who asked not to be named, said the Commission's proposal to EU governments would most likely not concern all of the cohesion funds for Hungary, because it had to be proportional to the scale of the problem. "But it will be a serious proposal, not a symbolic one," the official said.

The suspension of the cohesion funds, however, coming on top of 5.8 billion euros of recovery fund grants that are still frozen, would be a major blow to the Hungarian economy which is suffering from a weakening currency, rising costs of borrowing, a widening budget deficit and rampant inflation.

Pak vs SL

Pakistan all set for second Sri Lanka Test

Sri Lankan teenager in line for Test debut against Pakistan

Spokesman Report

GALLE: After surmounting the insurmountable, Pakistan on Saturday completed their preparations for the second and final Test against Sri Lanka, which begins today at the Galle International Cricket Stadium.

The Babar Azam-led side are high on confidence entering this contest after rewriting the history books earlier in the week when they chased down 342 to post the highest successful run chase at Galle. It was also only the third instance of a side chasing down the score of over 100 at this venue, which goes on to underscore the magnitude of the task achieved by the Pakistan batters on a challenging and demanding spin-conducive surface.

"The morale is quite high in the camp as posting a good win gives you a lot of confidence," Babar told PCB Digital on the eve of the second Test. "We had complete rest of one day and relaxed our bodies after spending five days in the field. It is very important to look after your

body and look after your mental health. You stay on the toes for five days and your mind is constantly working under pressure during a match. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to look after yourself. A lot of credit goes to Cliffe [Deacon, team physiotherapist] for how he looks after us.

"We had a good session yesterday and are looking forward to the next Test. It was an intense competition with highs and lows so we are feeling good after winning it."

The first Test was a perfect advert for Test cricket with the match swinging like a pendulum. Pakistan, at the back of Shaheen Afridi's four-fer, were able to restrict Sri Lanka to 222. A splendid century from Pakistan captain Babar brought Pakistan within touching distance of Sri Lanka's first innings total after the visitors slipped to seven for 85.

Left-arm orthodox Mohammad Nawaz, making a comeback after six years, recorded his maiden international five-fer and was duly supported by

another spinner making a comeback, Yasir Shah, who snared three wickets, before a monumental 160 not out from Abdullah Shafique led Pakistan to history on the final day.

This feat, according to Babar, was possible because "our hard work and belief" and each individual's eagerness to play his role in helping the side cross the line. "We are chasing scores at different venues that people often think are not achievable, but we have the faith. We are looking to make records when we take the field and it is our hard work and belief that is making it happen.

We are united and players are stepping up and looking for opportunities to deliver for the team. We look for solutions for the challenges we encounter through partnerships or through our bowling plans. We plan for every situation. Of course, we are sportspeople and mistakes do happen, but we learn from them, and make sure we do not repeat them."

The win has put Pakistan on the third spot in the nine-team ICC World Test

Championship points table and with a win percentage of over 54, Pakistan, who are to play five Tests at home later in the year, have a serious chance of making it to the second edition's final. Pakistan are eager to grab this opportunity and consolidate their chances for the coveted final berth.

Pakistan will take the field without their premier fast bowler Shaheen Afridi after he was ruled out of the second Test because of a knee injury sustained on the fourth day of the first Test. With the Galle surface providing assistance to spin bowlers, Pakistan have included Nauman Ali in the XI and have decided to go with two fast bowlers.

Confirming the combination, Babar said, "We will, definitely, miss Shaheen because of the way he bowls. He bowls with aggression and gets us wickets upfront that helps the team. It is unfortunate that he is not in the side, but considering the conditions, we have included a spinner, Nauman Ali, and will go with two fast bowlers in tomorrow's match."

Trott takes over as Afghanistan head coach



KABUL: Former England batsman Jonathan Trott has been appointed Afghanistan's head coach and will join the squad during their tour of Ireland next month, the country's cricket board has said.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) had named another Englishman, Graham Thorpe, as the head coach in March but was looking for someone to replace him after Thorpe fell seriously ill.

"I'm honoured and excited to have the opportunity to take one of international cricket's most exciting teams through what is a huge year for their development as a team," Trott was quoted as saying in an ACB statement.

"I can't wait to get to work with a group of players who are clearly capable of generating results in a style that will make the people of Afghanistan proud." South Africa-born Trott, 41, played 52 tests before retiring in 2015.

He has since worked as England's batting coach and a consultant with Scotland during the T20 World Cup last year. Afghanistan will play the first of their five T20 matches in Ireland on Aug. 9.

Train the Trainers' programme for hockey coaches held



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Directorate General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab organized "Train the Trainers" programme for local hockey coaches at National Hockey Stadium.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi was the chief guest at the Train the Trainers coaching programme where Pakistan head coach Siegfried Aikman taught modern hockey techniques to local male and female hockey coaches. Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi distributed certificates among the participants of Train the Trainers Programme.

Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser and Olympian Kh Junaid were also present on this occasion. Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said the Train the Trainers program will be expanded to all divisions of the province.

"There is no limit to learning and our coaches must avail this golden learning opportunity. Besides hockey, the training programmes of other games will also be organized for the promotion of true sports culture across the province". Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further said that Sports Board Punjab is promoting hockey with the collaboration of Pakistan Hockey Federation and Olympian Khawaja Junaid.

"We are taking all possible steps to promote hockey in the province. The process of learning hockey will be expanded to schools, colleges and universities to find fresh hockey talent". During his lecture, coach of the national hockey team Siegfried Aikman told the local coaches that a hockey team can achieve true and durable success only through hard work and adopting modern techniques. "Programmes like this are essential to the development of hockey.

Pakistan coaches should work hard and unearth budding players from their respective areas," he added. Olympian Khawaja Junaid on this occasion said that the Punjab Sports Department is doing great work for the promotion of hockey in the province. He thanked Director General Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi and national hockey team head coach Siegfried Aikman for holding this valuable coaching activity.

England sweep to comprehensive win in ODI against South Africa

MANCHESTER: England swept to a dominant 118-run victory as they dismissed South Africa for a paltry 83 to win the second One Day International at Old Trafford on Friday to square the three-match series at 1-1.

England set the tourists a target of 202 to win but South Africa had their top order swept away as they slumped to 6-4 and were rumbled out in 20.4 overs for their joint lowest ODI score against England.

Rain delayed the start of play by almost four hours, restricting the game to a 29-overs per innings contest, with England bowled out for 201 in 28.1 overs as South Africa looked to take the series after a 62-run victory in the opening ODI at Chester-le-Street on Tuesday.

Commonwealth Games

First batch of Pak contingent departs today

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The first batch of Pakistan's Birmingham-bound contingent, comprising 22 athletes and eight officials will depart for UK on Sunday, Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) said on Saturday.

"The second batch will leave on Monday (July 25), the third on July 26, fourth on July 27 and the last one on July 28," a PSB spokesperson said. The Commonwealth Games 2022 are taking place from July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham.

Pakistan athletes will compete in swimming, athletics, para athletics, badminton, boxing, women's T20 cricket, gymnastics, men's hockey, judo, squash, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. "The squads of Pakistan hockey, boxing and table tennis will be flying on Sunday to feature in the event," the spokesperson said.



The boxing squad includes pugilists - Ilyas Hussain 54-57kg, Suleman Baloch 60-63.5kg, Nazeer Ullah Khan 86-92kg and Arshad Hussain (coach). The two-member table tennis squad includes Fahad Khawaja (athlete) and Irfan Ullah Khan (coach). The 21-member national men's hockey squad includes 18 players and three officials.

The opening match of the men's hockey event will be held on 29 July. Ten teams, divided into two groups, are

featuring in the men's hockey event.

The Green Shirts are placed in Pool A alongside Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Scotland. They will take on South Africa on 30 July in their inaugural fixture. The top two sides from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

Hockey squad: Muhammad Umar Bhutta (captain), Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan, Mubashir Ali, Aamdad Shakeel Butt, Hamad Anjum, Muhammad Abdullah, Rizwan

Ali, Moeen Shakeel, Abdul Manan, Junaid Manzoor, Ghazanfar Ali, Ejaz Ahmed, Rana Abdul Waheed, Roman Khan, Afraaz Khan, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Ahmad Nadeem, Siegfried Aikman (head coach), Syed Sameer Hussain (coach) and Ajmal Khan Lodhi (coach).

The chef de mission of Pakistan's contingent for the Commonwealth Games is Pakistan Olympic Association's (POA) senior vice-president Syed Mohammad Abid Qadir Gillani. The Director General of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Col (ret'd) Asif Zaman will serve as deputy chef de mission during the quadrennial sports extravaganza.

A 20-member national women's cricket squad, who is currently in Ireland for a tri-series involving the hosts [Ireland] and Australia, will directly proceed from there for Birmingham.

Naila Kiani becomes first Pakistani female to summit K2 in first attempt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Naila Kiani, a Pakistani mountaineer and adventure sports enthusiast, has successfully summited the second highest mountain peak in the world, the K2, making her the first Pakistani female to scale K2 in her first attempt.

Naila Kiani's mountain climbing expedition commenced in June 2022 from Skardu. Accompanied by Sirbaz Khan & Suhail Sakhi, Naila Kiani set out for the summit push at 10.40 am during the favorable weather window, and managed to reach the top of the 8,611 meters high mountain. Preceded only by Shimshali



mountaineer Samina Baig by three hours, Naila Kiani has become the second Pakistani female ever to have scaled Mount Godwin Austen, (more commonly known as the K2), but the first Pakistani female to have done it in first attempt.

"This was one of the most difficult tasks I have under-

taken in my life and it has only been my passion for adventure sports and mountaineering that drove me to achieve this. My gratitude to the BARD Foundation for their immense support towards sponsoring my expedition - it would not have been possible without their noble vision of supporting Pakistani talent," Naila Kiani stated after her successful summit.

Razak Dawood, Chairman BARD Foundation, stated, "This is a moment of great pride for us that Naila and her team have achieved success in their monumental feat to summit the K2. She has been a truly resilient fighter. We have always aimed to

support Pakistani talent, especially women, to help provide them with opportunities to grow in the field of athletics and sports. Naila's successful summit bears testament to the potential women have to achieve anything they set their minds to."

BARD Foundation carries a deep vision to promote and facilitate local athletes and sportspersons in order to highlight their talent and true potential across the world. BARD Foundation is a human-development initiative, founded by the renowned industrialist & technocrat Abdul Razak Dawood and his philanthropist wife - Mrs. Bilquis Dawood.

Sky's the limit for sprinter McLaughlin

EUGENE: World record breaker Sydney McLaughlin warned that "the sky's the limit" after smashing her 400m hurdles record on Friday, but then hinted that she could well switch disciplines.

The American clocked an astonishing 50.68 seconds for gold at Hayward Field, obliterating her own world record by more than half a second. But questions were immediately posed about a potential switch, with McLaughlin insisting all would come down to what plan her renowned coach Bobby Kersee might hatch. "Bobby and I have talked about possibly looking at other events," McLaughlin admitted. "But I don't know if that's going to happen.

I think we're going to just figure it out at the end of the season ... if we want to switch events or stay with the 400m hurdles." Asked whether a switch might be to the 400m flat, McLaughlin said: "I think anything's possible... but I leave it in the hands of my coach, Bobby. My coach thinks there's a lot more to be done," she said. "The sky's the limit for sure." The 22-year-old looked stunned as she hared through the line in front of a partisan, baying crowd.

"I was just trying to process the lactic acid!" she said of the several moments she spent in quiet reflection in the mayhem all around her. "I was just taking a moment to really just enjoy what I did. So many times the race goes by and you forget what happens. I really just wanted to sit there for a moment and soak it all in before getting into the craziness of what follows that." McLaughlin, who also won Olympic gold last year in Tokyo in a then-world record, denied that it had been the perfect race. "I didn't get to watch it. So I'll have to go back and do that and talk to my coach," she said. But she added she hit a type of 'flow state'. "Just putting everything that you've done in practice into the race to the point where you're like just letting your body do what it does," she said.

"I mean, not overthinking it, you're just releasing the gifts and talents that God's given you. And I think those are the best races that I've ever run are the ones where I'm just free releasing the gift that I've been given. "But I think there's always a way to improve upon. I think we're pushing the boundaries as a sport, especially in our event of what's possible in this race. So I definitely think there's always more time that can be shaved off, for sure." Crediting her Christian faith, support staff and self-control, notably when it comes to social media, for her level-headedness and continued success, McLaughlin said she loved competing on the "big-stage race knowing that the crowd was full and I had really great women that I'm racing against".

Europe's elite not interested in Ronaldo

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo faces an uncertain future after the Manchester United striker's attempt to force his way out of Old Trafford failed to spark the expected rush for his signature.

The Portugal superstar shocked United earlier this month with his bombshell exit request after the team's failure to qualify for the Champions League. Ronaldo would have anticipated a host of top clubs jostling to sign him.

But for the first time in his glittering career he is no longer a must-have item for Europe's wealthy elite as Chelsea, Bayern Munich, Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain all appear to have turned their backs on the forward. Concerns over Ronaldo's declining work-rate and his notoriously demanding personality

have left the 37-year-old in limbo. Chelsea co-owner Todd Boehly was reported to have spoken to Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes about a deal to mark the new era at Stamford Bridge. But Blues boss Thomas Tuchel is believed to have concerns about trying to integrate Ronaldo into his plans for a fluid front three after signing Raheem Sterling from Manchester City.

"We focused on our top target Raheem Sterling who we signed and everything else stays behind closed doors," Tuchel said when asked about Ronaldo. Selling Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona could have created space for Ronaldo at Bayern, but the German champions' CEO Oliver Kahn poured cold water on that idea. "As highly as I rate Cristiano Ronaldo as one of the greatest, a

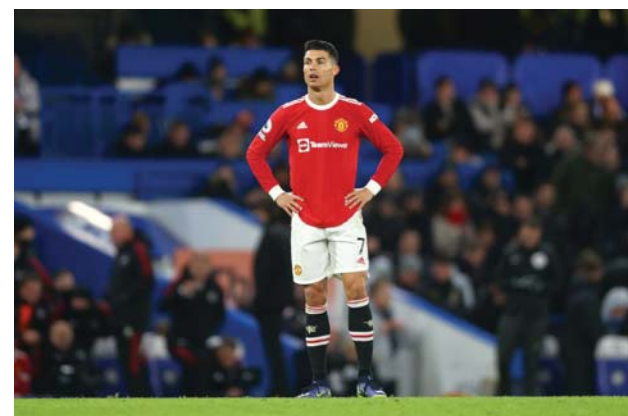
transfer wouldn't be a fit with our philosophy," he said.

"I love Cristiano Ronaldo and everyone knows how fantastic he is. But every club has a certain philosophy and I'm not sure if it would be the right thing for Bayern and the Bundesliga if we signed him now." United manager Erik ten Hag has repeatedly stated the club's public position that Ronaldo is "not for sale". Yet, although Ronaldo finished as United's top scorer last season, there is a growing sense in Manchester that his departure could benefit Ten Hag's chances of building a side more suited to the style he created at Ajax.

United have flourished without Ronaldo on a pre-season tour of Asia and Australia, scoring 11 goals in victories over Liverpool, Melbourne Victory and Crystal

Palace. A dynamic front three of Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial and Jadon Sancho has shown what they are capable of. All three of those players struggled last season after Ronaldo's arrival changed the style of a United side that had finished second in the Premier League the season before.

Ronaldo's time at Juventus also coincided with a decline in European results for the Italian giants, despite his goalscoring record of 101 goals in 134 games. After witnessing two European giants struggle to accommodate the ageing five-time Ballon d'Or winner, there are few takers for the veteran goal-scorer. Ronaldo's iconic status at United, established in his trophy-laden first spell with the club, has also lost some of its lustre. Andy Mitten,



journalist and editor of the United We Stand fanzine, said: "His arrival was sprung on United at the last minute and the team which had finished third and second had to rip up their tactics and start again.

"They don't see Ronaldo as United's future and there are plenty of fans who'd go along with that." United's rivals Manchester City, who won the race for Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland, and Liverpool, who spent a fee

that could rise to 100 million euros (\$102 million) on Benfica's Darwin Nunez, both opted to sign younger forwards just entering their prime.

A return to Real Madrid, where Ronaldo starred from 2009 to 2018, seems unlikely given Karim Benzema's brilliant displays in their Champions League and La Liga-winning campaign last season. Even PSG, habitual collectors of football's marquee names, seem to be out of the running. A switch to Real's rivals Atletico Madrid remains a possibility, but with his options dwindling, Ronaldo may have to swallow his pride and stay at Old Trafford. If that is too much for his ego to take, one last payday in the United States or Saudi Arabia could loom as definitive evidence of Ronaldo's decline.