



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

جریر بن عبد اللہ بن جلی رضی اللہ عنہ بیان کیا کہ جب سے میں اسلام آیا رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے (پردہ کے ساتھ) مجھے (پچھلے میں داخل ہونے سے) کبھی نہیں دکھا اور جب بھی آپ مجھ کو دیکھتے خوشی سے آپ سکرانے لگتے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3035)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Summary to cut POL prices to be sent today: Miftah

Federal Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail says the summary to reduce petroleum prices would be forwarded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday for necessary action. After receiving the summary from the petroleum division, we will try to send it to the PM House. Prices of petroleum would be reduced on the directives of the PM for public interest.



Hecklers' passports, CNICs will be blocked: Rana Sanaullah

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah says the national identity cards and passports will be blocked for heckling against citizens and especially the leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Former PM Imran Khan has launched a campaign based on political hatred, malice, sedition and mischief and for security measures in view, I address all Pakistani citizens, especially the friends of the PML-N that if you

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 13, Wednesday, July 13, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 104 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Deep Concern

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa is getting an aerial view of devastations in floods hit areas in result of torrential rains.



Photo: ISPR

Rains

COAS directs corps to bring comfort to people

KARACHI: After the recent downpour in Karachi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa directed the Karachi Corps to ensure "every single resource is utilised to bring comfort to the people". As per the military's media wing, General Bajwa reached Karachi directly from Saudi Arabia and was flown over the city to oversee the impact of urban flooding due to the recent heavy spell of rain.

The army chief was briefed on the latest situation of flooding and the complete support given to the civil administration by the army in Karachi. "COAS appreciated the timely response of formations in aid of civil administration for rescue and relief efforts. He directed Karachi Corps to ensure that all out efforts and every single resource is utilised to bring comfort to the people," said the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). Earlier on his arrival, the army chief was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant

General Muhammad Saeed.

Intermittent heavy rains in different parts of Karachi since Monday evening have inundated many areas of the city, bringing life to a complete halt. To top it all off, the electricity supply in most areas of the city has been suspended for several hours, making it difficult for people to carry on their day-to-day activities. Rainwater accumulated on the main roads and streets of the Defense Housing Authority (DHA), Clifton, Malir, Airport Road, I.I Chundrigar Road, Saddar, Old City Area, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Federal B Area, North Nazimabad, Korangi, and PECHS.

In addition to residential areas, several main roads of the city, including the NIPA Chowranghi Flyover, Qayyumabad Chowranghi, Arts Council Chowranghi, Supreme Court Registry, Zainab Market, Bolton Market, and MA Jinnah Road have been flooded with rain and sewerage water, affecting the flow of traffic.

Petroleum prices to go down as PM seeks summary

PM directs civic bodies to be alert ahead of Thursday's monsoon spell

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday asked the ministries concerned to move a summary suggesting reduction in petroleum prices as the government had decided to pass on benefit of reduced oil prices in international market to the consumers. The prime minister, chairing a meeting, said the government would pass on the full benefit to the consumers who had been sacrificing owing to the rise in petroleum prices. He asked the ministries of

finance and petroleum to present a summary to him for approval, adding that the people deserved relief after passing through difficult times.

He told the meeting that the government would reduce the oil prices transparently at par with the reduction in the international market, which according to the PM Office statement was a gift to the people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. He said the incumbent government would continue to providing relief to the people hit by the inflation caused

by the previous government. By the Grace of Allah Almighty, the government will bring in further relief to the people's lives, he added. The meeting was attended by the senior officers of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority and the relevant ministries and departments.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the federal and provincial civic bodies to closely monitor the safety measures ahead of the monsoon spell starting Thursday. The prime minister asked the authorities

concerned to ensure a proper precautionary system for the people across the country including Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. PM Sharif lauded the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for extending support to provincial governments and institutions in controlling the situation amid heavy rains.

He mentioned unity, cooperation and selfless service to the people as strength of his government. The prime minister also paid tribute to the provincial

governments and the institutions for their services in protecting the lives and property of the people. He urged the departments concerned to do their best to serve the people with dedication. In a message to the workers and staffers of civic bodies, he said the spirit of helping the mankind was in fact the greatest and noble service. He commended the departments responsible for municipal and civic measures including the police for showing a great spirit of public service during the Eid holidays.

Karachi

MQM-P lashes out at PPP over rains' disaster

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leader and former Karachi mayor Waseem Akhtar on Tuesday lashed out at the provincial government of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) over its poor performance and failure in meeting the challenge of the monsoon rains despite being in power for the past 14 years.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, MQM-P leader Akhtar strongly criticised the PPP-led Sindh government for inadequate pre-monsoon arrangements in the port city. "PPP-led Sindh had completely failed to deal with the current emergency situation," he said, adding that government officials have gone to interior Sindh for celebrating Eidul Azha with families.

He added that Karachi is being run through deputy commissioners and no measures were taken despite rain warning from Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). "Why didn't the nullahs [of Karachi] not cleaned a month earlier," he

asked. Waseem Akhtar urged Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take notice of the incompetence of the provincial government.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh yesterday released details of deaths in rain-related incidents across the province.

The details released by PDMA have been obtained by ARY News, according to which 29 civilians were killed in various accidents and incidents during rains across Sindh including Karachi.

The report said 14 of the dead were from Karachi, six from the eastern district and four from Korangi, while one each in the southern, central, western and Malir districts. According to the PDMA, nine deaths were reported in Thatta and two in Khairpur, including seven children. The report said 11 people were injured during the rains. The deaths occurred between June 20 and July 10.

Not with PTI

PML-N's competition with 'incompetence, inflation': Maryam

Says PM will reduce petrol price in two days

JHANG: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz told her party's supporters that the Shehbaz Sharif-led party's competition was not against their arch-rival PTI but with "incompetence and inflation". The PML-N leader is leading a rally in Jhang today (Tuesday) as a part of her party's campaign for the by-polls being held for Punjab Assembly seats PP-125 and PP-127. The PML-N leader has so far addressed the rally in Jhang's Gojra Morr and Chiniot Morr, where she slammed the PTI.



She said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will announce to reduce petrol and diesel prices in next two days. "Everyone knows why Shehbaz Sharif had to take difficult decisions," she said and added the prices had to be increased due to agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The PML-N vice

president claimed that difficult decisions have been made and now good news will come every day, whereas, today, Shehbaz Sharif summoned a summary for reduction in petrol prices. She went on to say that former PM Nawaz Sharif started CPEC while Imran Khan started GPEC and plundered money from Punjab to Bani Gala. Earlier, addressing a rally at Chiniot Moor, Maryam Nawaz said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that if the people want inflation to decrease then they should vote for PML-N. PML-N's competition is not with Imran Khan but with inflation and incompetence," she said while making a case for the people of Jhang to vote for her party in the July 17 by-polls. She asked the people to make a promise to her that they will throw out the people against Punjab's development.

The PML-N vice president said that today the whole Jhang has come out in love with Nawaz Sharif. We have come to carry out development work including building schools and colleges in the country and to reduce the prices of potatoes and onions. She promised that she won't sit idly until the development of the city, adding that Imran Khan does not digest the development of Punjab and is trying to impose a woman on Punjab again which we will not allow.

Rs 30-40 cut in petrol price expected

ISLAMABAD: There is a huge cut in the prices of petrol expected in next few days. According to sources, petrol is likely to be reduced by Rs 20-30 and diesel by Rs 30-40. In his meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the petrol price will soon be decreased and the issues of the public will be resolved.

During the last two months, the government had increased the petrol price by around Rs100 and diesel around Rs130. The government had declared previous government responsible for the increase in prices of petroleum products and accused it of taking Pakistan to the verge of bankruptcy.

By Aug 29

Political parties should to file assets' statements: ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the political parties to file their statement of accounts for financial year 2021-22 before August 29.

According to ECP spokesman, Political parties were required in terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Section 204 of the Act and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that they were required

to file with ECP their statement of accounts for financial year, ended on June 30.

It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a political party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a chartered accountant on Form-D containing: (a) Annual

income and expenses; (b) Source of its funds; and (c) Assets and liabilities.

The statement to be submitted to the ECP shall accompany the report of a chartered accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorised by the party head stating that: (a) No funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017 were received by the

political party; and (b) The statement contains an accurate financial position of the political party. The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017.

Printed Forms were available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the provincial election commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma

for source of funds were also available on ECP's Website. Overwriting should be avoided. The membership / certificate issued by ICAP in respect of Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D along with last valid renewal certificate. The Form-D shall also accompany a legible copy of each of the bank statements for the period of 01.07.2021 to 30.06.2022 of the party, along with a bank reconciliation statement.

July 13, 1931

Kashmiris remembering martyrs today

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris across the Line of Control (LoC) and world over will observe July 13 as Martyrs Day to pay tributes to 22 Kashmiris who were martyred by Dogra forces within the premises of Central Jail Srinagar on the same day in 1931.

The troops of Dogra Maharaja had killed 22 Kashmiris, one after another, who had turned up in thousands outside Central Jail in Srinagar during the court proceedings against one Abdul Qadeer who had asked Kashmiri people to defy the Dogra rule.

It was time for Namaz-e-Zuhr when a young man started the call for prayers (Azaan) but was shot dead by the Maharaja's soldiers. Thus, 22 youth sacrificed their lives till the completion of Azaan.

Kashmiris have been observing Martyrs Week from July 8 to July 13. Every year on July 8, Burhan Wani's martyrdom anniversary is observed

as 'Resistance Day' while July 13 as Kashmir Martyrs' Day in memory of 22 people who fell to the bullets of Maharaja's troops in Srinagar in 1931.

On the call of All Parties Hurrayat Conference (APHC), complete shutdown will be observed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on the day where as protest rallies, seminars and conferences would be held in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and world over to pay tribute to the martyrs, particularly those of July 1931. Fateh would be offered for martyrs at Martyrs' Graveyard at Naqashband Sahib in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, in glorious recognition of all those who have laid down their lives so that the people of Kashmir may live with their heads held high, Kashmiri American community joined the global Kashmiri diaspora community in solemn recognition of July 13th - Martyrs Day.

Greetings

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging Eidul Azha greetings with members of the diplomatic community and people from different walks of life, at Governor House on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Imran becomes dark chapter in national history: Marriyum

Announces Maryam's public meetings schedule

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that loot and plunder of Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi cannot be hidden by trying to link opponents with treason and making a false narrative of corruption.

In a statement, she said presence of huge number of people in the PML-N rallies in the bye-elections was proof that Imran Khan had become a dark chapter in national history.

Declaring war on inflation, unemployment, economic



catastrophe, anarchy, hatred and hunger, the people had rejected Imran Khan, said the minister.

The revolution came on April 11 under a public decision, she said adding that Imran had gone home after

becoming a symbol of corruption and incompetence. The victory of PML-N on July 17 will further prove this reality, she maintained.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday announced the schedule of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif's address to public meetings and rallies.

In a tweet, she said Maryam Nawaz Sharif will address election rallies and public meetings in Jhang today.

The minister said that

Maryam Nawaz Sharif will reach PP 125, 127 in Jhang today and address a reception at Pansara Interchange M-4, in PP-127 Gojra Mor.

She said Maryam Nawaz Sharif will reach Aliabad, PP-125 via Jamia Chowk and address the party workers at Malwana mor. Then she would move to Athara Hazari via Head Trimon, and address the public meeting, Marriyum Aurangzeb said.

She said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif will reach Aliabad, PP-125 via Jamia Chowk and address the party workers at Malwana mor. Then she would move to Athara Hazari via Head Trimon, and address the public meeting, Marriyum Aurangzeb said.

Electioneering

Thieves plan to rig Punjab by-polls: Imran Khan

Warns of 'Sri Lanka-like crisis' in Pakistan

BHAKKAR/ LAYYAH: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has warned the nationals of an alleged plan to rig Punjab by-polls on 20 vacant seats of the provincial assembly. Imran Khan, while addressing a public rally in Bhakkar today, said that the thieves have joined hands with the election commission to rig the upcoming Punjab by-polls. "Pakistanis should be aware of these thieves who come forth to rig the elections."

"Thieves and the election commission colluded to rig the elections. How many times has the chief election commissioner (CEC) met Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shehbaz? They are now planning to steal the polls?"

"Sharif family has a quality of doing nothing with honesty. CEC should tell the nation how will you rig the polls this time. I also know about Mr X who received the orders to make grounds for the thieves to win the polls. I know that Mr X brought Mr Y to Multan. Those

who rig the polls will face severe public reaction."

The PTI chairman asked the nation to stand fearlessly against those who want to spread fear and make them slaves. "We don't want slavery and we want friendly ties with all countries across the globe under an independent foreign policy."

He urged the nationals to change their fate on July 17 by throwing out the corrupt rulers. "After imposing the rulership of thieves, we are being threatened. I want to give a clear message that I will never accept the ruler of thieves ever if someone takes my life. The nation will never accept the slavery of the United States (US) at any cost."

He criticised that people received threatening phone calls and FIRs were lodged against patriotic journalists like Imran Riaz Khan, Arshad Sharif and others. "Imran Riaz was mentally tortured after being arrested. 15 FIRs had been registered against me and several cases were filed against my



people. They want us to become Sri Lanka-like situation, then no one can control it."

Imran Khan has warned of 'Sri Lanka-like crisis' in Pakistan if the authorities fail to organise transparent by-polls in Punjab. Imran Khan was addressing a huge public gathering in Layyah in connection with the electioneering for the forthcoming Punjab by-polls today.

"I want to give a message to the power matrix that they are peaceful people. They take to the streets for saving the country. In case of failure to organise free and fair elections, the country would witness Sri Lanka-like crisis. If our country sees

He added, "In Sri Lanka, the nationals attacked the presidential palace and the Sri Lankan president was stopped at the airport when he tried to flee abroad. The ruler of Sri Lanka was also like Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari whose resident is in a foreign country."

Imran Khan said that the corrupt rulers were even ready to sell their honour and ideology for the sake of money.

He asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to prove himself a real servant of the nation 'Khadim-e-Aala' by restoring the oil prices to Rs150 per litre.

"We had even reduced electricity tariff by Rs5 per unit besides bringing down the petrol and diesel prices despite continuing IMF [International Monetary Fund] program."

"We have also distributed health cards to the nation for providing them Rs1 million health insurance. We disbursed easy loans to the youth, initiated low-cost housing schemes and poverty alleviation programs like Ehsaas."

IOJK in focus

ASI killed, 2 cops injured in Srinagar attack

Indian army, police uniforms' sale to civilians banned

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Indian police was killed and two policemen were injured in an attack in Srinagar city, today. The AIS identified as Mushtaq Ahmad was killed on the spot while two other personnel were injured after unknown gunmen opened fire at the police Naka in Lal Bazaar area of the city. The injured personnel were shifted to nearby hospital immediately for treatment. Soon after the incident, Indian troops and police personnel cordoned off the area and launched searches to nab the attackers. More details are awaited.

In Indian illegally occupied



Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities have banned shopkeepers not to sell Indian troops, paramilitary and

police uniforms to civilians. The authorities said that the shopkeepers can only sell to a person who

carries valid identity cards of Indian Army, police and paramilitary personnel.

In a tweet Srinagar police said, in view of reported misuse, all Cloth/Garment sellers, Tailors etc. are requested not to sell Police/CAPF/army type uniform & camouflage pattern wear to any civilian.

Further record to be maintained of all such sales even if they are made to police/CAPF/army (after seeing I Cards), it added.

A senior police officer told media men that although order has been passed earlier about ban of selling police and armed forces' uniform to civilians, it will be strictly implemented this time.

Drain out rainwater from streets of Karachi

Sindh CM directs authorities to install small pumps for the purpose

KARACHI: Following the heavy monsoon rains during the past two days, which left parts of Karachi with inundating roads, especially in low-lying areas, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take measures for speedy drainage of accumulated rainwater from the streets and dewater the areas.

Presiding over a meeting on rain emergency and repair of damaged infrastructure, CM Murad Ali Shah directed the local government department to install small pumps to drain out rainwater from the streets and simultaneously start the patchwork of the damaged roads and restore the Korangi Causeway.

Provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Zia Abbas Shah, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Additional IG Karachi Javed Odho, Secretary Local Govt Najam Shah, Secretary Rehabilitation Asif Memon and other concerned officers were among the attendees of the meeting, according to a statement issued by the provincial government.

During the meeting, the chief minister was told that the underpasses of districts South and East have been cleared of rainwater and they would be reopened for traffic by Tuesday evening.

The chief minister directed the local government to get small pumps installed at the streets where rainwater was still accumulated and clear them.

"A forecast for another spell of heavy rain has been issued, therefore, we have not to restore all the roads and streets but have to get ready for the upcoming spell," he added.

The chief minister observed that the Korangi Causeway has been damaged, therefore, an alternate route to Korangi from the industrial area was under pressure.

He directed Minister Local Government Nasir Shah and Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon to personally visit the causeway and hire a contractor on an emergency basis and start work from today (Wednesday). Meanwhile, the CM directed Additional IG Karachi Javed Odho to ensure traffic management.

Punjab by-polls

Dreams of the Sharifs will be shattered: Elahi

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League President and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain, Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, former Federal Minister Moonis Elahi and Hussain Elahi MNA offered Eid prayers in Gujrat. They were accompanied by Mian Imran Masood, Khalid Asghar Ghural, Chaudhry Saadat Nawaz Ajnala and other PML leaders. Special prayers were also offered for the security and prosperity of the country and the nation after the Eid prayers.

Later, Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Parvez Elahi while talking to media said that Eid-ul-Adha teaches us to sacrifice, the situation of the country also demands sacrifice from the nation. He said that I always pray for Ch Shujat Hussain, the relationship of respect and love with Ch Shujat Hussain will last till death, Insha-Allah, those who spread rumors among us will remain unsuccessful.

Ch Parvez Elahi said that the

nation would have to vote for PTI on July 17 to get rid of current incompetent rulers. He said that people of Punjab would decide against these rulers in by-elections. The poll of every constituency in the by-elections is against the deviant members. Those who change political allegiances will be defeated. Insha-Allah, PTI will win the by-elections by a landslide.

He further said that the incompetence of the so called experts has brought the country's economy to the brink of collapse. In the by-elections, the dreams of the Sharifs to enslave this nation will be shattered, Insha-Allah, they have always won elections by using bullying, rigging and government machinery against opponents.

Ch Parvez Elahi said that PTI candidates and workers have to guard their votes, the Supreme Court should take notice of the blatant violation of code of conduct and development work by the Punjab government in the by-election constituencies.

Pak exports to China surge 8% in June

BELJING: Pakistan's exports to China in June 2022 have increased by 8% to US\$251.30 million as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year when it was recorded at US\$232.74 million in June 2021. Also, as compared to May 2022, Pakistan's exports to China have shown positive signs by gaining a value of US\$22.38 million. In May, the total exports to China were recorded as US\$228.92 million, China Economic Net reported.

Pakistan's exports to UAE, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Spain, Bangladesh, Thailand, Canada, and France have also increased as compared to the corresponding month of June

2021. Pakistan's exports to all destinations of the world during June 2022 were recorded at US\$2,887 million, which is 5.83% more than the corresponding month of June 2021 when the total figure was US\$2,728 million.

Regarding imports, China is one of the top partner countries which shows a decrease during June as compared to the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year. In June 2022, Pakistan's imports from China decreased by 14% to US\$1625.21 million compared to June 2021, US\$1894.16 million imports. This is a good sign for Pakistan to minimise its trade deficit.

Personally

Monitoring the flood situation in Lasbela: CM Bizenjo

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that he was in contact with the administration and PDMA to get updates on the situation arose after the monsoon rains in Lasbela. "We are aware of the difficulties faced by the people and the problems of the victims families will be addressed."

This was stated by the Chief Minister Balochistan in a telephonic conversation with the leader of Balochistan Awami Party Lasbela Muhammad Hassan Jamoat.

CM was apprised of the need to intensify relief operations in other areas following the flood situation caused by torrential rains.

The Chief Minister was informed

that Balochistan Awami Party workers and volunteers of the district administration are participating in the relief activities.

The Chief Minister assured the provision of relief goods for the rehabilitation and relief of the people and said that in the light of the orders of the government of Balochistan, the survey teams of Lasbela administration are conducting surveys of the affected areas.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed deep sorrow over the loss of human lives during the flash flood and assured that government will take every possible steps to mitigate the losses caused by the calamity.

'July 13, 1931, will always be remembered in history as a dark day'

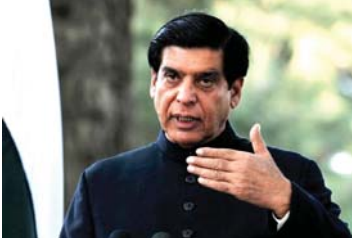
Pervez Ashraf says people of Occupied Kashmir have made eternal sacrifices for the sake of independence

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani have said that the people of Occupied Kashmir have made eternal sacrifices for the sake of independence.

They said that the blood of unarmed Kashmiris who were martyred by the Indian forces would not go in vain and the day was not far when the people of Kashmir would see the dawn of freedom in occupied Kashmir through their struggle for their right to self-determination, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

They said that the Kashmir issue is an unfinished agenda of partition of the subcontinent without which lasting peace in South Asia is impossible. They expressed these views in their separate messages on the occasion of Kash-



mir Martyrs' Day which is observed on 13th July every year.

On this occasion, the Speaker said that the day reminds us of a great tragedy in the history of Kashmir when the army of Dogra Maharaja martyred 22 protesters due to the recitation of Adhan.

He said that the blood of innocent Kashmiris who were martyred by the forces of Dogra Maharaja on July 13th, 1931 would never go in vain.

The Speaker further said that thou-

sands of innocent children have been martyred in Occupied Kashmir for the last 75 years and thousands of incidents of desecration and rape of women have taken place.

He said that the hands of the so-called democratic government of India were stained with the blood of thousands of Kashmiri martyrs.

He urged the international community to take stern notice of the atrocities perpetrated by India in Kashmir and play its role in ending the ongoing human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf said that the resolution of the Kashmir issue was essential for the establishment of lasting peace in the region. He called on the United Nations to play its role in finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Reiterating Pakistan's principled stand for the struggle of the Kashmiri people for independence, the Speaker said that Pakistan would continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination at every forum.

He said that the present Parliament has passed several resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and to stop the atrocities committed by Indian forces in the Occupied Territories.

He said that the forcible occupation of Kashmir by India was against the moral values of a civilized society and the basic right of the people to self-determination.

On this occasion, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani said that today is a reminder of the brutality of Dogra Maharaja's forces when they martyred 22 Kashmiri soldiers on July 13, 1931,

Rains likely to continue in most districts across KP

PESHAWAR: Rains are likely to continue in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this week, an official of the Meteorological Department said here on Tuesday.

The official said PDMA has also issued a letter to all the district administrations and concerned agencies of the province to remain alert about landslides and floods in sensitive areas of the province due to strong winds and rains.

The official said that heavy rains in Peshawar, Nowshera, Swabi, Bannu, Tank, Dera Ismail Khan and Mardan also cause floods and urban flooding in the canals. He said rains are likely to continue till Friday, the official of the Meteorological Department said.

Director General PDMA directs district administration to ensure availability of small and large machinery in case of any untoward situation due to rains and asks tourists to take special precautions during the trip and be aware of the weather situation.

In any case of emergency, PDMA's Emergency Operation Center is fully operational. The public should report any untoward incident to 1700, the spokesperson PDMA said while quoting DG PDMA. APP

About 2700 tonnes of waste removed on 2nd day of Eid

BAHAWALPUR: Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Raja Jahangir Anwar has said that Bahawalpur Waste Management Company, district administrations, and municipalities have worked round the clock to keep their respective areas clean during Eid-ul-Azha in the district.

About 2,700 tonnes of waste were disposed of on the second day of Eid and 2,500 sanitation workers in the three cities are working with limited resources but they are working with a firm resolve to ensure cleanliness. Commissioner visited various areas of the city to inspect cleanliness operations and appreciated the efforts of sanitary workers. APP

Heavy rains

Operation against illegal encroachments launched in Quetta

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Tuesday launched an operation against illegal encroachments in Quetta. Various teams led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta Khalil Murad Baloch are taking part in operations against encroachments in and around Quetta.

In view of the expected rains in Quetta, the government of Balochistan demolished the encroachments on emergency basis in operations against encroachments in rivers and natural waterways to clear the way for rain water.

In a statement issued by CM Secretariat people were asked to cooperate with the anti encroachments teams operating in the city. APP

CM Hamza seeks report about torturing of housemaids

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz on Tuesday sought a report from IG police about the torturing of underage housemaids in DHA and ordered strict legal action against those involved in this tragic incident.

He directed to arrange the best treatment facility for the injured child, adding that killing an innocent child, over a trivial issue, was intolerably grievous.

He also extended sympathies to the bereaved heirs and assured to fulfil all the requirements of justice.

Relief, rescue activities underway in flood hit areas of Tank

TANK: The relief and rescue activities were underway in the flood affected village Pai of Tank Tuesday.

The area witnessed worst flood flash situation in the wake of heavy rains in the adjoining hilly terrain of Suleiman Range the other day.

Deputy Commissioner Hameed Ullah Khattak informed that the swirling flood water entered the adjacent areas, leaving dozens of people marooned besides damaging houses and the infrastructure.

The flood washed away different localities while Pai, Nandoor, Ghareebabad, Amakhel villages were stated to be the worst sufferers.

About 70 percent of the urban area have been destroyed where dozens of houses were collapsed. One person named Tayyeb s/o Misal Khan was died in a roof collapse incident.

The rescue personnel had recovered his body. MPA Mehmood Khan Betanni and Tank Mayor Sadam Khan Betanni reached the affected areas where the teams of Pak-Army and Rescue 1122 had already started relief and rescue operations.

The MPA and mayor met with the affected people and said they would not be left alone in this hour of need. All the available resources would be utilized for their relief and rehabilitation.

When contacted, Rescue 1122 Incharge in Tank Israr Khan informed that dewatering of the affected areas was underway as the flood water was entered into Masajid, houses and markets. APP

Rains Wreak Havoc

KARACHI: People struggle to move forward in a flooded road after heavy monsoon rain in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Ten Billion afforestation project achieves over 1.9b target

ISLAMABAD: The flagship project of the Ministry of Climate Change of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation project (TBTTP) has achieved the plantation target of sowing and regrowing over 1.9 billion plants in 2022.

The TBTTP project was initiated in 2018 with the vision to implement the largest ever plantation target in the country to restore its depleting forests, revive green cover, improve natural resources, an official told APP while sharing project updates.

He said overall 1935.049 million (1.935 billion) plants have been planted so far across the country with the equal contribution of the federal and provincial governments. The plantation in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was fully funded by the federal government, he added.

The plantation progress across the provinces showed maximum prom-

ising outcomes in Sindh that topped the plantation progress with 755.370 million followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 692.170 million, AJK 222.564 million,

Punjab 188.917 million, GB 54.092 million whereas the least was plantation was carried out in Balochistan province that could only manage to plant 54.092 million trees across the province, he said.

The official mentioned that the project was only federal government initiative that had seven PC-Is and consensus of all the provinces whereas the project was welcomed and supported wholeheartedly by all the federating units.

The project would help cut the green house gas emissions (GHGs) through carbon absorption made by trees and would also be helpful in reducing impacts of rising global warming, he added.

To a question, he said the plantation initiative was an amalgam of plantation and naturally assisted regeneration that would help enhance tree number through two-pronged strategy.

The assisted regeneration concept has been very successful in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where the degraded forest areas owned by the forest department communities were demarcated and barricaded to avoid grazing, tree cutting and intrusion of any kind that helped new seedlings to grow in abundance, hence giving a whooping increase in tree cover with less capital consumption, he informed.

The plants grown through natural regeneration included maximum number achieved in Sindh of 231.360 million during 2020-21 followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 223.060 million, AJK 41.503 million, GB 17.7 million, Punjab 10.675 million, and Balochistan 3.020 million. APP

PDMA issues rains, flood alert

LAHORE: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued alert to all the line departments in the wake of expected rains along with flood threat in nullahs from July 13 to 17 across the country.

According to the Meteorological Department, monsoon winds from the Bay of Bengal are continuously entering the upper and central parts of the country, causing strong winds in different parts of the country from July 13 to 17.

A spokesperson of the PDMA said rains are expected in Lahore, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan divisions from July 13 to 15 whereas low lying areas could be inundated in Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad.

The spokesperson said there is threat of flooding in local nullahs along with landsliding threat in northern areas including Kashmir, Galiyat, Gilgit Baltistan. Director General PDMA Faisal Farid said that passengers and tourists should be careful in travelling to these areas.

He said all line departments have been alerted to deal with any untoward situation and keep entire machinery and staff on ready position. He said that protecting the life and property of the people is a priority of the government and no effort should be left undone in protection of lives and properties.

As per the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the officers of the district administration of Punjab have been asked to ensure concrete steps to protect the people and prevent possible losses.

Arrangements for relocation to safer places should be completed as soon as possible, and a plan should be drawn up for delivery of residential tents and food to the affected communities, he said and added that medical and relief teams should be mobilized in the affected areas and immediate steps should be taken to prevent epidemics.

In case of flood situation, equipment and personnel should be taken to the affected areas, he added. APP

CS, IG Punjab review security, traffic arrangements in Murree

RAWALPINDI: Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran Ali Afzal and Inspector General of Punjab Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan on Tuesday visited Murree on the third day of Eid-ul-Azha to review security and traffic arrangements.

According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesman, during the visit Police and administration chief's reviewed arrangements made for tourists during the Eid holidays in Murree.

Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran Ali Afzal said all resources should be utilized for the convenience of tourists. Keeping in view the meteorological department's weather advisory, the police and administration were fully prepared to deal with any situation, he added.

IG Punjab Rao Sardar



Ali Khan pointed out that the convenience and guidance of tourists should also be taken into consideration by the police and administrations teams along with maintaining law and order in the area.

He commended the traffic wardens and tourism police personnel on duty in Murree.

On the occasion, Commissioner Rawalpindi Noorul

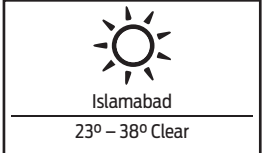
convenience of tourists and tourism desks have also been set up for their guidance.

He said that more buses were added to the shuttle service as the number of tourists has multiplied.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Imran Ahmar said Murree Tourism Police was enthusiastically assisting and guiding tourists. However, there were about 6,000 vehicles in Murree at present, and entry of vehicles out of capacity would be prohibited.

Additional police and wardens have been deployed in Murree, ensuring smooth flow of traffic, he added.

Chief Secretary and IG Punjab along with Commissioner Rawalpindi and RPO Rawalpindi inspected the Tourism help desk at Lower Topa. APP



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:25 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:20 pm
Isha 9:01 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 92766044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886

ICT Police fines 1386 bike riders

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police (ICTP) on Tuesday issued violation tickets to 1386 motorcyclists and impounded 46 bikes for one wheeling and other stunts during Eid holidays.

The ICTP constituted special squads to prevent one wheeling on main avenues of the city during Eid-ul-Azha where the policemen in these squads performed duties in responsible manner, said the ICTP spokesperson.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Syed Mustafa Tanveer has appreciated the police personnel for performing duties on Eid-ul-Azha in responsible manner and awarded commendation certificates to them.

While reviewing the report, SSP Traffic Islamabad Syed Mustafa Tanveer said that such steps were being taken to provide safety to the citizens. He said, "traffic violations may cause to the loss of precious lives, therefore, ICTP is adopting measures and to take strict action against the violators".

The SSP (Traffic) stressed upon the parents to play their role and to refrain their children from the dangerous game of one wheeling and racing otherwise ICTP has to take stern action against those who indulged in such practices.

President for sensitizing masses on population growth rate impedes progress

Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Expressing concern over the constant population growth and the meagre resources available in Pakistan, the government is exercising its all options to sensitize general public on negative implications of population growth not only on human health especially of mother and child but also on economic as well as social life of people.

According to the latest statistics, Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world, despite only being the 33rd largest in size, while its huge population is constantly eating up national resources threatening the national life especially provision of sufficient healthcare as well as quality education, job opportunities, climate change, depleting water sources and even our national security.

On the occasion of the World Population Day marked on July 11 across the world including Pakistan, President Dr. Arif Alvi in his message referred to the national meagre resources and called for raising awareness among the masses about



the importance of containing population growth rate as it would lead to ensuring better healthcare, stable economy as well as sustainable social life.

He said that the World Population Day focuses attention on global demographic issues including poverty, gender equality, maternal health, hunger, economy, climate change and human rights.

The president cautioned that if we don't make a serious change, this population is likely to double in next 30 years.

The data shows that the maternal mortality ratio in Pakistan stands at 186 deaths per 100,000 live births. The need for family planning is staggeringly high in Pakistan. The grassroots challenges are

present such as misperceptions, lack of trained health staff, communication gap between the partners, and others. To make a real difference in this area and normalize family planning amongst the masses, we need to design and execute behaviour change campaigns through use of media tools that reach out to everyone across the board, including rural and most marginalized communities.

Other stakeholders including Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel, District Medical Officer, Islamabad, Dr Zaeem Zia, MNA Shazia Fatima Khuwaja, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation Shazia Marri, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health Taimur Khan Jhagra and Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada are also concerned in their respective official capacities to maintain a balance between the national population growth and the national resources for better health as well as economic wellbeing of masses.

In his remarks, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said

Eid Celebration

ISLAMABAD: People stand in a queue to boarding in a free tourists bus at Bara Kahu, as Punjab govt would launch special bus service to facilitate tourists particularly during three days of Eidul Azha.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

CDA hauls over 1,100 tonnes of animal waste during Eid days

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has disposed of 1,100 tons of animal waste including offal, entrails during three days of its sanitation operation carried out to purge the capital city from animal waste during Eid-ul-Azha.

According to CDA spokesman, the animal waste campaign continued the third consecutive day on Tuesday in capital city, in which the offal, entrails, and animal waste of over 62,000 animals was lifted. The animal waste was buried at 90 different pits dug up at over 40 localities.

Over 200 vehicles including tractor trolleys, garbage compactors, escape lifters, truck dumpers, front loaders, shovels, dozers and 2,000 sanitation staff carried out cleanliness duties, he said.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has divided the federal capital into four zones to carry out cleanliness drive on Eid-ul-Azha. The leaves of sanitation staff were also cancelled to meet the challenge of cleaning the city promptly.

The operation has three parts. The sanitary workers collected garbage from door to door and dumped it at designated places.

While mechanized collection was done with the help of vehicles and subsequently the waste was destroyed at designated disposal points with the help of dumpers, trucks and front loaders.



The staff was provided food at their workplace two days before Eid to continue the operation uninterrupted.

After the completion of operation, traces of blood and other impurities were washed from all over the city and white lime powder was sprinkled to keep the environment of the city clean.

A helpline 1334 was set up for registering complaints regarding lifting of animal waste on civic agency's telephone numbers including

051 9213908; 051 9203216; 051 9223171; 051 9211555. While complaints could also be lodged on WhatsApp number 0335-55001213.

In addition, two emergency cells were established in G-6/1/4 and transport section of the sanitation directorate will work day and night at the Fire Headquarters in G-7/4.

CDA also distributed biodegradable plastic bags in Islamabad and rural areas on Eid-ul-Adha so that the citizens can safely destroy the remains of the sacrificed animals.

Health Corner

Sudden Cardiac Death: Abnormal Heart Metabolism

ISLAMABAD: Adults with abnormal heart metabolism are up to three times more likely to experience life-threatening arrhythmias (an irregular heart rhythm), and MRI techniques could be used to detect the condition and predict future sudden cardiac death (SCD), according to a small, but rigorous study led by Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers.

The findings were published June 22 in JCI Insight. "We believe this is the first time that impaired cardiac metabolism in people has been linked to an increased risk of life-threatening arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death," says study senior author Robert Weiss, M.D., professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "This could open a window for a whole new approach, a metabolic approach for treating or preventing severe arrhythmias, which is something that is not currently available in cardiology."

Sudden cardiac death accounts for 50% of all cardiovascular deaths in the United States, claiming more than 300,000 American lives annually, according to the American Heart Association. Currently, an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) — a small, battery-powered device placed in the chest to detect and stop irregular heart rhythms — is the primary means of preventing SCD in high-risk patients. The device continuously monitors the heart rhythm and delivers electric shocks, when needed, to restore a regular heart rhythm. The battery life of an ICD is typically between five to seven years.

"Over seven years, 60%-70% of these devices never discharge to save a life," says T. Jake Samuel, Ph.D., first author of the study and fellow in cardiology at Johns Hopkins Medicine. "We're spending billions of dollars a year on ICDs that are implanted and have procedural and postprocedural risks. There is a need for noninvasive approaches to better assess risk for who needs or doesn't need an ICD to prevent sudden cardiac death in people."

For their study, Samuel and colleagues measured the levels of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the primary chemical cellular energy source, in the hearts of 46 people prior to getting an ICD for primary prevention. The cardiac ATP levels were measured on clinical magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners using a magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) technique developed at Johns Hopkins Medicine by Paul Bottomley, Ph.D., a co-author on the study, to determine which patients had abnormal ATP metabolism. All patients were followed up every three to six months for an average of 10 years to determine which patients had appropriate ICD firings for life-threatening arrhythmias.

Results showed that people with low cardiac ATP levels (impaired metabolism) had a three-fold higher risk of sudden cardiac death (if not saved by ICD intervention) compared to those with normal ATP metabolism. This was still the case when adjusted for low left ventricular ejection fraction, the metric currently used to determine the need for a primary prevention ICD.

"The ICD was never needed in roughly 80% of those with normal cardiac ATP levels in the 10 years during the study period," Samuel and colleagues report. They say the study findings could complement current approaches and lead to better predictions for who's most likely to need, or not need an ICD. However, they stress, that more studies are needed to assess different and larger populations.

"But we're excited about these truly new findings, arguably the first in people, and believe they can be transformative on how doctors assess sudden cardiac death risk," Weiss says. "Once we have confirmed that metabolism and SCD are linked, we hope to study which drugs preserve and improve ATP metabolism, and whether they can be used to reduce SCD risk." (Courtesy: Science Daily)



COVID-19 positivity ratio reaches five-month high

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded the highest COVID-19 positivity ratio of 5.46% during a single day after a gap of five months, the National Institute of Health (NIH) data showed Tuesday morning.

The last time the country recorded such a high positivity ratio — 5.55% — was on February 17. The number of deaths stood at 40 at the time.

According to the NIH data, during the last 24 hours, 4,674 diagnostic tests were conducted across the country out of which 255 came back positive.

The condition of 141 COVID-19 patients, according to the NIH, is critical and they are being treated in intensive care units (ICU) at different medical facilities.

051 9213908; 051 9203216; 051 9223171; 051 9211555. While complaints could also be lodged on WhatsApp number 0335-55001213.

In addition, two emergency cells were established in G-6/1/4 and transport section of the sanitation directorate will work day and night at the Fire Headquarters in G-7/4.

CDA also distributed biodegradable plastic bags in Islamabad and rural areas on Eid-ul-Adha so that the citizens can safely destroy the remains of the sacrificed animals.

Modi's fascist policies have failed to crush Kashmiri's spirit: Mushaal

Mushaal Hussein Mullick pays tribute to martyrs of July 13, 1931

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Fascist Narendra Modi led India is making every effort to weaken the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom but the people would not be intimidated by such nefarious tactics rather such actions will further strengthen Kashmiris' commitment to the liberation movement.

This was stated by the Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a video message on Kashmir Martyrs Day on Monday. She said that at that day, 22 Kashmiris were martyred by the troops of Dogra Maharaja for appearing outside the Central Jail in Srinagar.

Mushaal, who is the wife of detained Kashmiri leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, paid tribute to the martyrs of July 13, 1931 who sacrificed their precious lives against the personal rule of Dogro imperialism and said that they tragedy a milestone in Kashmir's history, as all the incidents and martyrdoms that had taken place since then for the liberation of Jammu and Kashmir was a continuation of the martyrs' mission.

She said that no less brutal than the Dogra force, the Indian occupation forces have martyred hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris and grievously hurt millions of families in the Indian Occupied and Kashmir (IOK). Yet, they have failed to break the will of the Kashmiris and weaken



their resolve to secure freedom from Indian occupation, she added.

She said that the troops of Dogra Maharaja had killed 22 Kashmiris one after another outside Central Jail in Srinagar during the court proceedings against one Abdul Qadeer when a young man started the call for prayers (Azaan) but was shot dead by the Maharaja's soldiers. Thus, 22 youth sacrificed their lives till the completion of Azaan, she added.

"The world remained silent and failed to take any action

against the Dogra forces barbarism and today when Indian forces are crossing all limits of brutalities and state barbarism, the world powers and human right organizations are again observing criminal silence," she added.

She said their extraordinary courage and sacrifice kindled a valiant struggle for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination that continues to date.

She said that India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, aimed at erasing the distinct identity of the people of Kashmir have further fortified the Kashmiris' quest for freedom and self-determination and lent even greater poignancy to the Kashmir Martyrs' Day.

While condemning the state-terrorism being perpetrated by Indian occupation forces in IOK, she called upon the international community to take practical steps to stop India from the continuing brutalization of the Kashmiri people including extra-judicial killings and illegal attempts to change the demographic structure of the region. She said that India must be held accountable for its unspeakable crimes against the Kashmiri people.

She said that lasting peace and prosperity in South Asia could not be established without resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute, demanding that Kashmir dispute should be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Advertisement for 'Dishi Kamshar' (ڈیٹی کامشنر) featuring a woman's portrait and contact information for the Government of Pakistan.

ڈیٹی کامشنر

ہر خاص عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ دفتر کمشنر آئی سی ٹی ای بی ایون فور اسلام آباد کو رے ای بی ایون فور اسلام آباد کے دوران پیشگی خریداری کے لیے سربراہی ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔ ٹینڈر کی وصولی (a) Public Procurement Rules-36(a) کے تحت کی جائے گی۔ ٹینڈرز زبردستی کو مورخہ 29 جولائی 2022ء 02:00 بجے تک وصول ہونے چاہئیں جو اس روز 03:00 بجے تک وصول ہونے چاہئیں گے۔

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Resetting the US-Arab strategic alliance

Baria Alamuddin

The healthiest diplomatic relationships are essentially transactional in nature. Just as NATO requires intimate coordination between America and the Europeans, there are deep-seated reasons why, since the foundation of the modern Gulf states, they and the US have been the closest of allies.

Friendship arose from hard-nosed mutual interests: Gulf states were essential partners for advancing policies throughout the broader Middle East region, crucial for global energy security and economic stability, and vital components of the war against terrorism. The world has changed profoundly, but the factors underpinning this mutual reliance are no less significant in 2022 than they were in 1973, 1991 or 2001.

However, Arab states are confused as to what US partner they are engaging with, amid dizzying about-turns in policy and the repudiation of agreements and long-standing alliances — Washington at times going out on a limb to placate Tehran, or failing to satisfactorily act when missiles rain down on a strategic ally, despite longstanding security commitments.

During recent visits to GCC states I have been struck by the strength of discontent toward recent US policies, particular-

ly the lack of a coherent Middle East strategy, and State Department indifference to deep-seated security concerns. There is a perception of double standards in how Western states have vigorously intervened in the Ukraine conflict.

This frustration sometimes manifests itself as a desire to retaliate by embracing Russia and China. However, the utter failure of these two countries to lift a finger in support of containing Tehran makes it clear that for the foreseeable future GCC states are right to continue prioritizing their alliance with the West, even if this frustrating relationship frequently fails to deliver on its promises.

Recent US presidents have tended to stage a major set-piece Gulf visit, and then consider they've done everything required to manage the relationship. Instead, in fulfilling his pledge to "strengthen a strategic partnership going forward that's based on mutual interests and responsibilities," Joe Biden should view his visit this week as just the initial foundation stone for resetting this alliance, which will require considerable further effort, investment, mutual respect and goodwill.

Biden will be sitting down with leaders from some of the best educated and most rapidly advancing economies in the world, who are deeply proud of their cultural heritage and all-too-well apprised of the challenges facing the region.

GCC states already have a mutual defense agreement. The Arab League has a long history of vacuous pronouncements about joint Arab action, though Arab states have often ended up as bystanders in regional conflicts. Participants in this week's discussions must therefore avoid lofty concluding statements that have zero practical impact. This requires Arab states to be well organized among themselves, with realistic objectives.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken acknowledged in recent days that talks with Iran on reviving the 2015 deal to curb its nuclear program were moving in the wrong direction. There was never any prospect of these negotiations delivering the necessary guarantees to prevent Tehran from acquiring atom bombs and continuing to flood the region with missiles and militias.

The Arab summit should therefore be a first step toward implementing the necessary security regimen, based on the likelihood of no deal with Iran. There needs to be an absolute commitment — from Western states, Arab nations, and Israel — that there are no circumstances in which Iran would be allowed to acquire military nuclear capabilities, along with serious discussions about the measures needed to underpin such a commitment.

There can be no meaningful regional security without measures to push back Tehran's influence in states such as Iraq, Syria,

Lebanon and Yemen, which risk wholly falling into the Iranian camp; particularly as these countries have been used to launch missiles and drones against peaceful nations.

There has been discussion about a NATO-style alliance between regional states. In practice, this would be a somewhat more complex arrangement. Nations that have technically been in a state of war with Israel would be unlikely to suddenly commit themselves to going to war in its defense.

Saudi Arabia is the architect of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which requires Israel to accede to the borders of the Palestinian territories in exchange for full normalization of relations. The Arab world may be deeply preoccupied with other strategic challenges, but the Palestinian issue remains a matter of intense Arab and global concern. If Israel desires a transformed relationship with the entire region, this first requires a fundamental transformation in its treatment of the Palestinian nation.

Because of the sensitivities about coordination between Arab states and Israel, there will probably be no detailed announcement about what nationwide measures are to be put in place — including missile defense coordination, where there has already been some progress.

The advantage to such strategic ambiguity is that Iran will be left in the dark about

precisely what forces may be ranged against it. As I wrote here last week, the regime has suffered a succession of disastrous intelligence failures in recent months. Greater regional coordination, intelligence sharing, and mutual military support could significantly ratchet up the prospects for interrupting Tehran's hostile nuclear and military ambitions.

Biden's face-off with Russia and efforts against Tehran are part of the same broader confrontation: aspiring to rein in states that reject the rules-based international system and seek to achieve their goals through military force, paramilitary adventures, arms proliferation and terrorism.

If Biden is serious about winning Gulf support on the global stage, then this week's summit must be about action, not eloquent platitudes; it must provoke the realization in Tehran that the rules of the game have fundamentally changed.

In 2003 a deeply misguided American invasion flung open the gates for creeping Iranian pre-eminence throughout the region. Is it not too much to ask Washington to play a central role in once again slamming these gates shut and containing the beasts within?

The write is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. Courtesy Arab News

Kashmir Martyrs' Day

Y outh-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir was a former official state holiday observed in Kashmir in remembrance of 22 Muslim protesters killed on 13 July 1931 by Dogra forces of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. On the day, Kashmiri Muslims protesting outside the Srinagar Central Jail premises, where Abdul Qadeer was being held and tried on charges of sedition, were fired upon by the state forces after refusing to disperse and entering the prison premises.

The crowds buried the bodies of those killed by the state forces in the graveyard attached to the Shrine of Khwaja Bahauddin Naqshbandi (Ziyarat Naqshband Sahab) in Srinagar, which has since come to be known as Mazar-e-Shuhada or the Martyrs' Graveyard. The day was removed as an official holiday of Jammu and Kashmir by the Government of India in December 2019. The Government of Pakistan still marks the day.

On the other hand, some Kashmiri Hindu organisations observe the events of July 1931 as the beginning of the oppression against Kashmiri Hindus which would finally reach a peak with the exodus in 1990. For Kashmiri Hindu organisations, the "ethnic cleansing of Hindus" had begun with the arrival of Muslims rule in the region. For them, the real victims are not the Kashmiri Muslims who died on 13 July 1931 but those Kashmiri Hindus who are "victims of communal carnage".

Complete shutdown will be observed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, tomorrow, to mark the Kashmir Martyrs' Day. The strike is the final programme of the Martyrs' Week, call for which was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by all pro-freedom organizations to commemorate the martyrdom of 22 Kashmiris who were killed by the forces of Dogra ruler on July 13, 1931. They were buried at Martyrs' Graveyard, Naqshband Sahib, in Srinagar. The people will assemble at the Martyrs' Graveyard to offer Fateha for the departed souls.

Meanwhile, the APHC leadership in a statement in Srinagar said that the sacred blood of these martyrs ignited the candle of freedom in Jammu and Kashmir. The APHC condemned the fresh killing spree unleashed by the troops in the territory and urged the OIC Secretary General and the UN chief to force India to stop its state terrorism in IIOJK and resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has condemned the fresh killing spree unleashed by Indian troops in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and also expressed concern over the criminal silence of the international rights organizations. The leadership appealed to the international community to stop India from its state terrorism in IIOJK and resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Meanwhile, the posters making rounds on social media paid tributes to martyrs of July 13, 1931 and other martyrs in Srinagar, and people were urged to observe complete shutdown tomorrow as mark of respect to 13th July martyrs. The posters reiterated the people of Kashmir pledge to continue the martyrs' mission till its logical conclusion and vowed that sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed go waste.

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops continued their cordon and search operation on second day, today, in Shopian district. The cordon and search operation was launched by the troops and paramilitary personnel on Monday, the second day of Eid-ul-Azha, in Reban area of the district. The occupation authorities suspended mobile internet services in the area while the operation was going on till last reports came in.

Isolating Afghan Taliban to be dangerous

Charlotte Greenfield & AMohamed Yunus Yawar

A group of Afghan children were grazing sheep in fields near the village of Bolak Wandi in eastern Helmand when they spotted a metallic object half-buried in the ground. Crowding round excitedly, they argued over who had found it first and who could sell it for scrap.

The mortar shell exploded, killing one child instantly.

Three more children died from their wounds as they were taken to hospital by Taliban fighters who had been nearby. Another passed away on arrival.

"I don't blame anyone," said Haji Abdul Salam, the father of two of the children. He tries to focus on comforting his wife, who cries for her lost children.

"This mortar could have been left over from the Americans or the Soviet Union. However, not only our area, but all of Afghanistan should be cleared of this problem."

That mission has become more difficult.

The Taliban's return to power last summer, ending their 20-year insurgency, should have helped de-mining efforts, with swathes of territory that were off-limits during the fighting finally accessible.

Yet foreign governments have now

frozen development aid to the Afghan government, unwilling to use their taxpayers' money to prop up the Taliban, an Islamist group that restricts women's rights and has been at war with much of the West since harbouring Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 attacks.

One unintended consequence: In a previously unreported development, the Afghan government agency that oversees mine clearance told Reuters it had lost its roughly \$3mn funding and laid off about 120 staff in April — the majority of the organisation — because it couldn't pay salaries.

"All the sanctions have severely affected us," said Sayed Danish, deputy head of the agency, the Directorate of Mine Action Co-ordination (DMAC). "We can't do strategic work, which is our main responsibility."

The cost to ordinary Afghans of isolating the Taliban, who say they are being unfairly treated, was also highlighted after an earthquake last month left thousands homeless and the health system under huge strain, sparking some calls for a new approach to the group.

The loss of de-mining funds could have profound consequences for the country of 40 million people which is one of the most heavily mined places on Earth after four decades of war.

Almost 80% of civilian casualties from "explosive remnants of war" are children, the UN mining agency estimates, partly due to their curiosity as well as their regular role in collecting scrap metal to sell to bolster families' incomes.

In the seven months to March, about 300 Afghan children were killed or maimed by landmines and other unexploded devices, according to the UN's children's agency.

The five children from Bolak Wandi, four boys and a girl aged between five and 12, died in April.

Foreign governments have exempted humanitarian aid from their freeze, and hundreds of millions of dollars are flowing into the country, allowing aid organisations to function.

But the limitations of such funds — to meet urgent needs and aimed at bypassing the government — are becoming apparent, with many economists and experts saying the population will suffer without robust state services and a viable banking sector.

DMAC's funding is part of roughly \$9bn a year in international development and security aid that the World Bank says been frozen since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, which relies on foreign donors for the bulk of its budget.

The de-mining work itself is largely carried out by aid groups, but DMAC provides strategic guidance to prioritise high-danger areas and maps the nationwide de-mining work to avoid duplicating efforts, according to Danish and aid workers.

"Mine action works best when national-level coordination and oversight is in place," said Soren Sorensen, head of Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding for Afghanistan at the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), an international

organisation.

"At the moment all that is being done is that we select areas from an outdated list," he added. "That is not effective and is not addressing the most serious hazards."

Sorensen stares out of the window of a car on the way back to the capital Kabul from Qafas Kalay, a small village in the eastern district of Khaki Jabbar, an area once used by Soviet forces as a military outpost and which more recently saw heavy fighting as the Taliban took the area.

Hundreds of devices have been detonated in the vicinity but almost 40,000 square miles still need to be cleared. Across Afghanistan, thousands of unexploded devices lie in wait, the UN de-mining agency says. "We finally have this amazing window of opportunity to actually clear this country," Sorensen said. "There is so much we could do."

On a hillside outside Qafas Kalay, about 20 miles east of Kabul, DRC mine-clearance workers in protective vests and visors peer at the ground and sweep detectors.

They place a small flag on a barely visible device found nestled in the dirt — a Soviet anti-personnel mine — and then connect it by wires that run hundreds of metres to a small makeshift control centre where the countdown begins. The device blows up and the de-miners return to their painstaking work.

A few miles away, children on the doorstep of a mosque pore over cartoons that show different kinds of explosive devices and the kinds of places they might be

hidden.

Their tutor tells them what to do if they spot one.

"We don't go to that place and we report it to our parents," the children repeat back enthusiastically.

The community nearby is already eking out patches of de-mined land to farm wheat and fruit and working on irrigation projects, developments that could help alleviate the growing hunger crisis in Afghanistan.

Asked about the cash crunch and layoffs at DMAC, the US Department of State said it was continuing to support humanitarian de-mining in Afghanistan by directly funding NGO partners. A spokesperson said it had provided \$720 million in overall humanitarian assistance to Afghans since last August.

Germany's foreign minister said in June there was no room to recognise the Taliban as a legitimate government until it changed policies on issues such as women's rights.

Foreign capitals want to squeeze the Taliban's finances to pressure the group to lift restrictions on the rights of girls and women to education, freedom of expression and employment.

Since returning to power, the group has kept girls' secondary schools closed and demanded women cover their faces in public and only leave home with a male relative or husband.

Some people have also accused the Taliban of reprisal attacks against former members of the Western-backed administration, including soldiers and intelli-

gence officials.

The Taliban has said it would respect human rights and promised to investigate allegations of revenge killings, saying they have put an amnesty against former foes in place.

The Taliban also says it is addressing issues including girls' secondary education and has called on Washington to unfreeze billions of dollars of central bank assets, saying they belong to the Afghan people and the country needs a functioning banking system to alleviate poverty.

Late last month, a temporary deal was reached when DMAC agreed that the United Nations could set up an office in the country for about six months. But with funding for the stopgap UN regulator half of that of the Afghan agency before the Taliban takeover, it has only employed about 30 from the original 120 staff, according to Paul Heslop, Chief of the UN Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan.

He added that for long-term sustainability, the responsibility of co-ordinating de-mining should be with a state and not an outside humanitarian body like the UN agency.

"We're in a situation where we have a government that's not recognised," said Heslop, adding that the lack of funding was "very difficult".

"Even if you pay people they can't get the money out of the banks, it's very difficult for the people of Afghanistan at the moment, they are really suffering."

Courtesy Gulf Times



Ukraine reports striking Russian ammunition depot in south

Russian shelling kills at least 16 civilians and injures 48 more

KYIV/MOSCOW: Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday that their forces targeted a Russian ammunition depot in southern Ukraine overnight, resulting in a massive explosion captured on social media.

The Ukrainian military's southern command said a rocket strike targeted the depot in Russian-held Nova Kakhovka, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of the Black Sea port city of Kherson, which is also occupied by Russian forces.

The precision of the strike suggested Ukrainian forces used U.S.-supplied multiple-launch High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, to hit the area. Ukraine indicated in recent days that it might launch a counteroffensive to reclaim territory in the country's south as Russia devotes resources to capturing all of the eastern Donbas region.

Russia's Tass news agency offered a different account of the blast in Nova Kakhovka, saying a mineral fertilizer storage facility exploded, and that a market, hospital and houses were damaged in the strike. Some of the

ingredients in fertilizer can be used for ammunition.

Ukraine now has eight of the HIMARS systems, a truck-mounted missile launcher with high accuracy, and Washington has promised to send another four.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian shelling over the past 24 hours killed at least 16 civilians and wounded 48 more, Ukraine's presidential office said in its Tuesday morning update. Cities and towns in five southeast regions came under Russian fire, the office said.

Nine civilians were killed and two more wounded in Donetsk province, which makes up half of the Donbas. Russian rocket attacks targeted the cities of Sloviansk and Toretsk, where a kindergarten was hit, the presidential office said.

The British military said Tuesday that Russia was continuing to make "small, incremental gains" in Donetsk, where heavy fighting led the province's governor last week to urge its 350,000 remaining residents to move to safer places in western Ukraine.

The death toll from a Russian rocket

attack that struck a Donetsk apartment building Saturday rose to 38, Ukrainian officials said Tuesday afternoon. The head of the Donetsk regional military administration, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said on social media earlier in the day that nine wounded people were rescued from the building in Chasiv Yar.

Yet many in the Donbas, a fertile industrial region in eastern Ukraine made of Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, refuse — or are unable — to flee, despite scores of civilians being killed and wounded each week.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and its surrounding region, Russian strikes hit residential buildings, killing four civilians and wounding nine, Ukrainian officials said. "The Russians continue their tactics of intimidating the peaceful population of the Kharkiv region," Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov wrote Tuesday on Telegram.

Ukrainian authorities also said that Russian fire struck the southern city of Mykolaiv on Tuesday morning, hitting residential buildings. Twelve people were wounded as the result of

the Russian shelling, with some of the rockets hitting two medical facilities, regional governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram. Air raid sirens sounded Tuesday in the western city of Lviv — the first daytime sirens there in over a week — and in other areas of Ukraine as Russian forces continued to make advances.

In eastern Luhansk, "fighting continues near the villages" on the administrative border with neighboring Donetsk, Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

"The Russian army burns down everything in its way. The artillery barrage doesn't stop and sometimes continues for four to six hours on end," Haidai said. The British Defense Ministry's intelligence briefing said Russia had seized the Ukrainian town of Hryhorivka and continued to push toward the Donetsk province cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

"Russian forces are likely maintaining military pressure on Ukrainian forces whilst regrouping and reconstituting for further offensives in the near future," the intelligence briefing



Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dato Lim Jock Hoi, met with State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Wang Yi, at the ASEAN Secretariat on 11 July 2022. During his visit to the Secretariat, the State Councillor also delivered a Policy Speech touching upon ASEAN-China relations and open regionalism.

Tovuz battles' anniversary

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry organizes media tour



BAKU: Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has organized a tour for media representatives on the occasion of the anniversary of Tovuz battles, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"Media representatives filmed and interviewed servicemen serving in the military unit deployed in this area, as well as participants of the Tovuz battles.

The servicemen shared their memories with media representatives about the combat operations conducted on July 12-17, 2020 in the direction of the Tovuz district of the state border as a result of a gross violation of the ceasefire.

As part of the trip, media representatives familiarized themselves with a barrack, medical point, canteen, kitchen, weapon room, and bathroom-sanitary facility, created in the military unit to organize the service and combat activities of military personnel, as well as to provide living conditions," the ministry said.

Geology is main driver of economic growth: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a meeting on the results achieved in geology and plans for the industry until the end of the year, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent.

According to the press service of the Head of our state, chairman of the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources B. Islamov reported on the work carried out in recent years. As a result of the introduction of modern technologies, the volume of exploration and drilling operations increased by 1.5 times. Tax rates for the use of subsoil have been reduced, opening the way for private investors. An investment of 1 billion 400 million dollars has begun due to the sale of deposits through an auction. The University of Geological Sciences has been established, the activities of which are organized based on the most modern technologies and advanced methods. At the presentation held on May 19 this year, the President gave instructions on the transformation of the state enterprise Navoiuran and the increase in uranium reserves. Today, information has been presented on the work begun in this direction, targets for the medium and long term.

It is planned to transfer the technological process and financial reporting to international standards, to double the volume of production and reserves of uranium by 2030. The Head of the state emphasized that for the effective implementation of these activities, it is necessary to open a project office in Navoiuran, attract foreign specialists and improve the skills of personnel.

The development of deposits of non-ferrous and rare metals was also discussed. The area of geological exploration for these types of raw materials has been expanded. It is planned to create the Yangi Kon company under the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of Uzbekistan. This company will implement investment projects for the extraction of lithium, aluminum, magnesium, graphite, and other rare metals. Water resources are also important. In recent years, the groundwater level in 21 districts has dropped to 20 meters from the surface.

Despite this, unauthorized drilling of wells for water is observed in some places. In 2021 alone, 1.2 thousand such cases were detected. That is why the President previously instructed to organize the rational use of groundwater.

Wang Yi talks about directions of China-ASEAN cooperation

Spokesman Report

JAKARTA: State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a policy speech on renewing the firm commitment to open regionalism and answered questions at the ASEAN Secretariat.

Wang Yi said that as the world's largest developing country and an important member in Asia, China has always followed a path of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening-up. We seek an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, and follow a neighborhood policy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness.

We hope to champion open regionalism together with ASEAN and deepen our comprehensive strategic partnership. China will advance its relations with ASEAN in five key directions.

First, continue to support ASEAN Centrality and promote solidarity and cooperation



Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dato Lim Jock Hoi, met with State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Wang Yi, at the ASEAN Secretariat on 11 July 2022. During his visit to the Secretariat, the State Councillor also delivered a Policy Speech touching upon ASEAN-China relations and open regionalism.

in the region. China firmly supports ASEAN's role in the "driver's seat", supports ASEAN community-building, and supports the ASEAN-centered regional cooperation architecture. China welcomes ASEAN's efforts to formulate a Post-2025 Vision for the ASEAN Commu-

nity. We are ready to assist ASEAN countries in achieving their development goals by tapping into such resources as the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the China-ASEAN Cooperation Fund.

ASEAN has stressed on

many occasions that its Outlook on the Indo-Pacific is an independent initiative that commits to openness and inclusiveness and focuses on dialogue, cooperation and economic development, and that it is not subservient to or targeted against any party. China appreciates this position. We would like to increase synergy and cooperation with ASEAN on the implementation of the Outlook.

Second, call for settling differences in the Asian way and uphold regional peace and stability. We will work with other countries in the region to implement the Global Security Initiative, and deepen cooperation in such areas as defense, counterterrorism, joint maritime search and rescue, combating transnational crimes, and disaster management.

We hope to blaze a new path of security that chooses dialogue over confrontation, partnerships over alliances, and win-win over zero-sum game, and put into practice principles for how neighbors may

get along: trust as the basis, the greater good as priority, and sincerity in interaction.

We are expediting the consultations on a code of conduct in the South China Sea, which will serve as institutional safeguards for more effective management of differences in the South China Sea, more vigorous advancement of cooperation and more active joint governance. We will continue to support ASEAN's efforts in building a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and China is ready to sign the protocol to the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone at any time.

Third, pursue firmly the open strategy for development and promote regional economic integration. We will promote post-COVID recovery, develop demonstration zones for Belt and Road international industrial capacity cooperation, enhance the resilience of industrial and supply chains in the region, and ensure smooth trade flows across borders.

Sri Lanka lawmakers to pick new president

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's lawmakers agreed to elect a new president next week but struggled Tuesday to decide on the makeup of a new government to lift the bankrupt country out of economic and political collapse.

Suffering from severe shortages of food, fuel and medicine, protesters on Saturday stormed embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's home, his seaside office and the official residence of his prime minister in the most dramatic day of a three-month crisis.

Both officials agreed to concede to demands they resign: Rajapaksa promised to step down Wednesday,

while Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would leave once a new government was in place. As anger mounted, particularly against Rajapaksa and his influential family, immigration officials said one of the president's brothers tried to leave the country on Monday night. Local media reported he was not able to.

The promised resignations brought no end to the crisis — and the protesters have vowed to occupy the official buildings until their top leaders are gone. For days, people have flocked to the presidential palace almost as if it were a tourist attraction — swimming in the pool, marveling at the paintings and lounging on the beds piled high with pillows. At one point, they also burned the prime minister's private home.

While lawmakers agreed late Monday to elect a new president from their ranks on July 20, they have not yet decided who will take over as prime minister and fill the Cabinet. The new president will serve the remainder of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024 — and could potentially appoint a new prime minister, who would then have to be approved by Parliament.

Between Rajapaksa's

expected resignation Wednesday and the vote, the prime minister will serve as president — an arrangement that is sure to further anger protesters who want Wickremesinghe out immediately.

Corruption and mismanagement have left the island nation laden with debt, unable to pay for imports of basic necessities, causing despair among its 22 million people. Sri Lankans are skipping meals and lining up for hours to try to buy scarce fuel — a harsh reality in a country whose economy had been growing quickly and had a growing and comfortable middle class, until the latest crisis deepened.

Indonesian coffees promoted during G20 Sherpa meeting

Spokesman Report

LABUAN BAJO: Various types of Indonesian coffees are being promoted and offered to guests during the Second Sherpa Meeting of G20 held in Labuan Bajo, West Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), on July 10-13, 2022.

"All coffees provided are superior varieties in Indonesia, including Flores Manggarai, Toraja, Mandailing and others. The coffees are offered in lounges, meeting rooms, and exhibition stands," Head of the Global Kapal Api Corporate Communications Pangesti Boedhiman noted in a statement here on Monday.

World population to reach 8b on 15 November 2022

Muhammad Arshad

NEW YORK: The global population is projected to reach 8 billion on 15 November 2022, and India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, according to World Population Prospects 2022.

"This year's World Population Day falls during a milestone year, when we anticipate the birth of the Earth's eight billionth inhabitant. This is an occasion to celebrate our diversity, recognize our common humanity, and marvel at advancements in health that have extended lifespans and dramatically reduced maternal and child mortality rates," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "At the same time, it is a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for our planet and a moment to reflect on where we still fall short

of our commitments to one another," he added.

The global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950, having fallen under 1 per cent in 2020. The latest projections by the United Nations suggest that the world's population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050. It is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.

World Population Prospects 2022 also states that fertility has fallen markedly in recent decades for many countries. Today, two-thirds of the global population lives in a country or area where lifetime fertility is below 2.1 births per woman, roughly the level required for zero growth in the long run for a population with low mortality. The populations of 61 countries or

areas are projected to decrease by 1 per cent or more between 2022 and 2050, owing to sustained low levels of fertility and, in some cases, elevated rates of emigration.

More than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050.

"The relationship between population growth and sustainable development is complex and multidimensional" said Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. "Rapid population growth makes eradicating poverty, combatting

hunger and malnutrition, and increasing the coverage of health and education systems more difficult. Conversely, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to health, education and gender equality, will contribute to reducing fertility levels and slowing global population growth."

In most countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in parts of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the share of population at working age (between 25 and 64 years) has been increasing thanks to recent reductions in fertility.

This shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita, known as the "demographic dividend".

To maximize the potential benefits of a favourable age distribution, countries should invest in the further development of their human capital by ensuring access to health care and quality education at all ages and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work.

The share of global population at ages 65 and above is projected to rise from 10 per cent in 2022 to 16 per cent in 2050. At that point, it is expected that the number of persons aged 65 years or over worldwide will be more than twice the number of children under age 5 and about the same as the number under age 12. Countries with ageing popu-

lations should take steps to adapt public programmes to the growing numbers of older persons, including by establishing universal health care and long-term care systems and by improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems.

Global life expectancy at birth reached 72.8 years in 2019, an improvement of almost 9 years since 1990. Further reductions in mortality are projected to result in an average global longevity of around 77.2 years in 2050. Yet in 2021, life expectancy for the least developed countries lagged 7 years behind the global average.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all three components of population change. Global life expectancy at birth fell to 71.0 years in 2021. In some countries, successive waves of the pandemic may have produced short-term

reductions in numbers of pregnancies and births, while for many other countries, there is little evidence of an impact on fertility levels or trends. The pandemic severely restricted all forms of human mobility, including international migration.

"Further actions by Governments aimed at reducing fertility would have little impact on the pace of population growth between now and mid-century, because of the youthful age structure of today's global population. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect of lower fertility, if maintained over several decades, could be a more substantial deceleration of global population growth in the second half of the century," added John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



Pak furniture has great potential: Mian Ashfaq

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Saturday said Pakistan's furniture industry has a big potential to dominate global markets with innovative designs and can significantly contribute to exports; however, it direly needs a package of incentives and facilitation for boosting exports.

Talking to a delegation of foreign and local investors led by Honorary Investment Consular Milan and Tourism Ambassador to Italy Muhammad Sheryar Khan in Lahore Mian Kashif said unfortunately, the furniture sector remained badly neglected. It needs special attention of the federal and provincial governments for the training of woodworkers on modern lines, he added.

He said there is an urgent need to explore the international market for boosting our exports as there is a lot of potential in Pakistani products, adding he said the value of furniture export was very nominal but the beginning had been made, and with aggressive marketing strategy the value of exports could be doubled in a short span.

He said if the government extends its support to furniture companies, the volume of export could touch the figure of \$ 5 billion for the next five years.

He urged the businessmen to work extensively to promote local industry in Pakistan. "Pakistan is blessed with abundant resources and our people are equipped with the best of skills that can help develop the country on modern lines," he added.

He also lauded the amazing work of younger designers and architects displaying in the exhibition along with other national and international leading furniture manufacturing companies.

PFC Chief Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the PFC was committed to supporting Pakistan's young entrepreneurs associated with the furniture and interior designing sector whose innovative thinking had the potential to unlock great economic prosperity.

He urged the businessmen to work extensively to promote local industry in Pakistan. "Pakistan is blessed with abundant resources and our people are equipped with the best of skills that can help develop the country on modern lines," he added. APP

National Livestock Policy to boost Halal meat export: Farwad

LAHORE: Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Vice President Ahmad Jawad said on Tuesday that National Livestock Policy being prepared by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research would help support and boost Halal meat export from Pakistan.

Talking to the media, he said that first-ever livestock policy would also increase export of milk, butter and other related products, adding that annual export of these products was over Rs 53 billion.

Since Pakistan has great potential of increasing export of livestock in next ten years, the livestock policy would ensure food security, poverty alleviation, increase in incomes of people belong to this sector etc.

He said this Eidul Azha, animal trade in Punjab recorded at around Rs 59.17 billion. Sixty percent of people were associated with agriculture that contribute 11.6 percent in economic development.

The Livestock Department would have to flourish in consonance with agriculture sector so that National Livestock Policy could help increase the revenue generation, he argued.

In October 2021, new mandates were approved for Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA) to promote Halal products locally and internationally as a move to enter the global Halal market, he added. Agencies

Pakistan asks UN to protect developing countries from supply chain shocks

The Minister says countries like Pakistan were now under heavy pressure of these increased commodity prices

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Minister for Planning, Development and Special initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday called upon the United Nations to champion the issue of Ukraine-Russia war to protect the developing countries including Pakistan, from extreme shocks of supply chains causing delays in achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"There is a need at UN level to champion this issue that countries like Pakistan and many developing countries are facing extreme economic situation due to the doubling and tripling of the commodity prices in the international markets," the minister said while speaking at the virtual event here titled "Mobilizing the private sector for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)".

The event was organised by UN Global Compact (UNGC).



The minister said the countries like Pakistan were now under heavy pressure of these increased commodity prices which also resulted in creating financial burden on private sector.

Therefore, he said the government was finding it difficult with the private sector to have extra resources for the programmes that they were doing for SDGs.

Mr Iqbal stressed the need for some kind of relief for such developing countries to enable the private sector in contributing towards SDGs. He said immediately after launch of SDGs in 2015, Pakistan Parliament adopted the international SDGs as its National development goals.

"We tried to give ownership to this agenda from the very beginning. This is not a global agenda this is our own national agenda," he added.

He said Pakistan was among the top 10 vulnerable countries as far as climate change was concerned and to cope with this issue, the government was very actively working.

"We have also partnered with the private sector to create more jobs in the business because we are very young country and around two third of the population is very young."

The minister informed that the government is also trying to work very closely with private sector to provide maximum jobs to the youth. "We offer internship programmes to the

young graduates and under graduates so that their employability becomes easier and they get more jobs," he added.

The minister added that the government had also started major advocacy programme with the private sector particular to sensitize small and medium size business towards the benefits of adopting SDGs practices.

That will give us much broader penetration in the private sector because we found that big businesses were sensitive, they had greater awareness, and they were partnering with us but amongst small and medium enterprise there was knowledge gap. "So through our own advocacy we are trying to bridge the gap and get them on board."

He said during last three years, the country like Pakistan suffered greatly from COVID-19 which impacted the entire sectors of businesses.

And now in the post COVID period, we are badly hit by the supply chain shocks and this situation also triggered due to the Ukraine war.

Contractionary monetary policy brought industry on a standstill: President FPCCI

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his grave concerns that contractionary and regressive monetary policy being practiced in the country has effectively brought the trade and industry on a standstill and there will be economic stagnation in the country like never before. He added that the 15 percent policy rate at the moment is the highest in the last 14 years.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has noted with profound concern that the export finance scheme (EFS) and long-term financing facility (LTFF) meant for export-oriented industries have been linked with SBP's policy rate as well; and now only 500 basis points worth of discount is left for exporters; while EFS was 3 percent & LTFF was 5 percent at the start of the year 2022.

Therefore, exporters have been

deprived of a major protective mechanism against interest rate hikes—making them further vulnerable and uncompetitive to regional, sub-regional and international export markets. He added that this is all being done in the name of effective monetary policy transmission.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that what the country needs is pretty simple: enhanced industrial production; rapid increase in exports; private-sector & foreign direct investment (FDI) and the resultant employment generation, increased tax collection and a healthy economic growth rate.

FPCCI President maintained that the current phenomenon of stagflation in the country is not demand-pull and it will not come down with irrationally increasing the interest rate to an excruciatingly high-level; where borrowing from the formal sector becomes unviable.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that uncertain-

ty in political & economic environment, ever-so-volatile rupee-dollar parity, and incessant interest rate hikes will totally burgeon all the sectors across the board; as cost of doing of doing business, ease of doing business index, access to business financing, access to foreign exchange for imports and operating anywhere near to being profitable will all be next to impossible for trade & industry.

FPCCI President stated that the trade deficit for the fiscal year 2021-22 has been recorded at \$48.3 billion and it has resulted in a current account deficit (CAD) of \$15.2 billion in 11 months of July 2021-May 22. He expressed his shock that on a Month-on-Month (MoM) basis, CAD has increased by 131 percent from \$618 million in April 2022 to \$1.425 billion in May 2022. The only way forward is to increase our exports substantially and post a double-digit growth in exports each year, he added.

Education tourism sector, a new engine of economic sustainability

LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Dr Shahid Munir Tuesday said that international education tourism is one of the rapidly growing sector of the world economy beyond doubts.

Talking to a delegation of leading industrialists led by Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and former senior Vice President chamber of commerce and industry Meher Kashif Younis in Lahore, he said education tourism is one of the best ways to help students to gain a good multiple perspective around the world and helps in obtaining new varied cultures with multifaceted rich experiences in various fields of the visiting countries.

He said education tourism sector has emerged as new engine of economic sustainability, according to a press release received here on Tuesday.

He said government should accord priority in providing infrastructures and facilities to follow international standards to attract foreign students in various teaching disciplines of varsities with affordable packages coupled with truly healthy academic congenial atmosphere besides imparting

high equality education by top class foreign qualified distinguished Pakistani teachers.

Dr Shahid Munir said education tourism sector has a high prospects to be developed by taking into account the demand factors of international students to pursue studies abroad and its spill over affects to higher education productivity.

Meher Kashif Younis underlining the vital importance said with its rapid growth, the market is set to register an impressive compound amount growth rate (CAGR) of 18pc between 2021 and 2031 reaching a valuation of around US\$1859bn by end 2031.

He said education tourism will not only benefit the host country but also will foster personal and professional growth for students allowing them to take advantage of cultural exchange.

He said key players in the market are introducing attractive packages to woo students.

Another member of the delegation, a luminaries in the field of tourism, Dr Kaiser Rafique and CEO Discover Pakistan highlighting the significance of digital marketing said it plays a vital role in promoting

the services and packages lured by various educational institutions and other companies across the world.

He was of the considered opinion that various countries are promoting educational tourism as part of their strategy to boost the local economy. He said the host countries benefit from international students accommodation expenditures, food, beverages, tuition fees, taxes and other leisure activities.

Winding up his views based on his life long rich experience, he said the number of international students has been steadily increasing over the last three decades and China, India and Korea are their top global students providers.

He said the most popular destinations for educational tourism are US, UK, France, Germany, Australia and Japan which hosts around 62pc of world's total international students population.

He said Pakistan has capacity to enroll at least 100,000 international students in one go provided government chalks out a master plan timely in this regard taking all stakeholders into confidence to encash the ample opportunities. APP

Country will go back to Stone Age sans IMF loan

Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan says timely markets closure will save three billion dollars

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the country will go back to the Stone Age if IMF loan was not ensured without further delay. Timely closure of the markets will help the country save almost three billion dollars

in oil import bill, it will reduce loadshedding, control circular debt and there will be no need to set up expensive power plants hastily, it said.

Early closure of markets is in the national interests which is being ignored for the sake of political interests, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

He said that market closure by sunset would help run the textile and other export industry as the textile sector is expecting a fifty percent reduction in exports after a 26 percent increase last year. Reducing power supply to the industrial sector will also cut production and result in unemployment, he warned.

A country with a trade

deficit of 48 billion dollars, a current account deficit of 15 billion dollars, and exports worth \$1.85 billion dollars against the imports of 80.5 billion dollars cannot afford such luxuries, he said.

Aslam Khan noted that the existing policies clearly reflect that no lesson has been learnt from the bankruptcy of Sri Lanka and we are marching in the same direction.

Pakistan's power generation capacity is more than demand but the whole country is facing severe loadshedding. Mismanagement has pushed up the power shortfall to eight thousand megawatts which has not been reduced to 6000 megawatts due to rains, he informed.

He said that IPPs got excess payments of Rs850 billion during the last fiscal and they would be given Rs1440 billion in the ongoing fiscal for which masses would be made to pay. Preferring politics over the economy will continue to damage the country and may lead to bankruptcy, he warned.



Oil production in OPEC countries increased

MOSCOW: The oil production in OPEC countries has increased by 234,000 barrels per day to 28.7 million barrels per day in June, the OPEC report said on Tuesday.

"According to secondary sources, total OPEC-13 crude oil production averaged 28.7 million barrels per day in June 2022, higher by 234 tb/d m-o-m.

Crude oil output increased mainly in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, IR Iran, Kuwait and Angola, while production in Libya and Venezuela declined," the report read.

According to the report, the OPEC countries have filled the oil deal by 229% in June by cutting output by 1.058 million barrels per day in excess of obligations. Sputnik

Malaysia's role crucial to global supply chain, says Zuraida Kamaruddin

Malaysian Minister says it's exciting time to harness Malaysia's potential to transform into hub of agri-commodity, regionally and globally

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia, YB Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin, says, "The future is here, whereby the role of emerging markets-like Malaysia—proves indispensable and crucial to the global supply chain. With accelerated innovation in growing, raising, and harvesting technology, it's an exciting time to harness Malaysia's potential to transform into the hub of agri-commodity, regionally and globally."

Unlocking this possibility, the Malaysia International Agri-commodity Expo & Summit 2022 (MIACES) has spearheaded the momentum towards this vision, expecting to create over RM300 billion export value for agri-commodity players in a global marketplace event with the participation of over 20 countries.

Happening at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) from 26 to 28 July, MIACES showcases an exhibition of in-demand commodity products, services,



Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia, Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin

and up-and-coming agri-technology under one roof. The 3-day event also features conferences, roundtable discussions, B2B meetings, and an evening of prestigious awards in recognition of movers and shakers in the sector.

As Malaysia rebuilds its economies in light of the Covid-19 crisis, Zuraida adds, "We urge industry players to leverage on MIACES as a power-

ful stepping stone—a platform with a conducive business environment that facilitates them to forge connections, spur greater-level transactions, explore potential investments, and strategize new market opportunities in these few productive months before we enter the new year of 2023."

The latest joint report by OECD and FAO also recommends large-scale adoption of climate-smart

production processes and technologies while asserting the importance of a well-working, transparent, and regulated multilateral trading system in a rising import-export interdependency among regions.

"MIACES is a step-forward that connects industry players with innovative solutions, contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially as the world faces a changing climate. Through the MIACES roundtable discussions, we hope to inspire dialogues on forward-looking policies while ensuring sustainable development in Malaysia as the producing country and exporter," concludes Zuraida.

The latest joint report by OECD and FAO also recommends large-scale adoption of climate-smart production processes and technologies while asserting the importance of a well-working, transparent, and regulated multilateral trading system in a rising import-export interdependency among regions.

"MIACES is a step-forward that



Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia, Zuraida Kamaruddin discusses about MIACES 2022 with Naveed Ahmad Khan Managing Editor, Daily The Spokesman.

connects industry players with innovative solutions, contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially as the world faces a changing climate. Through the MIACES roundtable

discussions, we hope to inspire dialogues on forward-looking policies while ensuring sustainable development in Malaysia as the producing country and exporter," concludes Zuraida.

World Test Championship race hots up following Sri Lanka victory

Sri Lanka are now firmly in mix for World Test Championship final next year

GALLE: Sri Lanka's stunning victory over Australia in the second Test in Galle has had major ramifications on the race for next year's World Test Championship final.

The island nation completed a remarkable innings and 39 runs triumph over Pat Cummins' side on Monday and in the process jumped ahead of a trio of rivals and up to third on the latest World Test Championship standings.

But it's right at the top of the standings that now has a new look, with Australia losing their place at the head of proceedings following their disappointing loss to Sri Lanka.

South Africa take over as the new leader on the latest standings with a win-loss percentage of 71.43 percent, while Australia drop to second with 70



percent after their first Test loss in the current period.

Sri Lanka are now firmly in the mix for the World Test Championship final

next year, with their win helping them jump in front of Pakistan, India and West Indies and up to third on the standings.

Despite the absence of a host of key players due to Covid, Sri Lanka got dominant performances from star batter Dinesh Chandimal and debutant Prabath Jayasuriya in the second Test to cruise to an easy victory.

It means Dimuth Karunaratne's side now has a 54.17 win-loss percentage and has them ahead of a host of close rivals in the race for the World Test Championship mace.

Sri Lanka don't have to wait long to close the gap even further on the sides in front of them on the standings, with a two-match Test series at home against Pakistan commencing later this month.

Australia, meanwhile, take a short break from five-day cricket, with their next Test outing coming at home against West Indies at the end of November.

WTT European Summer Series kicks off



BUDAPEST: The World Table Tennis (WTT) Star Contender European Summer Series 2022 kicked off at the Olympic Center here on Monday.

Liu Dingshuo, the only Chinese paddler who need to vie for a main draw position through qualifications, had a bye in the first round and will take part in the second-round qualifying match on Tuesday.

The Star Contender consists of five events: men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles as well as mixed doubles.

For the Chinese team, the men's singles players who directly enter the main competition include Ma Long, Liang Jingkun, Wang Chuqin, Lin Gaoyuan and Yuan Licen, and the women's singles players include Chen Meng, Sun Yingsha, Wang Manyu, Wang Yidi, Liu Weishan and Fan Siqi.

Moreover, Liang Jingkun/Lin Gaoyuan, Ma Long/Wang Chuqin will participate in the men's doubles, Sun Yingsha/Wang Manyu, Chen Meng/Wang Yidi will be paired to compete in the women's doubles. Wang Chuqin/Wang Manyu will take part in the mixed doubles.

The European Summer Series 2022 consists of the WTT Star Contender, WTT Feeder and WTT Champions. Among them, the WTT Star Contender will be held from July 11-17, the WTT Champions from July 18-23 and the WTT Feeder from July 18-22.

England set Euro record in Norway rout

BRIGHTON: England recorded the biggest win in European Championship history as Beth Mead's hat-trick inspired an 8-0 demolition of Norway that booked the hosts' quarter-final place on Monday.

Sarina Wiegman's side scored six in the first half en route to smashing their own women's Euro record margin of victory set when they beat Scotland 6-0 in 2017. No team, either male or female, had ever scored eight at a European Championship until England's incredible goal-spree against the overwhelmed Norwegians in Brighton. Georgia Stanway's 12th-minute penalty opened the floodgates and Lauren Hemp struck three minutes later.

Ellen White and Mead both netted twice in the first half to leave Norway reeling. Underling their status as leading contenders to win the tournament on home soil, England showed no mercy after the interval. Alessia Russo bagged the record-breaking seventh goal and Mead completed her hat-trick to cap an astonishing performance from the Lionesses. England's win guaranteed they will finish top of Group A with one match still to play. They face Northern Ireland in Southampton on Friday in a dead rubber before returning to Brighton a week on Wednesday to play the runners-up



in Group B, which features Germany and Spain, in the quarter-finals.

A crowd of 28,847 lapped up the blistering display, chanting "football's coming home" as England's unbeaten run under Wiegman extended to a 16th match including 14 victories. "It was a very special night. We didn't expect to make such a big win but we played really well. We really exploited their weaknesses and we're really happy, but at the same time it's just one game," Wiegman said. "What's going on here? That was going through my mind. Norway didn't have the answers. We created chances, scored goals and it was very enjoyable to watch.

"We showed how good we are. When we go through

we'll get tested at a higher level. We need to do better every game." Mead added: "I'm really enjoying my football, I love being part of this team. Honestly, it's an incredible feeling to feel how I do right now. The girls need to enjoy this one. These are the moments we need to enjoy." Northern Ireland, who lost 2-0 against Austria earlier on Monday, have now been eliminated. Third placed Norway, expected to be among the title contenders, and second placed Austria both have three points after two games. They will meet on Friday in a shoot-out to decide the other quarter-final qualifier from the group. England had opened their campaign with last week's 1-0 win over

Austria at Old Trafford.

But that tense tie was a far cry from the barrage of goals that rained down on Norway. Stanway fired her spot-kick past Guro Pettersen after White was fouled by Maria Thorisdottir. Three minutes later, England scored again when Mead's cross was flicked home by Hemp, with the goal given via a VAR check after the flag had initially gone up for offside. White took advantage of sloppy play by Thorisdottir in the 29th minute, seizing possession, advancing into the box and slotting home.

Mead was next to get in on the act with a quick-fire double, heading in from Hemp's cross in the 34th minute, then shoot-

Djokovic doubts US Open participation

BELGRADE: Recently-crowned Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic said on Monday it is unlikely he will feature in this year's US Open as he continues to refuse to be vaccinated against coronavirus.

As things stand, the 35-year-old's unvaccinated status means he will not be allowed into the United States to play in the tournament, which starts next month. The Serb was deported from Australia over his vaccination status in January, preventing him from defending his Australian Open title. "At the moment I can't go to the United States, I'm hoping for positive news, but there's not a lot of time, I don't know, hope springs eternal," he told Serbian broadcasters RTS.

"I'd like to play the US Open but if it doesn't happen it's not the end of the world, nor the first Grand Slam I have to withdraw from. "It's important to me to stay healthy, physically and mentally, so I can still play for a long time and the chances to do so will certainly come," he added. The Serbian top seed beat Nick Kyrgios in four sets on Sunday to win his seventh title at the All England Club and 21st Grand Slam crown overall - leaving him just one behind Rafael Nadal.

"People asked me, speaking about my records, what was my favourite number and I cited one of my idols, who is no longer with us, Kobe Bryant," Djokovic said in front of a crowd of thousands of fans in Belgrade. "My favourite title is the next one," he added.

Leclerc spoils Verstappen's party at Austrian GP

SPIELBERG: Charles Leclerc held off world champion Max Verstappen to win the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday and reboot his world championship challenge but Ferrari's hopes of a 1-2 went up in flames. As Leclerc ended a miserable seven-race winless run his teammate Carlos Sainz was reflecting on a lucky escape from his burning car after an engine blow out.

Lewis Hamilton took third ahead of his Mercedes teammate George Russell in cars that had both needed hefty repairs after crashes in Friday qualifying. This was Leclerc's third win of the year and Ferrari's first at the Red Bull Ring since Michael Schumacher in 2003. After a series of disappointing results Leclerc was thrilled to finally get back on the title trail.

He had to retain all his composure, though, in the closing laps as he reported an issue with a sticking throttle pedal. "I definitely needed that, to finally show we've got the pace in the car is incredible," said the relieved man from Monaco. Verstappen was far from disheartened despite failing to take the chequered flag in front of his 'orange army' of expectant 50,000 travelling Dutch fans. "I couldn't give them a win today but second isn't too bad," said the Red Bull driver who didn't leave the circuit empty handed having pocketed Saturday's sprint.

Verstappen still has a comfortable cushion in the overall standings - leading Leclerc by 38 points at the halfway point of the championship. Sainz - who won the British Grand Prix last Sunday for his maiden Formula One success - was going strongly before disaster struck on lap 58. Steering his stricken car onto the safety gravel there was a terrifying moment when smoke engulfed the car with Sainz still stuck in the cockpit, his car rolling backwards. But marshalls arrived and the Spaniard pulled himself out of the car to safety. "There was a lot of fire, I'm lost for words, a 1-2 was more than possible" said the Spaniard.

With the mercurial Styrian mountain weather behaving itself this 11th round of the season was shaping up to be another Austrian pay day for Verstappen. With wins from pole in the last three races staged at the circuit - the two grand prix last year and Saturday's sprint - the 24-year-old Verstappen was the undoubted favourite to land the spoils again as the Austrian national anthem was delivered from a grand piano rolled onto the front of the grid. Verstappen sped off slickly at lights out, untroubled by his front row companion Leclerc. At turn four Russell's Mercedes came into contact with Sergio Perez's Red Bull forcing the Mexican into an unscheduled early pitstop.

Leclerc was optimistic after Saturday's sprint that he had the pace to spoil Verstappen's Spielberg love-fest. And he made an attempt to pass the Red Bull man on lap 10. Two laps later he was past at turn four, a lovely move up the inside, "Box, box" Verstappen was then told, resuming on hard tyres in eighth. Hamilton was up to fourth by lap 17 with in his wing mirror Verstappen who with his car's superior straight line speed was past after a brief battle of old foes.

After Perez had to retire race leader Leclerc came in on lap 27 for a 2.6second pit stop, returning in third with Sainz and Verstappen in front. After Sainz's turn to pit it was back as we were with Leclerc hunting down Verstappen for the lead.

Thirst of encountering challenges

The mountaineers across the globe are pouring in Pakistan: President ACP

Urges key stakeholders to join hands to promote national mountaineering potential in the world



Abu Zafar Sadiq speaks in an exclusive interview with Daily The Spokesman

Mohammad Arshad

ISLAMABAD: President, Alpine Club of Pakistan Abu Zafar Sadiq has said that mountaineering in Pakistan possesses huge international potential from tourism point of view as our mountains have unique features, distinguished terrain and variety of challenges to cater the wide range of mountain lovers.

The mountaineers across the globe are pouring in to satiate their thirst for encountering the challenges of mountain climbing attracts a large number of foreign mountaineers, but unfortunately, there is no much scope for local mountaineers who are facing similar problems like any other sport in the country. However,

with the advent of new leadership in the country, things are expected to be improved, as the Minister for IPC seems quite serious to address the concerns of athletes.

In an interactive session with the 'Daily The Spokesman' along with three prominent emerging mountaineers Saqib, Syed Sarmad Ali and Rehan who had just returned from Swat after setting a world record of hoisting world's biggest flag (200ft) on Gudder Pass near Gudder Peak 16,182 feet in Swat Valley. The team also climbed this peak. He said the key stakeholders in tourism industry i.e. Tour Operators, Guides, Hotels and Transporters and Porters associations along with provincial governments and relevant government departments should build synergies and join hands together to promote tourism mountaineering potential in the world.

He said that previous government devised a policy in the name of developing brand Pakistan at the cost of Rs 40 million, but could not launch this policy due to political conditions. Basically the tourism subject has been devolved to the provinces under the 18th constitutional amendment and even the federal government tried to establish national tourism coordination board which was challenged in the court and high court declared it as null and void. Later prime minister formed a national coordination committee, but provinces are slow to align their priori-



ties and development efforts with the pace as desired by the Federal Government.

"High Peaks are mostly situated at Baltoro Region which is restricted zone", said President ACP. He stressed the need to speed up the process of issuance of permit in such areas and also to reduce royalty to attract more mountaineers in the country.

Engagement of foreign missions with some orientation about mountain tourism attractions in Pakistan can help to further enhance the mountaineers flow in the country. Talking about training of mountaineers and capacity building of high altitude crew, he told that ACP holds basic and intermediate level trainings for young mountaineers. It also organized advance level mountaineering not only for young armature mountaineers and high altitude crew in the past.

During last two years its

mountaineering training and expeditions were cancelled due to corona pandemic. However training programs have been scheduled for the coming months. Further highlight the peculiar challenges faced by this sport, he said mountaineering is an expensive sport, it needs a lot of resources, time and involves risk as well. Therefore, this sport is not attracting youth which are mostly unable to meet such expenses. ACP has limited climbing gear and provides to its trainees. The climbing equipment is also available on rent at few shops in Gilgit, Hunza, Skardu and Hushay Village. In the prevailing situation of youth exposed to drugs, extremism, drugs and excessive use of gadgets are serving as a tool to escape from the realities of life.

The parents, educational institutions, civil society organizations and policy makers should drive youth towards healthy

sports activities and outdoor pursuits like mountaineering, trekking, hiking and other adventure sports so that they could be able to improve their health and psychological conditions to become better citizens of the country. While commenting upon the Mission-14 of Shehroze Kashif, he praised his love for mountains and dedication to climb 14 peaks above 8000 to become youngest in the world. He also appreciated his father Mr. Salman Kashif who not only allowed him to encounter such a challenge but also providing him finances which has never been witnessed our country.

He hoped that government would help to mobilize resources to translate his dream into reality as he has to climb rest of 6 peaks till next year. He said in this regard a number of meetings of Shehroze Kashif and management of ACP were held with key figures including President of

Pakistan, Minister for IPC, DG Sports Board and Governor Punjab. He thanked President of Pakistan for his special attention towards resource mobilization for Shehroze Kashif. The cash award given by Chief of Army Staff to Shehroze Kashif and other mountaineers was also highlighted by the President, ACP. Similar gestures are expected from Pakistan Sports Board and Government of Punjab as well.

Stressing the importance of athlete development he held more resources are required to be allocated in phase manner. In this regard a proposal has been shared with the PSB. He is hopeful for the provision of resources for athlete development. He added that if reasonable investment is made in sportsperson development through skill development, our athletes and coaches can get jobs abroad. Even elite athletes are being allured by wealthy country through immigration, work visa and nationality.

Sharing his experiences Mr. Saqib expressed his concern about non recognition of his achievements. He has made a number of world records but his achievements have never been appreciated, rewarded or recognized by the Government. However, he thanked ACP for the moral support and encouragement for his projects. He also appreciated the support extended by FCNA, ISPR and other security forces for facilitating him to

translate his dreams into reality.

Mountaineer Mr. Sarmad who is Biker as well, shared that he undertook a mega trip to different areas of Pakistan every year on motorbike from Haiderabad to any place and this year he rode to Skardu without any sponsorship. He has explored most of Pakistan on Bike but the experience of climbing mountain was unique and he cannot forget it in the time to come. He would be now more focused on mountaineering and trekking.

Rehan shared that they narrowly escaped from Glacier Peak to gorge as all of them slipped from a glacier while moving towards K-2 from a new route which is other than the traditional one. He shared that they have a large number of followers on social media and thus they get to gather on social media to for joint venture and expedition. At the end, President gave a message to youth and invited them to come out of comfort zone and digital life to interact with Nature in Mountains. He recalled the famous verses of William Wordsworth "One impulse from a vernal wood May teach you more of man, Of moral evil and of good, Than all the sages can."

And stressed the need to attract youth to go in mountains and learn from the nature for which ACP offers wide range of activities. Such opportunities can be seen in the calendar available on their website www.alpineclub.org.pk.