

Indian barbarism in IIOJK is condemnable: Khursheed
Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah says Indian barbarism in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is condemnable where the people are deprived of basic human rights after the revocation of its special status. India has been violating resolutions of the United Nations on Kashmir which is condemnable.



Pakistan's stands behind Kashmiris: Sanaullah
Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan says India always violated United Nation Resolutions and tried to eliminate special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) some three years ago. India would never succeed to suppress the indigenous freedom movement of Kashmir people. India is facing internal chaos and soon would divide in so many parts.

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Relief

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a gathering of flood affectees on Friday.



Photo: PID

Govt declares emergency in flood-hit areas

PM directs release of Rs. 5 billion to NDMA

Urges to rise above politics for extensive relief, rehab of flood victims

ISLAMABAD/ DERA GHAZI KHAN/ RAJANPUR: The federal government, on the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Friday declared emergency in the country's rain and flood affected areas. The Prime Minister has also directed the Ministry of Finance to immediately release Rs. 5 billion to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a press release issued by the PM Media Wing here said. He was presiding over a meeting held here to review the flood situation, which was attended by federal ministers, advisors, members of parliament, Chief Secretaries of all provinces including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, Chairman NDMA and Director General Met Office.

relief operations in the country. Describing the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit people as a national obligation, he said, "We have to help masses beyond our political interests." The Prime Minister said that during his visit to the flood affected areas he talked about unity and national cohesion so that this big challenge could be tackled collectively. The Prime Minister also constituted a high-level committee to ensure effective rescue and relief activities through coordination between NDMA and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said helping the flood-affected people was the time to rise above politics and providing them an across-the-board service of relief and rehabilitation. Addressing here at a public gathering, the prime

minister said the demand for water channel by the locals would be fulfilled soon. The prime minister vowed to leave no stone unturned till every flood victim was provided relief.

PM Shehbaz pays rich tribute to martyrs of IIOJK

The prime minister said as per the 2010's National Finance Commission award, around 58 percent of the resources went to the provinces and called upon the provincial governments to address the needs of the people. He recalled that during his chief minister-ship, he utilized the funds of Punjab to launch the development projects.

The prime minister said the federal government was committed to provide relief to the people affected by floods and ensure their early rehabilitation. He emphasized on ensuring that the compensation be disbursed among the victims. He said the federal government had increased the cash assistance for injured people from Rs25,000 to 250,000 and had also announced a similar compensation of Rs0.5 million for both mud and concrete houses damaged completely and Rs 0.2 million for partially hit ones. He urged upon the departments concerned to take measures in advance to cater to new rain spells in the flood-affected areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says today marks the 3rd sombre anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 that aimed at changing the international-

ly recognized disputed status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a series of tweets on Friday, he said India's actions are also aimed at altering the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

The Prime Minister said over the last decades, India has used unbridled force with complete impunity. He said generations after generations, brave Kashmiris have persevered in the face of fear, intimidation, torture and worst forms of human rights violations. He said Indian oppression has failed to dent their resolve. Shehbaz Sharif said Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been a battle of hope against overwhelming odds, of courage against fear and of sacrifice against tyranny. He said today, we pay rich tributes to all the martyrs of IIOJK for their ultimate sacrifice and to their families for their resolve and courage.

Pakistan gets nod for bailout package

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been given a green signal by friendly countries to provide investment and funding. According to sources within the finance ministry, there have been positive indications of an economic package worth \$8 billion from friendly countries, among these friendly countries China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar are leading.

They further say that significant progress has been made in the negotiations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and there is a possibility of doubling the oil facility on deferred payment from Saudi Arabia. The oil facility will increase from 1.2 billion dollars to 2.4 billion dollars, there is

also a possibility of getting safe deposits from Saudi Arabia.

Minister of State Ayesha Ghous Pasha said that the brotherly country has informed Pakistan in this regard, but the official announcement will be made by it. She said China has so far rolled over \$4.3 billion in debt, including \$2.3 billion in commercial loans and \$2 billion in deposits.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) declined by \$190 million during the week ended on July 29. Sharing a break-up of the foreign reserves position, the central bank said that the reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stand at \$8,385.4 million.

IIOJK's situation
Pakistan makes strong demarche to India

FO summons Indian Charge d' Affaires

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday made a strong demarche to India on the worsening situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) since its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. The Indian Charge d' Affaires (Cd'A) in Islamabad was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and conveyed Government of Pakistan's unequivocal rejection of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in IIOJK, which breached international law, UN Charter and the 4th Geneva Convention as well as several resolutions of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

A strong protest was registered over the series of illegitimate measures taken by India in order to unilaterally alter the internationally recognized disputed status of the territory and to accentuate its brutal military occupation, Foreign Office said in a statement issued here. It was noted that even after the passage of three years since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, there was no let-up in the strong-armed military siege of the occupied territory and the humanitarian and human rights situation continues to exacerbate.

Extrajudicial killings, detentions and arrests, fake cases and bogus trials under the ambit of draconian laws and a compromised judicial system have become a norm in the IIOJK, statement added. Pakistan's categorical rejection of the report of the so-called "Delimitation Commission" was also reiterated. It was underscored that India cannot unilaterally alter the demographic composition of IIOJK under the garb of fake electoral reforms.

The Cd'A was reminded of Pakistan's consistent demand that the Government of India must reverse its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019; immediately lift its inhuman military siege in IIOJK; stop its illegal measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory; cease extra-judicial killings of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and cordon-and-search operations; release the illegally detained Kashmiri youth and political leadership; annul Hurriyat leader Mr. Yasin Malik's fallacious life-sentence under fictitious charges and withdraw all other fabricated cases that have been mischievously spun around him; withdraw over 900,000 occupation troops from IIOJK; and let Kashmiris exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

POL price
No relief for people as OMCs' margin hiked

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to increase the margin for oil marketing companies (OMCs) rather than providing relief to the general public following decline in prices of fuel in the international market. It has been proposed to increase the margin for the oil companies by 63.04 percent with sources saying that the margin for OMCs on petrol and diesel will be hiked by Rs2.32 per litre to Rs6. "Currently the margin for OMCs on petrol and diesel is Rs3.68 per litre," they said.

The sources said that the approval in this regard will be taken from Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and the federal cabinet. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Thursday approved an increase in sales and distribution margins of OMCs and petroleum dealers.

IMF programme
Army chief reaches out to UAE, Saudi authorities

Positive development is expected for Pakistan soon

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa days after the phone call to US Deputy Secretary of State to help Islamabad secure an early dispersal of \$1.2 billion in funds under an International Monetary Fund loan (IMF) programme, on Friday has now spoken with the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to discuss the IMF programme.

The extended fund facility worth \$1.2 billion with the IMF was discussed with the friendly countries, including the upcoming executive board meeting of the IMF which is expected to ratify the loan program. As a result of the army chief's communication, good news for Pakistan is expected soon. It is pertinent to mention that Nikkei Asia reported that Gen Bajwa appealed to the United States to help Islamabad secure an early dispersal

of \$1.2 billion in funds under the IMF programme to avert the risk of debt default.

According to the report, the army chief reached out to the US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on a phone call, sources from both US and Pakistan revealed on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly. The sources revealed that Gen Bajwa requested the White House and Treasury Department to urge the lender to expedite the bail-

COAS earlier appealed to the US for an early dispersal of \$1.2 billion in IMF funds

out process and immediately release the nearly \$1.2 billion that Pakistan expects to receive under the resumed loan programme.

Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement over the release of the funds to support the country's fragile economy. The staff-level agreement will pave the way for the \$1.2 billion disbursement, which is expected this month after the board approves it.

In a related development, Pakistan has completed the last precondition for the combined seventh and eighth reviews, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday, adding that a board meeting is tentatively scheduled for late August once adequate financing assurances are confirmed.

Esther Perez Ruiz, the IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan, confirmed the last prior action in a statement sent to the media.

Funding & ineligibility
ECP issues two notices to Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday issued two notices to the ousted PM and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, summoning him for hearings in two references.

The election commission issued one notice to Khan in the foreign funding case — the verdict of which was announced earlier this week.

According to the cause list issued by the election body, Khan has been summoned on August 23 at 10am. The notice has been issued after the ECP, in a unanimous verdict in the case which was filed in 2014 by PTI founding member Akbar S Babar, said it has found that the PTI received prohibited funding.

Moreover, on the demand of the leadership of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the ECP has issued another notice to the PTI chairman, summoning him on August 18.

Weekly inflation goes to 38.63%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on August 04 for the combined consumption group, witnessed an increase of 0.82 percent as compared to the previous week. SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 209.17 points against 207.47 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released here Friday.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 38.63 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17732 witnessed 1.16 percent increase and went up from 213.55 points in last week to 216.03 points during the week under review.

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17732-22,888, Rs22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 1.07 percent, 0.98 percent, 0.91 percent and 0.69 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 33 (64.71%) items increased, 04 (7.84%) items decreased and 14 (27.45%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis, included chicken (5.08%), bananas (3.40%), petrol (1.29%) and vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.15%).

Solidifying ties

PNOM PENH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is holding a meeting with H.E Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia here on Friday.



Photo: Twitter

UN must ensure human rights in IIOK: Bilawal

Asks int'l community to demand end to Indian atrocities in Kashmir; FM writes to OIC Secretary General on alarming situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD/ PHNOM PENH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday condemned Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK) and said that the United Nations (UN) must play its part to get human rights restored in IIOK. He said that Indian government thrashed the resolution of UN on IIOK by changing Article 370 and 35A. He said that the Indian step had pushed the peace of the region to the quagmire of destruction. Bilawal said that the IIOK had been deprived of their rights.

He said that all Hurriyat supporters including Yaseen Malik and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq be released.

He also paid homages to

shaheed Burhan Wani and all other Kashmiri martyred. Foreign Minister said the international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal of draconian laws and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

In a message on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, he said Pakistan's ultimate objective remained the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council

and wishes of the Kashmiri people. "In this just cause, Pakistan will always remain in strong support and solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren

FM favours win-win solutions over strategic competition for peaceful Asia-Pacific region

till the full realization of their legitimate rights," he added. He said on August 5 2019, India took illegal and unilateral steps in the Indian Illegal-

ly Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in a bid to change its internationally recognized disputed status and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday said Pakistan considered peaceful and stable Asia-Pacific its priority and stressed win-win solutions instead of strategic competition among countries. "We are of the firm view that our region should not become an arena for strategic competition. We continue to emphasize the need for win-win solutions," he said in his address at the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum ministerial meeting. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambo-

dia Prak Sokhonn, and foreign ministers of ASEAN countries attended the event.

Bilawal said Pakistan had full faith in an ASEAN-led ARF, a vital platform, for promoting open dialogue on political and security cooperation in the region. "It has immense potential for both conflict management and resolution, and inclusive security cooperation," he said, emphasizing that Pakistan stood ready to work with ARF partners to develop its linkages with other international platforms for confidence building and conflict prevention. He said Pakistan's aspiration for a full dialogue partnership was a sign of its continued commitment to relations with ASEAN.

Pak committed to strong defence ties with Hungary: CJCS



RAWALPINDI : Lieutenant General Romulus Ruszin-Szendi, Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces, who is on official visit to Pakistan called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Matters of bilateral defence cooperation including security, military exchanges, training and prevailing regional environment were discussed during the meeting. Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces said that

these mutually beneficial interactions have deepened the bilateral defence relationship, strengthened the cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding between the two armies.

Chairman JCSC reaffirmed the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between Hungary and Pakistan. Earlier upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, Lieutenant General Romulus Ruszin-Szendi, was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces.

Pakistan's soil not used in Zawahiri's killing: DG ISPR

Condemns negative propaganda after chopper crash

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar on Friday ruled out any chance that Pakistan's soil has been used in the killing of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan. Speaking to a private TV channel on Friday, he said that the foreign office has already given explanation on the incident of killing of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in US drone strike in Afghanistan and it was not appropriate to discuss this topic again and again.

To a question, Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said that a tragic helicopter crash took place in Lasbela on August 1, adding that the helicopter was engaged in relief operations but a negative propaganda was started on social media after the helicopter accident. The DG ISPR went on to say that the negative propaganda hurt the family of the martyrs, armed forces and the entire nation, adding that the attitude should be condemned at all levels.

The regretful social media campaign after unfortunate helicopter crash on August 1 has caused deep anguish and distress among Shuhada families and Rank & File of the Armed Forces, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The spokesperson of the military's media wing said in a statement that the army condemned the highly unacceptable and regretful social media campaign after the unfortunate helicopter crash on August 1.

"While the whole nation stood with the institution in this difficult time certain insensitive quarters resorted to hurtful and derogatory comments on social media which was unacceptable and highly condemnable," the spokesperson said. On August 2, Director-General of the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations Maj-Gen Babar Iftikhar had confirmed that all the six military personnel, including Commander 12 Corps Lt-Gen Sarfraz Ali, were martyred in a helicopter crash. He said the wreckage of the unfortunate Pakistan Army helicopter, which had lost contact with the Air Traffic Control Monday evening while on a relief operation, was found in Mus Goth, Lasbela.

The military chopper had gone missing while it was en route from Quetta to Karachi at around 5:30pm a day earlier. The personnel in the chopper were overseeing the flood relief efforts in the southwest of the country.

The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) has condemned negative propaganda over social media after the Helicopter crash in Lasbela, killing 5 Army officers. A statement issued by ISPR said that the propaganda hurt the sentiments of the families of the martyrs. Pakistan Army's ranks and files have expressed severe displeasure over the negative propaganda, ISPR said. They added that the nation stands with the Pakistan Army in this difficult time. The negative callous propaganda is unbearable and condemnable, they added.

The wreckage of an unfortunate Army helicopter that went missing during a relief and rescue operation in the flood-hit Balochistan area has been found in Musa Goth, Wind-er. DG ISPR, Major General Babar Iftikhar confirmed the news that all the six officers and soldiers including Corps Commander Southern Command, Lt General Sarfraz Ali embraced martyrdom. Earlier, a Pakistan Army aviation helicopter with important personalities aboard, including Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali went missing in Balochistan's Lasbela district.

Indian moves can't crush spirit of Kashmiris: Imran Khan

Announces to contest by-elections from nine constituencies of NA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday lamented human rights violations by India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir as the nation observes Youm-e-Istehsal against the decision to revoke Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution. In a message from his Twitter handle, Khan said that on 5 August 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government violated the UNSC resolutions and international law by illegally revoking the special status of IIOJK.

He continued that the Modi government then moved to

commit a war crime under Fourth Geneva Convention by altering the demography of IIOJK. "They assumed the moves would crush spirit of Kashmiri resistance but the Kashmiris' spirit of resistance became stronger and it continues to strengthen." He said that the selective morality of the international community and silence against India's brazen violations of all international laws and UNSC resolutions is condemnable.

"We are asked to echo condemnations on issues of human rights the powerful in the [international] community take up; but when it

comes to India & its massive human rights violations in IIOJK there is complete silence by the same powers," Imran Khan said, adding that it was because of India's market or its strategic military partnerships.

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has announced to contest by-elections from nine constituencies of the National Assembly. The nine constituencies in which by-elections will be held are NA-22 Mardan, NA-24 Charsadda, NA-31 Peshawar, NA-45 Karam, NA-108 Faisalabad, NA-118 Nankana

Sahib, NA-237 Malir, NA-239 Korangi Karachi and NA-246 Karachi South.

According to the sources, Imran Khan has decided to himself contest the by-elections from these 9 constituencies of the National Assembly. It should be noted that the PTI chairman had contested elections from five constituencies in the 2018 general election and won in all the five seats. In the 2018 general election, the former PM had defeated Khawaja Saad Rafiq from NA-131 Lahore, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi from NA-53 Islamabad, Syed Ali Raza of MQM Pakistan from NA-243,

Ubaidullah Khan of PML-N from NA-95 Mianwali and Akram Khan Durrani from NA-35 Bannu.

The by-elections on nine National Assembly seats, which have fallen vacant after the acceptance of the resignations of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs, will be held on September 25. The constituencies where by-polls will be held, include NA-22 Mardan-III; NA-24, Charsadda-II; NA 31 Peshawar-V; NA-45 Kurrum-I; NA 108 Faisalabad VIII; NA 118 Nankana Sahib-II; NA 237 Malir- II; NA 239 Korangi Karachi- I and NA 246 Karachi South I.

Toshakhana case

NA Speaker sends reference to disqualify Imran

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday sent reference to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to disqualify PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan in light of the Toshakhana case.

In the reference, it has been said that Imran Khan did not declare the gifts taken from Toshakhana in his assets. He did not share the details of the amounts by selling the gifts in the statement. Earlier in April, former PM Imran, while responding to the Toshakhana controversy during an informal media chat, had said that those were his gifts, so it was his choice whether or not he kept them.

Assemblies' dissolution

PTI issues one-month ultimatum to govt

Fawad says party will announce date for massive rally in federal capital in next 48 hours

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Friday issued a "one-month ultimatum" to the coalition government to dissolve the assemblies and once again announced a rally in Islamabad. Holding a press conference here senior PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said that the party does not trust any decision made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and does not believe in the existing process of elections either.

"Within the next 48 hours, the party will announce the date for yet another massive rally in the federal capital," he said, adding that during the gathering, the PTI will issue an ultimatum to the coalition government to announce the



date for the election. Earlier today, the ECP issued two notices to the ousted prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, summoning him for hearings in two references. One of the notices was related to the foreign funding case — the verdict of which was announced earlier this week.

According to the cause list issued by the election body, Khan has been summoned on August 23. Moreover, on

the demand of the leadership of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the ECP has issued another notice to the PTI chairman, summoning him on August 18 to hear a reference regarding his disqualification. "We cannot give more than one month to this government," he said. "We will also give them a date to dissolve the assemblies during the jalsa, and if the government still doesn't announce a date for the election, then it should brace itself for our next strike."

Fawad further added that the chief election commissioner and some other members of the ECP should resign as they were not trustworthy. "The election commission should have waited till August 16 to schedule the

by-elections," he said, adding that the way the government wanted the elections to be held was not possible as the PTI will not leave the battlefield.

The former information minister added that the PTI wanted an explanation for the drone attack that killed al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan. "We want clarification on whether our airspace or land was used [by the US] to launch the drone attack or not," he said, adding that Pakistan already paid a heavy price in the past by participating in the US war on terror. "Now we cannot be a part of any such deals," he stressed. "The nation wants an answer so that we are not going to be a tool of America again against Al-Qaeda."

Solidarity with Kashmiris

Nation joined Kashmiris to observe Youm-e-Istehsal

The whole nation gave a message to their Kashmiri brethren that the people of Pakistan will always stand with them

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Youm-e-Istehsal was observed across the country on Friday, to mark the completion of third year of Indian military siege of the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and denounce India's illegal, immoral and unconstitutional step to strip the territory of its special status.

One minute silence was observed across the country at nine on Friday morning. The traffic was also halted for one minute and sirens were played. Immediately after one minute silence, Radio Pakistan, PTV and other television channels played national anthems of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

A series of activities, including semi-

nars, conferences and rallies were held across the country and the world on Friday, to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and express solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. People from all walks of life participated in these events.

The whole nation gave a message to their Kashmiri brethren that the people of Pakistan will always stand with them in their just struggle for right to self-determination and against Indian forces' atrocities.

On 5 August 2019, the Modi-led Bhartiya Janata Party government struck down Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, thereby scrapping the law that granted Kashmir its

special status.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, rallies and protest demonstrations were held across the state to condemn India's illegal actions and atrocities against innocent Kashmiris.

In the capital Muzaffarabad, a protest rally, led by Prime Minister Tanvir Ilyas, was taken out from old secretariat which culminated at the UN Observer mission office.

The UN observer mission officials were handed over a memorandum, containing Indian violations of UN resolutions on Kashmir and international law. In Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, call for the observance of the Youm-e-Istehsal was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

Despite heavy presence of Indian forces' personnel, people hoisted black flags in Srinagar and other areas to show their resentment against India's illegal occupation of their homeland.

The authorities even locked the historic Jamia Masjid, Srinagar and didn't allow people to offer Jumma prayers. Peoples Democratic Party President, Mehbooba Mufti, along with party leaders and activists held a protest demonstration in Srinagar against India's August 5, 2019 illegal actions.

Raising slogans, the protesters termed August 5 as a Black Day and asked for resolving the Kashmir dispute and release of Kashmiri political prisoners from Indian jails.

Pakistan stands with Kashmiris

MUZAFFRABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, former prime minister of AJK Raja Farooq Haider shouting slogan during a walk on the eve of "Youm-e-Istehsal" to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir's, as to mark the third year of Indian military siege of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and denounce illegal and unconstitutional step to strip its special status.



Photo: Online

Imam Hussain's message is to resist falsehood: Sahibzada Sultan

Giving a special message regarding Muharram, he has said that the love of Ahl al-Bayt is a part of our faith

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Dewan of Junagadh and Chairman MUSLIM Institute, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, while giving a special message regarding Muharram, said that the love of Ahl al-Bayt is the part and parcel of our faith. The grandson of the Prophet (peace be upon him) Syed us Shuhda Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his family have created an eternal story of self-sacrifice and sacrifice

for the sake of the survival and honor of the religion of Islam in the field of Karbala.

He further said that the life of the Companions (May Allah be pleased with them) and Ahl al-Bayt is a beacon for us.

In the present era, our religion is asking all of us as a nation and as an Ummah that when there is a danger to our religion and nation, we should devote ourselves with the spirit of self-sacrifice and sacrifice in

the same way as for the sake of truth and against falsehood, Hazrat Imam Hussain, may Allah be pleased with him, set the best example for us by offering the sacrifice of his family.

This great act of theirs will remain for the rest of the world. Today, the need is that we must stand firm and erase the differences created by evil and false forces like linguistic differences and sectarianism in order to protect and protect the unity of the Ummah and Islam.

Robbers injure patrol officers on motorway

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Robbers shot and injured a patrolling officer of National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) in the service area of Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Hazro on early hours of Friday.

National Highways Motorways Police sources said that Patrolling officer Altaf was present at the nonfunctional area on Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Hazro when he spotted three suspects persons in the area.

The official said that as he tried to intercept the suspected robbers, they opened firing at him resultantly he

Rally held in Wana to observe Youm-e-Istehsal



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Amjad Meraj, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Wana Basheer Khan and Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali, a ceremony was organized and a rally was held on August 05 (Youm-e-Istehsal) "Exploitation Day".

All the district administration staff, tahsildars, TMA staff, tribal elders and political leaders as well as scholars participated in the rally. On this occasion, the tribal elders said that today Kashmiris and Pakistanis living all over the world are protesting against the cruel action taken by India on 5 August.

India has refused to obey all the laws of the world and has left 900,000 beasts of an army to oppress Occupied Kashmir, which is not only condemnable but the international community should take notice.

On this occasion, the speakers said that the morale of Kashmiris is high, despite the atrocities of India, Kashmiris are protesting vigorously. Pakistan is following the UN resolutions, but India's Hindutva thought is deviating from them.

Ombudsman orders to resolve expats grievances without delay

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has received over 17,624 complaints this year to help resolve the problems being faced by people in provincial departments. The advisors and consultants working in regional offices should proactively work to play their role in the solution of public issues in their districts.

This was stated by Ombudsman Punjab Major (R) Azam Suleman Khan while presiding over the meeting of advisors and consultants of 14 districts at his office on Friday. The performance of advisors and consultants regarding the resolution of public complaints was reviewed and they were instructed to dispose of complaints within a fixed time frame.

The Ombudsman Azam Suleman further directed that the complaints of the expatriate Pakistanis about provincial government departments should be resolved on a priority basis. Alongside this, advisors and consultants should submit the monthly reports of their office by the 5th of every month to the head office for review of their performance.

He noted with satisfaction that a working group has been constituted to formulate policies for the government to end online harassment. The Ombudsman Punjab further directed that the people should also be sensitized about the presence of a free institutional mechanism for protecting public rights at the grassroots. The toll-free helpline 1050 is another facility to note and record public complaints round the clock, he remarked. The construction of regional office buildings in five districts has been completed and this will further strengthen the institutional presence of this office in the province, he concluded.

Sindh bans pillion riding to ensure Muharram security



KARACHI: The Sindh government Friday announced a ban on pillion riding across the province to avoid any unforeseen incident during Muharram gatherings.

The ban will come into place on August 5 and end on August 10 (Muharram 6-12), a notification from the Sindh Home Department said, with some people exempt from the ban.

It will not be applicable to journalists, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, security institutions personnel and children, the notification read.

"...the Government of Sindh is satisfied that in order to maintain law and order situation throughout the province of Sindh and to avoid any untoward incident/mishap, it is necessary to take immediate measures," the notification said.

The ban has been placed under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and action will be taken against violators, the notification warned.

5th August 2019 (A Black Day)—I

There will be no peace in South Asia until Kashmir issue is solved according to wishes and will of the people of Kashmir

Mushtaq Sadozai

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Senior Leader Syed Ali Shah Gilani had tweeted a message on 24 July 2019. "This tweet must be taken as an SOS (Save Our Souls) message to all Muslims living on this planet he tweeted. "If we all die and you kept quite, you will be answerable to Allah the Magnificent. Indians are about to launch the biggest genocide in the history of mankind. May Allah protect us."

After deploying thousands of troops in Jammu & Kashmir, Narendra Modi lead India's Hindu extremists government on 5 August 2019 unilaterally wiped out the autonomy of the Jammu & Kashmir State and troops were deployed to quell any possible unrest in the disputed territory.

Indian government had seized internet connections, mobile phone lines and even land lines, casting Kashmir into an information black hole that made it very difficult to discern what was unfolding.

For years, India's Hindu nationalists have wanted to curtail the special freedoms enjoyed by Kashmir, a mountain-

ous, predominantly Muslim territory that is a core issue between India and Pakistan, both of which have nuclear arms. Amit Shah, India's home minister, announced in a quick speech, which belied years of steady plotting, that the central government was removing the special somewhat autonomous status. While international human rights groups swiftly condemned the action, Hindu nationalists celebrated, saying this could bring peace and investment to Kashmir.

The voice of the Kashmiris was silenced, as government authorities cut off practically all communication from the area. Several top Kashmiri politicians were taken into custody. Mehbooba Mufti, a former chief minister of Kashmir, managed to get out a message shortly before she was arrested.

"The Fifth of August is the blackest day of Indian democracy when its Parliament, like thieves, snatched away everything from the people of Jammu and Kashmir," she said. Her daughter, Iltija Javed, who succeeded in transmitting a message to The New York Times, summed up the desperation of many Kashmiris, "We feel there is an atmosphere of death looming over us," she said. "We don't know what to

expect. We are not allowed to get out of our houses. Telecommunications are all down. For the first time in 30 years they snapped landline connections as well. So there is no way even ordinary Kashmiris here can not communicate with each other, and know what exactly is going on. Everybody is in a state of absolute shock and panic." The Indian consul general in New York said in a statement that the action to revoke Kashmir's autonomy, which was granted under Article 370 of India's Constitution, was "purely administrative" and was intended to "improve good governance and deliver socio-economic justice to the disadvantaged sections of the people in the State." He also added that restrictions related to Article 370 "seriously discouraged" investment in the region, limited economic opportunities and hurt younger generations.

Indian government had been carefully preparing for this action, which instantly raised tensions across the border in Pakistan. Tens of thousands of extra troops had been deployed across Kashmir. With an overwhelming majority, the upper house of Indian Parliament passed a related bill that split the state of Jammu and Kashmir,

which includes the Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh area, into two federal territories: Jammu and Kashmir, they snapped landline connections, and Ladakh, a remote, high-altitude area, which will be ruled directly from New Delhi. Thus, Kashmir lost the special status it had enjoyed since 1947 when it was captured by India. Pakistan had contacted its allies around the world to try and oppose the action, Pakistan has a long history of relations with Kashmiri Muslims and have always supported their freedom struggle politically and morally, in spite of the international pressure.

Human rights activists said that the moves to change Kashmir's status were only the first steps in a broader plan to erode Kashmir's core rights and seed the area with non-Kashmiris, altering the demographics and eventually destroying its character. Previous laws had barred outsiders from owning property. Several legal scholars had said, they believed the government did not have the legal authority to change Article 370. The issue, they said, was headed for a showdown in India's Supreme Court.

To be concluded

"Martyrs' Day" observed with great devotion, respect

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Like the rest of the country, in the tribal district of South Waziristan, "Martyrs' Day" was celebrated at the Wana Jirga Hall of Scouts Camp with great devotion and respect.

On this occasion, District Police Officer Khan Zeb Mohmand, Assistant Commissioner Wana Basheer Khan, Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali and Tehsil Wana Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir besides tribal elders, Leaders of political parties and youths participated in large numbers.

On this occasion, District Police Officer Khan Zeb Mohmand said that I salute the brave youth of South Waziristan who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their country and nation.

He said that Additional IGFC Safoot Ghayoor was martyred in a suicide attack in Saddar bazar area of Peshawar on August 4, 2010.

Therefore, on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Additional Inspector General Frontier Constabulary Safoot Ghayoor, the Provincial Police approved celebrating it as "Martyrs' Day".

He said that the atmosphere of peace in the country today is due to the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs. He said that the policemen have sacrificed their precious lives while fighting against the hostile elements and evils of the society, their eternal sacrifices will always be remembered.

On this occasion, President JUI Maulana Mirzajan Wazir said that the death of a martyr is the life of the nation. However, later Assistant Commissioner Wana Basheer Khan said that Martyrs of the Police are the crowns of our heads and the doors of the office are always open for the children of the Martyrs of the Police.

On the occasion of "Martyrs' Day," a special prayer was also offered for raising the ranks of the nation and the martyrs of the police.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:48 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:04 pm
Maghrib 7:05 pm
Isha 8:38 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 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
Contentment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

Pakistan's economy on recovery path: Dr Aisha

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha on Friday said the Pakistani economy was well on the path of recovery as the incumbent government had successfully managed to curtail the ever increasing imports. Responding to a calling attention notice of Mohsin Aziz, she said the worst policies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had ruined country's economy as current account deficit was all time high during last financial year.

The PML-N led government had reduced the import bill significantly by taking prudent measures, she added. In April, she said, when the incumbent government took over, the country had no money to buy fuel for generating electricity as the government wanted to minimize power load shedding.

This also increased the import bill which led to pressure on dollar.

Consequently, the rupee depreciated 23 percent against the US dollar. Whereas the rupee had dropped 24 percent during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, she held. Sharing details of 24 percent decrease in value of rupee, she further said the value of rupee decreased by 12 percent due to the increase in interest rates by the US government

Solidarity with Kashmiris

Proactive diplomacy can be way-forward to resolve Kashmir dispute: Speakers

Former Ambassador Naela Chohan highlighted the prominent role of Pakistan in highlighting the Kashmir conflict

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A One-day conference organized by the Institute of Peace and Contemporary Affairs (IPCA) was held at Islamabad Press Club on the topic of "Modi-Hindutva Nexus & the Struggle of Kashmir".

Former Ambassador Naela Chohan highlighted the prominent role of Pakistan in highlighting the Kashmir conflict on national and international forums. India was the first to take Kashmir issue to UN, however since the UN declared Kashmir as an international conflict between Pakistan and India, it backfired Indian aspirations and India backed out. She highlighted the dual standards of international media in refraining to highlight the human rights atrocities carried out by Indian forces in the region.

Former Vice Naval Chief and Naval Attaché of Pakistan to India, Admiral Muhammad Haroon, emphasized how Pakistan has always taken the lead in any peacebuilding efforts made in the interest of fostering good relations with India. He categorically stated that war is the only solution in resolving the Kashmir conflict with India.

Group Captain (R) Sultan Mahmood Hali spoke about the impact of Hindutva on the Kashmiri freedom struggle. He strongly condemned India's mass killings and violation of human rights in the region. He highlighted that Indian forces



used rape as strategy to demean the Kashmiri women. He urged the need for a proactive diplomacy from Pakistan on Kashmir issue.

Assistant Professor Quaid-e-Azam University, Dr. Mujeeb Afzal, highlighted the importance of conflict resolution methods in addressing Kashmir conflict. He stressed the need to assess and evaluate mutually agreeable solutions that are practically implemented including peace diplomacy, mutual negotiations and composite dialogue. He criticized India's hegemonic and stubborn power enforcement in Kashmir. Chairman Kashmir Youth Association Dr. Mujahid Gillani brought into light the ground reality of Kashmiris in to limelight. He pointed out how Kashmiris are painted and portrayed only as victims, yet they are also warriors and fighters.

Solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira and others participant holding a banner during a walk on the eve of "Youm e Istehsal" to show solidarity with the people of Kashmiri at Constitution Avenue in federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Youm-e-Istehsal rally taken out to express solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: In connection with Youm-e-Istehsal, a rally was taken out from foreign office on the constitution avenue in Islamabad on Friday to express solidarity with oppressed Kashmiri people.

People belonging to different

walks of life including parliamentarians participated in the rally.

Carrying banners, the participants chanted slogans in support of Kashmiri people and against the Indian atrocities.

Speaking to the partici-

pants of the rally at D-Chowk, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan's commitment with Kashmir is everlasting and it will never dilute because of internal situation.

In his remarks, Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira said the Kashmiri people

have been braving the Indian atrocities over the last seven decades and sacrificed over one hundred thousand lives.

He said every Pakistani is aware of its national responsibility and stands by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Agencies

Extremist BJP wants to make Occupied Kashmir a valley of Hindutva: Mushaal

PAC organizes Protest rally and photo exhibition to mark Youm-e-Istehsal

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A protest walk and photo exhibition based on Indian atrocities were organized in Punjab Arts Council in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chairperson Peace and Cultural Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick.

While addressing the ceremony Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the extremist BJP wants to make Occupied Kashmir the valley of Hinduism. Genocide of innocent Kashmiris has been going on for three years in Occupied Kashmir. The cruelty of Occupied Kashmir has never been heard or seen in history. Fascist Narendra Modi and the Indian Army are turning Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by issuing domicile to 60 lakh Indian citizens in Occupied Kashmir, she added.



She further told that my husband Yasin Malik was kept in death cell where his life is in serious danger. The occupying Indian army desecrates the bodies of Kashmiri martyrs. The United Nations, Security Council, European Union and other international organizations are

silent spectators to the human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir. The time is not far when India will have to account for its atrocities. The voice of Kashmiris and their struggle for freedom cannot be suppressed for long by repression, she added.

In the end, he thanked Naheed Manzoor and Director Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Waqar Ahmed and said that this institution has always raised the voice for Kashmiris. Naheed Manzoor said in his speech that today it has been three years since the occupied valley became a prison. On this very day, the fascist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while propagating Hindutva, took away their identity from innocent Kashmiris. Since August 5, 2022, hundreds of occupied Kashmiris have been the target of the Indian army's bullets and shed their blood in the Kashmir Liberation Movement. The occupying Indian army has imprisoned thousands of Kashmiri youth in detention camps.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Yasin Malik is not only a symbol of Kashmir but a symbol of peace and freedom in this region.

Health Corner

A brain mechanism underlying evolution of anxiety

ISLAMABAD: New research using genome editing technology has allowed scientists to create a model and assess a gene mutation associated with neuropsychiatric disorders in humans. The study has revealed how the mutation functions in the brain and affects anxiety and sociality.

Monoamine neurotransmitters such as serotonin and dopamine play important roles in our cognitive and emotional functions. Their evolutionary origins date back to metazoans, and while the function of related genes is strongly evolutionarily conserved, genetic variation within and between species has been reported to have a significant impact on animal mental characteristics such as sociality, aggression, anxiety, and depression.

A research group led by Dr Daiki Sato and Professor Masakado Kawata has previously reported that the vesicular monoamine transporter 1 (VMAT1) gene, which transports neurotransmitters to secretory vesicles in neurons and secretory cells, has evolved through natural selection during human evolution. In particular, the 136th amino acid locus of this gene has evolved in the human lineage from asparagine (Asn) to threonine (Thr), and moreover, a new allele (isoleucine, Ile) has emerged and increased in its frequencies around the world. Previous reports suggested that people with the Ile genotype are less prone to depression and anxiety than those with the Thr genotype, but it was unclear how these human-specific mutations function in the brain and lead to changes in neuropsychiatric behavior.



In this study, Sato, Kawata (Tohoku University), Yukiko U. Inoue (National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry), and their colleagues prepared Vmat1 gene-edited mice in which the 136th amino acid locus was replaced with the human genotype (Thr or Ile) via genome editing technology, and compared gene expression, neural activity, and behavior among genotypes. The Ile-type mice showed decreased levels of anxiety-like behaviors, consistent with human studies. In addition, the genotype affected post-synaptic gene expression and neural activity in the amygdala, a brain region involved in emotional regulation. The functional role of the VMAT1 gene in the central nervous system remains unclear, and this study may provide a steppingstone toward elucidating its molecular mechanisms.

Moreover, there are few studies in which the effects of single amino acid substitutions under natural selection during human evolution have been verified using genome editing technology. This study demonstrates the functional importance of human-specific variants in the regulatory circuits of neurotransmitters involved in cognitive and emotional functions and is expected to shed light on the pathogenic mechanisms of neuropsychiatric disorders such as anxiety and depression. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Green Pakistan

HRDN organizes "Plant for Pakistan" campaign



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: HRDN launched the tree plantation drive, "Plant for Pakistan" as part of the 75th independence anniversary celebrations at Jamia Ghousia Zia-Ul-Uloom Rawalpindi. The students and management of Jamia and HRDN planted the saplings of (Guava, Sukkha-hin, Cypiam, Kachnar) on the occasion. 350 saplings were planted.

The students took an active part in the speech competition by highlighting the importance and environmental benefits of trees in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

The deliberated that as per the Quranic teachings each of us is the custodian of nature so we have to live in harmony with the environment. The world is scourged with climate change and extreme weather patterns, the trees can save us from the ill effects of climate change. Trees not only beautify the nature and our surroundings but provide shelter and food for animals and humans, purify the air pollution, regulates the temperature, minimizes the flooding have economic value. It is mentioned in Quran that it is the gift by deity.

Prophet Muhammad SAW said: "If a Muslim plant a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, it is regarded as a charitable gift or sadaqah for him. (Bukhari)

Ms. Robeela Bangash-CEO HRDN acknowledged the active participation of students, Jamia Ghousia Management and of the partners in providing tree saplings. She said that tree plantation is the continuous good deed and is a major step forward in mitigating the dangers of climate change but due to lack of proper care, these saplings cannot grow and the requisite results are not attained. The post plantation care was emphasized and the idea of "Adopt a Plant" was shared.

Velo is alternative of cigarettes or a conspiracy?

PANAH appeals to the government to ban Velo in Pakistan to save our young generation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) has been providing awareness about heart diseases to the public for the last 38 years and in this regard PANAH is working together with health experts, legislators, civil society, politicians, media representatives and such factors. Along with awareness about the causes of heart and many other fatal diseases, Velo is being promoted a lot these days and specially to our young generation. Youth are the capital of any nation and PANH is trying to protect them. But some elements are conspiring behind our young generation to darken the future of Pakistan and tobacco industry is also playing a major role in this which keeps on using innovative methods to de-track the young generation. That is why Velo has been launched. Young people are being mislead that it is a way to quit smoking and activates the brain, which is completely wrong as it is a product of tobacco and is more dangerous than cigarettes. Health experts say that Velo is a addictive substance and when it is absorbed into the blood, it increases blood pressure, heart rate and blood vessels. Which causes heart disease, stroke and oral cancer. It is leading the young generation to addiction.

A survey was conducted on the use of Velo by PANAH. And survey found that Velo is being spread in cities in a systematic way. Especially in the name of freeing the youth from smoking, it continues to be provided free of charge. However, smoking does not go away from its use, but people suffer from various ailments. It is known that the companies making the above product are marketing it regularly and our heroes, doctors are especially are being used in this advertising campaign. This is causing irreparable damage to our young generation.

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Managing the mega crisis of 2022

José Ramos-Horta, Danilo Türk, Laura Chinchilla & Han Seung-soo

A recent gathering of G7 leaders, NATO members, and G20 foreign ministers, it was clear to everyone that the world is facing a confluence of emergencies unlike anything we have seen in decades. International tensions have risen to alarming heights on the back of increasing food and energy insecurity, depreciating currencies, looming debt crises, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the intensifying effects of climate change, and armed conflicts. Previously a forum for tackling financial and economic problems, the G20, chaired by Indonesia this year, is being pushed into perilously sensitive terrain. The group's Leaders Summit in mid-November will be critically important; but we cannot wait until then to address today's intertwined crises. The G20 should launch a virtual (online) process to start working toward a common, coordinated response in advance of its November summit.

According to the World Food Program (WFP), more than 800 million people are now chronically hungry, with up to 323 million facing the prospect of

starvation.

The immediate priority is to ensure fair prices and secure supplies across food and energy markets. At least \$10 billion is needed to bridge the WFP's financing shortfall this year. So far, international institutions and many governments have responded to the food crisis with initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Food Security, which was launched this spring to coordinate humanitarian financing and investments in food-system resilience. And more than 80 countries have endorsed a US-led Roadmap for Global Food Security Call to Action, and there have been important regionally focused summits such as the Mediterranean Ministerial Dialogue on the Food Security Crisis and the Uniting for Global Food Security Ministerial Conference. But even though it is well known that open trade is crucial to containing food insecurity, more than 20 countries have imposed restrictions on food exports (through export licenses, taxes, or outright bans). While World Trade Organization member states recently agreed to exempt the WFP's humanitarian purchases from export restrictions, that is not enough.

We need to take full advantage of our knowledge of how the global food market operates both in the short and long run, and in terms of both supply and reserves. To that end, major

countries holding grain stocks

in reserve should release them onto international markets to dampen further price increases; and governments should strengthen the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to improve transparency and monitoring (including of futures markets) and to prevent speculation. We must ensure that more countries can build self-sufficiency through agricultural-import diversification and more resilient domestic production (where possible). On energy, leaders have discussed creating an oil-purchasing cartel to negotiate better prices; and there are many new initiatives to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. But we need to pick up the pace in the run-up to November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

For their part, the International Monetary Fund and the multilateral development banks can and must do more to provide relief from today's food, energy, and debt crises. Only one-quarter of the IMF's trillion-dollar balance sheet is currently committed to providing financial assistance and debt-service relief to struggling countries. Likewise, the World Bank could lend more, by negotiating capital replenishment with its member states and by leveraging its triple-A credit rating to crowd in private capi-

tal with loan guarantees.

To address the looming debt crisis, we need a robust preemptive multilateral restructuring and relief initiative for developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens. The share of low-income countries in debt distress, or at high risk of it, has doubled from 30% to 60% since 2015. Making matters worse, many middle-income countries' credit ratings are being downgraded, which means that they will face higher debt-service costs, especially now that the US Federal Reserve and other major central banks are tightening their monetary policies.

New initiatives to alleviate debt distress will need to go much further than similar recent efforts did. The Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) that was launched early in the pandemic has since expired, after providing only \$13 billion in temporary relief to 48 low-income countries. Moreover, it covered only official bilateral creditors, thus excluding the private creditors who hold the largest share of developing-country debt. Following the launch of the DSSI, the Common Framework for Debt Treatments was established to deal with sovereign insolvency and protracted liquidity problems in DSSI-eligible countries. It is supposed to provide debt relief and restructuring consistent with a debtor's essential-spending needs

and capacity to pay; but, one and a half years after its inception, only three countries have signed up (Chad, Ethiopia, and Zambia), and none has successfully completed a debt restructuring.

With participation in the Common Framework currently limited to the 73 poorest countries, the eligibility criteria may need to be reviewed and expanded, and all creditors – including China and the private sector – will need to be incorporated into the process. Greater debt transparency is essential for effective sovereign-debt renegotiation. While securing Chinese participation may prove difficult, private-sector participation can be required by regulation, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States, where there is already a precedent for this. Finally, IMF surcharges (extra fees charged to highly indebted borrowing countries) should be suspended immediately. The number of countries incurring such costs has already risen from nine to 16 since the pandemic began, and the IMF projects that the total could rise to 38 by 2025. We are facing an unprecedented confluence of crises that could gravely jeopardize our future. Once again, the world needs the G20 to step up and act with resolve.

The writers hail from Club de Madrid. Courtesy Khaleej Times

IJOK in state of war

Kashmir is in a state of war, and the August 5, 2019 actions taken by India shall not be misconstrued as the initiation of Kashmir's annexation or occupation. Rather, Jammu and Kashmir has been under Indian occupation since 1947, and the revocation of Jammu Kashmir's semiautonomous status has led to the initiation of India's settler colonial program in the occupied territory. The need of the hour is to stay vigilant about Narendra Modi's Hindutva agenda in Kashmir.

The tactics like farcical delimitation and demographic engineering are being employed by BJP government in the occupied territory. India's August 5, 2019 decisions are not just an assault on Kashmir, but rather an assault on the UNSC resolutions pertaining to Jammu Kashmir. The geopolitical stance of global powers is also an impediment to the early resolution of Kashmir dispute, and hence alternative options must be sought to break the stalemate and to resolve the longstanding issue of Kashmir.

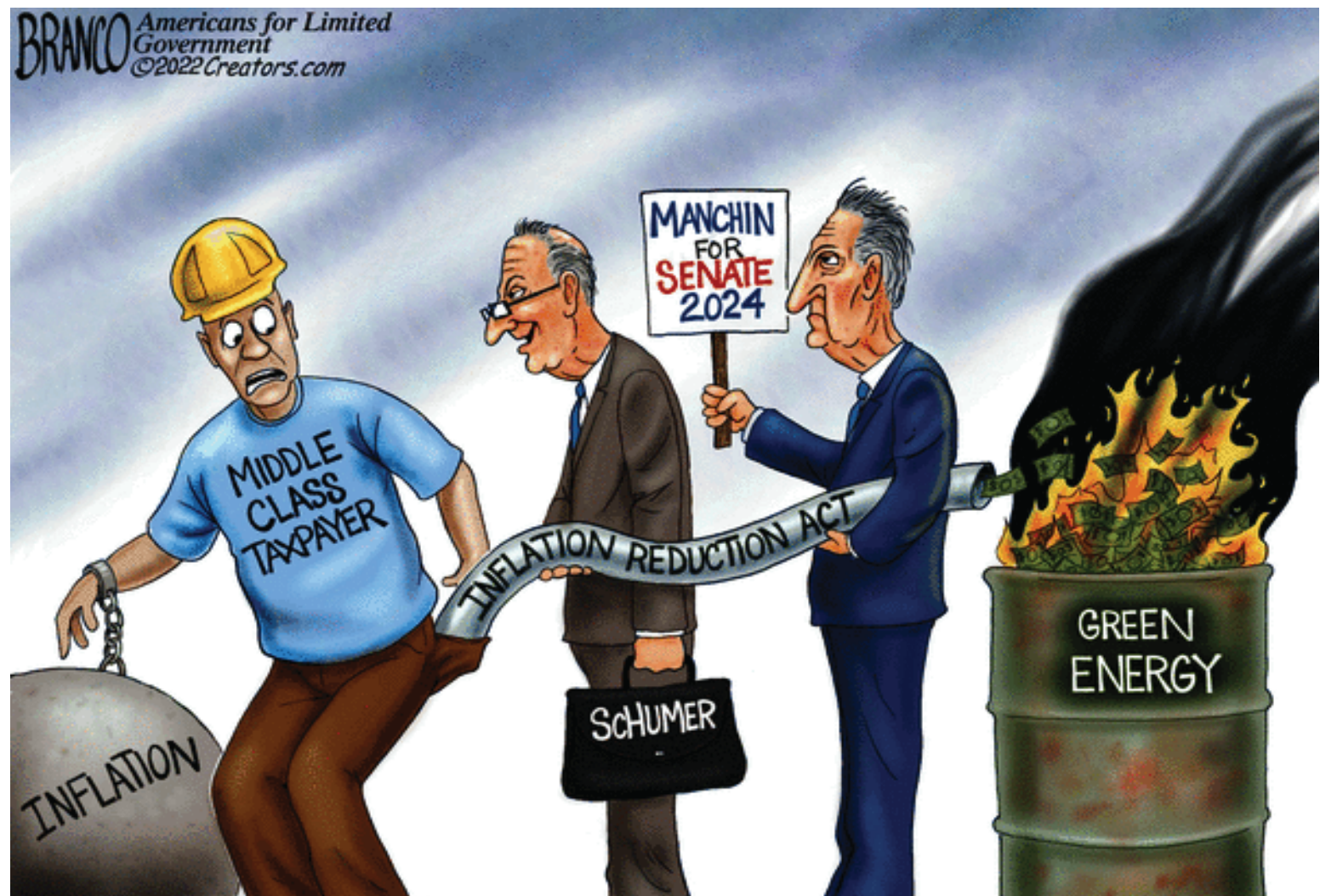
The focus should be on what should be done, and what can practically be done. The highhandedness and tyranny encountered by Kashmiris at the hands of Indian Occupying Forces (IOF) should be highlighted as people in occupied Kashmir are being forced to leave their homeland or are threatened and pressurized so as to break their grit and will to keep on the freedom struggle. The Kashmiris have legitimate rights to take up arms against the colonizer as a means of self-defense to safeguard their land, property, and rights. The occupied territories are freed through force, and freedom is snatched and not begged for.

The demographic changes being employed by the occupying forces in IOJK are condemnable. Kashmiris should unanimously fight the colonizer with synergy and collective efforts to get rid of the occupation. The Kashmir issue seems to be on the back burner. The collective efforts from the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistani people are the need of the hour. Each Pakistani is an advocate of the suffering Kashmiri brethren.

There is dire need for sensitization of the Pakistani academia and educational institutions about the systematic violence being committed by India against Kashmiris. An organized Pakistan-backed armed movement is necessary to impede the momentum of the demographic changes being enacted in IOJK by India with all its machinations. The Modi-led BJP government along with the 900,000 occupying forces, and more than two dozen law enforcement agencies have waged an all-out extermination operation against the indigenous Kashmiri populace.

The Indian action of August 05, 2019 was an assault not only on Kashmiris identity but on the United Nations that had failed to implement its security councils' resolutions in providing Kashmiris the right to self-determination. India was the party of UNSC resolutions, bilateral agreement where it was decided between India and Pakistan that issue of Kashmir will be resolved through peaceful means.

For the past seventy-five years, India has resorted to ruthless oppression and grave human rights violations with impunity against the Kashmiri people, to deny them their right to self-determination. The human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir further deteriorated after August 5, since then, the brutality of Indian forces resulted in the killing of more than 640 innocent Kashmiris, including over 120 through extrajudicial killings this year alone.



Religious tolerance and interfaith consent in Uzbekistan

With the declaration of independence and the commitment of the Government of Uzbekistan to the ideals of democracy, the choice of a secular path for the development of society gradually made it possible to create equal legal conditions for the existence of religions in general and religious groups in particular. In the religious sphere, this large-scale work is carried out by the relevant state bodies and institutions of civil society and is aimed at providing citizens with the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of conscience; strengthening religious pluralism, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue in particular.

One of the significant results of the joint work is the adoption in December 2018 by the UN General Assembly of a special resolution "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance". The adoption of the resolution was the practical implementation of the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, put forward at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. The main goal of the proposed resolution is "ensuring universal access to education, the elimination of illiteracy and ignorance." It is noteworthy that the resolution was not only unanimously supported by all UN member states, but also adopted with the co-authorship of over 50 countries.

This testifies to the high recognition by the international community of the relevance and timeliness of the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan. The document is intended to "promote tolerance and mutual respect, ensure religious freedom, protect the rights of

believers, and prevent their discrimination." The resolution emphasizes the important role of promoting peace, human rights, tolerance, and friendship. Also, it recognizes the importance of integration, mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding in the name of strengthening security and peace on the planet. The document welcomes all international, regional, and national initiatives aimed at promoting inter-religious, intercultural, and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals based on religion or belief.

At the same time, the adopted resolution calls on UN member states to implement appropriate communication strategies, such as large-scale advocacy in national and international media, as well as on the Internet, and disseminate educational information about tolerance, non-violence, and freedom of religion or belief. The document also recognizes the key role of UNESCO in promoting peace and security in the world by expanding cooperation among nations through education, science, and culture. Over the past five years, significant changes have taken place in Uzbekistan and large-scale reforms have been implemented in many areas, including in the religious and educational sphere.

A number of legislative acts aimed at further improvement of activities in the religious sphere have been adopted. In order to study Islam in-depth and teach its scientific foundations, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan was established. The academy specializes in teaching secular and religious knowledge, and training qualified personnel in the interpretation of the Koran, Islamic law, religious dogma, and hadith.



It should be noted that over the past five years, within the framework of the consistent policy pursued in Uzbekistan in the field of protecting the rights and freedom of citizens, special attention has been paid to measures aimed at protecting the rights, freedom, honor, and dignity of not only citizens living in the republic, but also our fellow citizens who find themselves in a difficult life situation in foreign countries. Unfortunately, some Uzbek citizens, who fell under the influence of alien ideas and believed in false promises, joined the ranks of international terrorist organizations in different years and in zones of armed conflicts abroad. Spouses, fathers of some of the women returned as part of humanitarian operations, died during armed clashes.

Considering this circumstance, on behalf of the President of Uzbekistan, in 2019-2021, five "Mehr" humanitarian actions were successfully carried out,

within which more than 500 citizens of the republic, mainly women and children, were returned to their homeland from the zones of armed conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan. In order to further assist in their speedy reintegration and rehabilitation at the state level, a set of measures has been implemented to provide timely medical, psychological, material, and moral assistance. To date, all repatriates have been created the necessary conditions for their adaptation to peaceful life and integration into society and provided access to educational and other social programs, including the provision of housing and employment.

The Uzbek authorities are focusing on establishing a constructive dialogue and cooperation with international organizations and experts in the religious field. During visits to Uzbekistan by the UN High Commissioner on human rights Zeid Raad al-Hussein (May 2017) and the OSCE High Commissioner on

National Minorities Lamberto Zannier (April 2018) discussed the current state of affairs, praised the reforms in our country, noted that Uzbekistan pays special attention to ensuring inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, strengthening friendship between representatives of various nations and nationalities.

Following the visit to Uzbekistan of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, Ahmed Shahid (October 2017), a separate document was adopted on the implementation of a set of measures in the field of religion. The Special Rapporteur noted the progress made in simplifying the procedures for registering and carrying out the activities of religious organizations, as well as improving the system of religious education in the country.

The UN representative welcomed the interaction of the Uzbek authorities with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and stressed the interest in promoting reforms in the field of protecting religious freedom in the country.

One more piece of information. In December 2020, the US State Department excluded Uzbekistan from the so-called "Special watch list" to ensure religious freedoms. It should be noted that in 2018, given the significant improvement in the situation in the field of ensuring religious freedoms, Uzbekistan was excluded from the list of "countries of particular concern". Since 2006, the Republic had been on this "black list" for 12 years. The exclusion of Uzbekistan from the "special watch list" is a huge achievement and international recognition for our country.

In general, it is worth noting that an

important distinguishing feature of the religious life of modern Uzbekistan is the inadmissibility of establishing advantages or restrictions for one religion in relation to other confessions. One of the main priorities in reforming society in order to ensure interethnic harmony and religious tolerance is to ensure and protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, and their equality before the law, regardless of race, gender, nationality, language, social origin, beliefs, religion, personal and social status, which enshrined in the Constitution of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan consistently and strictly fulfills its international obligations in the field of ensuring religious freedom within the framework of international human rights treaties. It is known that current Uzbekistan has acceded to more than 70 major international human rights instruments. Accession to these documents contributed to the creation of an effective system for the protection of human rights in Uzbekistan. It is important to mention that the policy pursued by Uzbekistan in the field of religion, aimed at strengthening interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance in society, is an important factor in stability and security. In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the large-scale reforms being implemented in the country are a clear confirmation of the consistent continuation by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of the implementation of the principle "Everything for the sake of man, for the sake of his future".

Committee on Religious Affairs, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Taiwan tension

China halts high-level military dialogue with US

China sanctions Pelosi over 'provocative' visit, sends 100 warplanes for drills

BEIJING: Beijing announced on Friday that it was halting cooperation with the United States in a number of areas, including dialogue between senior-level military commanders, in retaliation for the visit this week to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. China's foreign ministry also said in a statement that it was halting climate talks with the United States, as well as cooperation on cross-border crime prevention and on repatriating illegal migrants, among eight specific measures.

China said Friday that more than 100 warplanes and 10 warships have taken part in live-fire military drills surrounding Taiwan over the past two days, while announcing sanctions on US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi over her visit to the self-governing island earlier this week. The official news agency said Friday that fighters, bombers, destroyers and frigates were all used in what it called "joint blockade operations" taking place in six zones off the coast of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

The military's Eastern Theatre Command also fired new versions of missiles it said hit unidentified targets in the Taiwan Strait "with precision."

Those included projectiles fired over Taiwan into the Pacific, military officers told state media, in a major ratcheting up of China's threats to annex the island by force. The drills are described as being held on an "unprecedented scale," are China's response to a visit this week by Pelosi to Taiwan. She is the highest ranking U.S. politician to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

China announced unspecified sanctions on Pelosi and her family. Such sanctions are generally mostly symbolic in nature. A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said that Pelosi had disregarded China's serious concerns and resolute opposition to her visit. It called Pelosi's visit provocative and said it undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China opposes Taiwan having its own engagements with foreign governments.

On the Chinese coast across from Taiwan, tourists gathered Friday to try to catch a glimpse of any military aircraft heading toward the exercise area. Fight-

er jets could be heard flying overhead and tourists taking photos chanted, "Let's take Taiwan back," looking out into the blue waters of the Taiwan Strait from Pingtan island, a popular scenic spot. On Friday morning, China sent military ships and war planes across the mid-line of the Taiwan Strait, the Taiwanese Defence Ministry said, crossing what had for decades been an unofficial buffer zone between China and Taiwan.

China's Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors of some European countries and Japan on Friday and lodged a protest against a G7 statement on Taiwan, state-run media reported. According to the Global Times, the Foreign Ministry lodged solemn representations over the G7 and European Union's statement on the Taiwan question. "The statement distorted the facts, which is a blatant political provocation," the ministry told the envoys. The ministry also summoned Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi on

China summons EU, Japanese envoys over G7 statement on Taiwan

China's reaction over Pelosi's Taiwan trip 'unjustified': US

Pelosi says China doesn't decide our travel schedules

PHNOM PENH/TOKYO: Calling China's military response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan an "overreaction," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was "no justification" for Beijing's actions. "The fact is speaker's visit was peaceful. There is no justification to this extreme, disproportionate and escalatory military response," Blinken told a news conference in Cambodia where he was attending the ASEAN summit. Blinken asserted that the US does "not support Taiwan's independence."

Beijing has launched massive military exercises surrounding Taiwan after Pelosi visited the self-

ruled island earlier this week, against the warnings of China which sees it as its "breakaway province." "Nothing has changed about our one-China policy which is guided by Taiwan Relations Act, Three Communiques, and the six assurances," Blinken noted, saying: "We do not want unilateral changes to status quo from either side." The US wants a peaceful resolution to cross-strait disputes, not by force, he said.

Chinese missiles landing in Japan's exclusive economic zones is a "significant escalation," Blinken said, adding that the US "will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law applies and will continue maritime trans-

it through Taiwan Strait." He stressed that the US does "not seek and will not provoke a crisis" but assured Washington's support to its allies in the region.

Blinken, however, added that the Chinese military response to Pelosi's visit may "destabilize the wider region." On the situation in Myanmar, Blinken urged humanitarian access to the country ruled by a military junta since last year. He also called for global support against endorsing elections planned by the junta next year. "They will not be fair and free under current situation," he added.

US Speaker Nancy Pelosi, on the final leg of her Asia trip that included Singa-

pore, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, blasted China on Friday for its reaction to her visit to Taiwan.

"The Chinese have tried to isolate Taiwan," Pelosi stated. "They tried to keep Taiwan from visiting or participating in other places, but they will not isolate Taiwan by preventing us from traveling there. We will not allow them to isolate Taiwan. They are not doing our travel schedules. The Chinese government is not doing that."

China's response to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was to launch military exercises around the island of Taiwan, but the House speaker said she was not in the business of interfering in Asian politics.

Disrespecting Masjid-e-Nabwi

Saudi court sentences six Pakistanis

RIYADH: A Madinah court has found six Pakistanis guilty of disrespecting Masjid-e-Nabwi (the Prophet's Mosque) by shouting slogan during the visit of Pakistani ministers in April.

Three of the accused were sentenced to 10 years in prison, each. Rest were handed eight years imprisonment. Those who have been sentenced to 10 years include Ans, Irshad and Muhammad Saleem.

Others have been identified as Khawaja Luqman, Muhammad Afzala and Ghulam Muhammad.

The court imposed fine of 20,000 Riyals on each of them and has confiscated their mobile phones. Several Pakistani pilgrims had heckled federal ministers Marryum Aurangzeb and Shahzain Bugti at Prophet's Mosque after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Madinah to start his three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Taiwan condemns China over war drills

TAIPEI CITY: Taiwan blasted its "evil neighbour next door" on Friday after China encircled the island with a series of huge military drills that were condemned by the United States and other Western allies. Thursday's military exercises, which are set to continue on Friday, saw China fire ballistic missiles and deploy both fighter jets and warships around Taiwan.

Taiwan's premier Su Tseng-chang, meanwhile, called for allies to push for de-escalation. "(We) didn't expect that the evil neighbour next door will show off its power at our door and arbitrarily jeopardise the busiest waterways in the world with its military exercises," he told reporters. "We also call on countries in the world that recognise peace and freedom and democracy to work together," he added

Offshore licenses

Sri Lanka authorizes four banks at Colombo Port City

COLOMBO: The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Finance has authorized the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) to issue offshore licenses for four banks initially to operate at the Colombo Port City. The CPCEC said in a statement released on Friday that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has created a new class of account for all banks under its regulatory purview.

This account, called the Colombo Port City Investment Account, is designed to facilitate the inflow of funds to be used for investing in the Colombo Port City, the CPCEC said. According to the commission, Colombo Port City duty-free regulations have been drafted and are waiting for the cabinet's approval. The commission, in collaboration with the immigration authorities, is also working to streamline and automate the application and approval process for the investor visa, employment visa, and long-term residence visa.

World must notice Indian repressions in IIOJK: Kaira



OTTAWA: Like Pakistan and elsewhere in the world, Youm e Istehsal Kashmir was observed in Canada by the Pakistan High Commission and the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora to condemn India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and to pay homage to the sacrifices of Kashmiris for their just struggle to self-determination.

The activities included a photo exhibition arranged at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa to highlight human rights violations in IIOJK, demonstrations by Pakistani and Kashmiri communities in Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary, movement of a Kashmir HR violations-themed truck on main roads in Toronto and a high-level webinar attended by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua, former Pakistan Ambassador Karamatullah Ghori and noted Canadian author and journalist Robert Fantana.

Addressing the webinar hosted by Consul General of Pakistan Toronto Abdul Hameed, Advisor to the Prime Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira termed the Indian actions of 5 August 2019 a blatant violation of the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva Convention and international laws. He noted that for the last three years India had tried every tactic of oppression against the Kashmiris but their resolve and passion for freedom had not weakened. He said the people of Pakistan stand firmly behind their brothers and sisters in Kashmir and Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiris shall continue until India ends its gross and systematic violations of human rights in IIOJK. He revokes its illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and grants the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua said it was no secret that India had taken its illegal and unilateral actions on 5 August 2019 to suppress Kashmiris' freedom struggle, deny them their right to self-determination and change the demographic structure of the valley. He said Indian atrocities committed in IIOJK were well documented by the UN and other international human rights organizations and even the Human Rights Watch, in a statement earlier this week, had confirmed that the Indian authorities were restricting free expression, peaceful assembly and other basic rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Human Rights Watch has also noted that the Indian government's repressive policies and failure to investigate and prosecute security force abuses have increased insecurity among Kashmiris, he added. Earlier, a pictorial exhibition was also arranged by the Pakistan High Commission Ottawa to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and highlight the Indian atrocities in IIOJK. Meanwhile, a truck painted with pictures depicting human rights abuses and calling for end to Indian repression in the IIOJK also plied the main roads in Toronto as a mark of solidarity with the people of IIOJK and their right to self-determination.

5th August 2019

Indian illegal act of last futile bid to maintain occupation: Pak Ambassador to Russia

MOSCOW: Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Shafqat Ali Khan has termed the Indian brutal atrocities and illegal and unilateral act of 5th August 2019 as the last futile efforts to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle by the Kashmiri people. The Ambassador expressed these views while addressing a ceremony to commemorate Youm-Istehsal at the Embassy of Pakistan, here on Friday.

Shafqat Ali Khan, while commenting on the Indian illegal acts of 5th August, said that despite more than 70 years of its continued oppressive



designs and acts of brutality, the Indian state further compounding its historic illegality was a clear manifestation of its failure to win over or suppress the Kashmiris. He said that our Kashmiri brothers and sisters have chosen a path of struggle, in which Pakistanis are firmly standing with them and will

continue to extend moral and diplomatic support.

He further added that today, in Moscow, the Pakistani community has gathered to pay tribute to the righteous freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people and denounce the illegal and unilateral acts of 5th August by

the Indian state. The ceremony was also addressed by prominent Moscow-based Kashmiri Ishtaq Ahmed Hamdani. In his remarks, he called for joint efforts from the forum of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He also praised the Pakistani nation and the Government for their continued support of the freedom struggles of the Kashmiri people.

The ceremony to commemorate Youm-Istehsal was held at the Pakistan Embassy Moscow today to pay tribute to the indigenous freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people and denounce the illegal and unilateral acts of India.

Sochi meeting

Talks with Putin will open 'different page' in ties: Erdogan

Says Türkiye-Russia talks on Syria to bring relief to region

ISTANBUL/MOSCOW: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin Friday that he hoped to open a "different page" in ties between Ankara and Moscow. "I believe that (today's meeting) will open a whole different page in Turkish-Russian relations," Erdogan said at the start of talks in Russia's Black Sea city of Sochi. Erdogan said on Friday that meetings between Turkish and Russian delegations had been fruitful and that he would discuss developments in Syria with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during his visit to Russia.

Sitting opposite Putin ahead of their talks in the Black Sea city of Sochi, Erdogan said in comments broadcast on Turkish television it was important that the Akkuyu nuclear plant being built by a Russian company in

southern Turkey was completed on time. The Kremlin earlier called on Turkey not to "destabilize" Syria with a military offensive ahead of a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "Turkey has legitimate concerns for security reasons, which we, of course, take into account," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"It is very important not to allow any action that could lead to destabilization of the situation in Syria, or that could jeopardize the territorial and political integrity of Syria," he added. Putin and Erdogan are due to hold talks later on Friday in Russia's Black Sea resort city of Sochi. Peskov said that Syria will be on the agenda. The Turkish president has for several months threatened to launch an oper-

ation against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria. At a summit in Teheran last month, Putin expressed Russia's opposition to Erdogan's planned offensive. Russia and Turkey are two major international players in Syria, a country torn apart by war since 2011, in which Moscow backed Damascus and Ankara backed the opposition groups.

During their meeting on Friday, the two leaders will also discuss Ukraine, where Moscow has been conducting what it calls a special military operation since February. Turkey helped orchestrate a deal to resume Ukrainian grain shipments across the Black Sea following a blockade caused by the military action. Talks between Ankara and Moscow on developments in Syria will "bring relief to the region," the president of Türkiye said on Friday. "I believe that our handling of

the developments in Syria on this occasion will also bring relief to the region," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said ahead of a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the Russian coastal city of Sochi.

He underlined that the meeting would be "very important" for putting forward the role played by Türkiye and Russia in the region. Erdogan also said Türkiye values cooperation with Russia in the fight against terrorism, adding that the eyes of the world are on Sochi. According to the Turkish Presidency, Erdogan and Putin will discuss regional and international issues, as well as relations between Türkiye and Russia. The leaders will hold a one-on-one meeting and then chair talks between delegations. On the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, a joint project of Ankara and Moscow, Erdogan stressed



the project's importance, ruling out any postponement.

"Because it's very important that the agreed-on calendar works and that Akkuyu is completed at the specified time. Because Akkuyu Power Plant will handle 10% of Türkiye's energy potential in energy supply, and I believe it would be beneficial for us to have a detailed discussion

of this issue," he added. Akkuyu has an operational date set for the first reactor by 2023, with the entire plant set to be up and running by 2025. The project started with a 2010 intergovernmental agreement between Türkiye and Russia.

Putin praised Erdogan for his role in signing a historic deal to unblock grain exports,

which also includes deliveries of Russian foodstuff and fertilizers. On July 22 Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed a historic deal to reopen three Ukrainian ports for exports of Ukraine grain, which had been stuck for months due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Turning to natural gas, Putin said: "TurkStream, whose construction we completed some time ago, is one of the most important arteries for supplying Europe with Russian gas."

He stressed that TurkStream is "running smoothly," adding that the European countries should be grateful to be able to buy Russian gas via Turkish Stream. The 930-kilometer (578-mile) pipeline will transport Russian gas under the Black Sea through Bulgaria, Serbia, and Hungary, with another section reaching Türkiye.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
42,096.24	41,425.37	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
42,168.08	41,425.37	
Index Value	Change	
8,732,233,729	+670.87	
Percentage	Time	
+1.62%	5 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,468.06	+18.56	
Percentage	Time	
+0.25%	5 Aug, 3:30 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,676.87	-49.95	
Percentage	Time	
-0.15%	5 Aug, 10:31 am GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,932.20	+190.30	
Percentage	Time	
+0.69%	4 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	156.26	157.51
Bahrain Dinar	596.61	601.11
Canadian Dollar	176.88	178.23
China Yuan	33.24	33.49
Danish Krone	30.8	31.15
Euro	223	226.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.58	28.93
Indian Rupee	2.83	2.91
Japanese Yen	1.65	1.73
Kuwaiti Dinar	733.39	738.39
Malaysian Ringgit	50.32	50.77
New Zealand \$	141.23	142.43
Norwegians Krone	23.02	23.32
Omani Riyal	583.42	587.92
Qatari Riyal	61.63	62.13
Saudi Riyal	59.5	60.5
Singapore Dollar	162.88	164.18
Swedish Korona	22.13	22.43
Swiss Franc	234.51	236.26
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	60	61
UK Pound Sterling	265	270
US Dollar	218	226

Digital aggregator platform

Miftah launches 'EMLAAK Financials' for mutual funds

Finance Minister says Emlaak Financials is important, timely initiative by SECP and executed by CDC

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: As a landmark, and first of its kind, initiative in Pakistan's capital market landscape, Pakistan's first digital aggregator platform for mutual funds – "Emlaak Financials" – was formally inaugurated by Honorable Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr. Miftah Ismail, Friday at Central Depository Company (CDC) House, Karachi.

This platform has been successfully implemented as a digital distribution channel initially for Mutual Funds and later on for other asset classes as well.

The pilot project for Emlaak was initially launched in 2021 for the Sahulat account opening via the platform, after which CDC



stayed committed towards enhancing the platform. The full-fledged account opening feature has now been launched via this online investment portal, which allows multiple funds from different asset management companies (AMCs) to be offered to investors through a

single platform.

On the occasion, Federal Minister Miftah Ismail said, "Emlaak Financials is a very important and timely initiative by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and very well executed by CDC. It is very important for our economy that we introduce such novel concepts that promote the investment culture in Pakistan, and provide an easy and informative platform to the investors."

In his address at the event, SECP Chairman Aamir Khan said, "It is indeed a very important milestone for the Mutual Fund Industry as it embarks on this consolidated digital distribution channel launched for the first time in Pakistan. We, at SECP, are strong proponents of re-engineering processes for promoting effi-

ciency and transparency through digitalization and will continue to support and encourage all such initiatives by providing all the required Regulatory assistance in this regard".

Describing the objectives of the platform, CEO CDC Badiuddin Akber said, "Emlaak Financials has been envisioned to pave the way for the growth of the Mutual Fund Industry and promote the savings culture in Pakistan at the grass-root level."

Chairman of CDC's Board of Directors Moin Fudda welcomed the Finance Minister and others guests. Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) CEO Mashooma Majeed also addressed the audiences. The event was attended by SECP Director Khalida Habib and industry representatives.



KARACHI: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce & Investment is presenting Brand of the Year Award for Rooh Afza to Mrs. Sadia Rashid, Chairperson of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan in the 11th edition Awards Distribution Ceremony of the Brand of the year Awards 2021 at local hotel, Karachi. Former Cricketer Younus Khan was also present on the occasion.

Chairman STZA Amer Hashmi tenders resignation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Amer Hashmi, the Chairman of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) has tendered his resignation to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who is also the President of the STZA Board of Governors.

In February 2021, Amer Hashmi was appointed as the first Chairman of STZA, a newly established Authority under the Cabinet Division. The STZA is mandated to develop, oversee, and enable the technology and knowledge ecosystem across Pakistan through the establishment of Special Technology Zones, which are strategically placed under the "Triple Helix Model" of innovation. These STZs intend to foster synergies between the Government, national & international industry, academia as well as Research & Development centres to create new opportunities, enable ease of doing business and provide robust regulatory support to the technology sector in Pakistan.

In October 2021, the STZA Act was unanimously enacted by both esteemed houses of the Parliament. In a short period since, the STZA has notified four Special Technology Zones, located in Lahore, Islamabad and Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Over 20 domestic & international enterprises



have been granted licenses to operate in the Special Technology Zones. The prospective enterprise potential pipeline stands at over 300 out of which 50 applications for licensing are currently under the review and evaluation process.

During his tenure, the Chairman STZA has executed focused International & Domestic initiatives to promote Pakistan as an emerging destination for the technology sector in the region. In his parting remarks, Amer Hashmi stated "I am optimistic that under the right leadership at the helm, STZA and its high-caliber and talented team of professionals will capitalize in multiples on the enviable foundation being laid down to create a progressive technology ecosystem the country. I feel blessed that the Almighty Allah allowed me to create the required ecosystem for our talented youth to leverage their true potential, and the power of technology to reap unending benefits for the proud people of Pakistan."

ICCI, PASDEC sign MoU to promote marble and granite sector

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Driven by the objective of promoting trade of dimensional stone (marble, granite and onyx) and mutual benefit of public and private sectors, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) to promote the development of marble and granite sector of the country and enhance its exports. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI and Brig. Babar Miraj Shami, Chief Executive Officer, PASDEC signed the MoU in a ceremony held at ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI and others were also present at the occasion.

By signing MoU, PASDEC will provide technical support to marble sector in planning, development and execution of mechanized mining & processing facilities for better growth of this sector. PASDEC will also provide technical assistance to the investors & business community for boosting exports of marble and granite products. On the recommendations of ICCI, PASDEC in collaboration with the federal government will make efforts for the establishment marble cities, machinery pool warehouses and other projects. PASDEC in close coordination with ICCI, will work



for the development of marble and granite sector strategy and submit proposals to Government of Pakistan. PASDEC will also invite representatives of ICCI in meetings for recommendations of policy formulation. PASDEC shall conduct geo-technical study and shall provide machinery on rent or lease to the business community to facilitate the local dimensional stone mining industry. PASDEC in cooperation with ICCI will train labour for dimensional stone industry and give technical assistance to the concerned business sector for skill development. ICCI shall facilitate PASDEC in organizing awareness seminars, exhibitions and trade shows through its network of members besides providing display stalls or space for events for the development and promotion of marble & granite sector. PASDEC would invite one representative to

ICCI for attending meetings of the standing committee on Marble Industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the marble sector has great potential to grow and enhance exports of the country. He said that the MoU between ICCI and PASDEC is a right step towards harnessing the actual potential of marble sector for better economic growth of the country.

Brig. Babar Miraj Shami, CEO, PASDEC said that his organization has the expertise and vision to make Pakistan a globally competitive player of international dimensional stone industry while ICCI has outreach to the private sector. He hoped that the close mutual cooperation between both institutes would produce win-win results for the marble sector as well as the overall economy.

NBP committed to protect customers' confidential info

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has advised its customers to remain vigilant and follow key steps to protect their confidential information.

Impersonating NBP representatives, fraudulent elements have been found offering fake cash prize schemes to get customers confidential information to fleece them.

NBP requests all customers not to share any personal and bank account details to any person / caller claims to be someone from NBP and offers any prize scheme.

In case of any clarity or details regarding schemes, the bank advises its customers to contact NBP's call center at (021) 111-627-627.

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is committed to protect its customers' personal and financial information.

Stocks fall after US jobs growth surges

LONDON: Stock markets slid Friday as a much stronger-than-expected US jobs report raised the prospect that the Federal Reserve will maintain its aggressive monetary policy to combat inflation.

Official data published Friday showed the US economy added 528,000 positions, defying all expectations of a slowdown.

Friday's data also showed US wages jumped, which will add to inflation concerns and likely push the Fed to raise rates aggressively again next month.

The Fed has previously said its decision will be guided by data. APP

Gold price decline by Rs1,300 to Rs141,900 per tola



ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.1,300 per tola and was sold at Rs.141,900 on Friday against sale at Rs.143,200 the previous day in the local market.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat fold also decreased by Rs.1,115 and was sold at Rs.121,656 against its sale at Rs.122,771 whereas the prices of ten gram 22 karat gold also declined to Rs.111,518 against its sale at Rs.112,540, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram tola silver remained constant at Rs1620 and Rs.1388.88 respectively.

The price of gold in international market increased by \$1 and was sold at \$1788 against its sale at \$1787, the association reported. Agencies

Lucky Cement announces consolidated earnings of Rs36.42b for FY22

ISLAMABAD: On a consolidated basis, Lucky Cement Limited, once again, reported its highest ever profit after tax of PKR 36.42 billion for the year ended June 30, 2022, of which PKR 6.93 billion is attributable to the non-controlling interests.

This translates into earnings per share (EPS) of PKR 91.22 share as compared to PKR 70.69 share reported last year, according to a press release issued here on Friday.

On a consolidated basis, the company achieved 60% higher net turnover of PKR 331.5 billion as compared to last year's turnover of PKR 207.2 billion.

The consolidated Net Profit of the Company remained PKR 36.4 billion

out of which PKR 29.5 billion was attributable to the owners of the holding company, compared to PKR 28.2 billion and PKR 22.9 billion, respectively for the prior year.

This translates into an EPS of PKR 91.22 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as compared to PKR 70.69 during last year, representing a growth of 29%.

The exceptional growth in revenue, despite economic challenges is owing to robust performance across all businesses of the group and is an affirmation of the successful execution of the Group's diversification strategy.

On a standalone basis, the company's overall sales volumes declined by 8.9% to reach 9.1 million tons

during the year ended June 30, 2022 in comparison to 10 million tons last year.

Local sales volume dropped by 3.6% to reach 7.3 million tons in the current year compared to 7.6 million tons last year.

While the export sales volume declined substantially by 25% to 1.8 million tons during the year compared to 2.4 million tons during last year due to non-viability in terms of pricing on the back of persistent high coal prices in the international market coupled with increased shipping freights.

Despite the reduction in volumes in both domestic and export sales, the profitability of the local cement oper-

ations improved marginally because of enhanced operational efficiencies, including better management of sales and distribution costs, which decreased as a percentage of sales.

The Company achieved a major milestone when its wholly owned subsidiary, Lucky Electric Power Company Limited (LEPCL), achieved the Commercial Operations Date (COD) on March 21, 2022 of the 660 MW coal-fired power plant set up at Port Bin Qasim, Karachi.

This milestone will play a key role in increasing the energy security and prosperity of Pakistan.

It will also go on to reduce the cost of electricity and reliance on imported fuel in the long run after the comple-

tion of Phase III of SECMC in June 2023.

The power generated from the plant is being fed into the national grid in line with a power purchase agreement signed with the Government. In another major development, the Company's subsidiary, Lucky Motor Corporation started assembling Samsung mobile phones in Pakistan in December, 2021. Lucky Cement remains committed towards making a real contribution to the society and the communities in which it operates.

The Company extended its merit-based support to deserving and less privileged students in Pakistan and abroad. APP

Pak Consulate holds reception for C'wealth Games contingent

The 22nd edition of the Games that began on July 28 will conclude on August 8

Spokesman Report

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan Consulate Birmingham on late Thursday held a reception in honour of Pakistani contingent which is participating in the Commonwealth Games.

The 22nd edition of the Games that began on July 28 will conclude on August 8.

Speaking on the occasion, Consul General of Pakistan to Birmingham Sardar Adnan Rashid welcomed the athletes and officials of Pakistan contingent.

He felicitated weightlifter Muhammad Nooh Dastagir Butt and judoka Shah Hussain Shah for winning gold and bronze medals, respectively in the coveted Games. "It is a great honour for Pakistan that Nooh Butt and Shah have won medals at the prestigious Games. They have made us all proud through their outstanding performance," he added.

He also expressed good wishes for Pakistani athletes, who would be featuring in different disciplines during the remaining days of the Games.

"Sportpersons are goodwill ambassadors, who project a good image of the



country in the world," he said.

Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) President Lt. Gen (r) Arif Hassan thanked the Pakistan Consulate Birmingham for arranging the reception for the Pakistani athletes.

He said POA was trying to give exposure to national athletes to showcase their skills at the international level and learn from athletes of other countries.

Besides others, Vice Consul, Bukhtawar Mir, Cabinet Members at Birmingham

City Council, Councillor Majid Mahmood and Councillor Mariam Khan Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Dr. Nasir Awan MBE, and national sports legends Samiullah Khan and Mushtaq Mohammed.

Djokovic officially out of Montreal ATP event

Serbian tennis star's refusal to get vaccinated against Covid makes him unable to enter Canada

MONTREAL: Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic, whose refusal to be vaccinated against Covid makes him unable to enter Canada, has officially withdrawn from the ATP hardcourt tournament in Montreal, organizers said Thursday.

The Serb star's unvaccinated status made it unlikely he would play in the prestigious ATP Masters tournament, just as it means he will probably miss the US Open starting later in August as the United States also requires visitors to the country to show proof of vaccination.

Montreal Masters tournament director Eugene Lepierre had said earlier this month he did not expect Djokovic to play.

"Either the Canadian government is going to change the rules regarding



vaccination or he is going to roll up his sleeves and get the vaccine. But I don't think any of those scenarios are realistic," Lepierre said.

Germany's Oscar Otte has also withdrawn from the tournament which starts Monday with Benjamin Bonzi of France and Australia's Wimbledon runner-up

Nick Kyrgios moving into the main draw, Tennis Canada said.

In addition, three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray was handed a wild card on Thursday, along with Belgian David Goffin and Canadians Vasek Pospisil and Alexis Galarneau.

Britain's Murray, a former

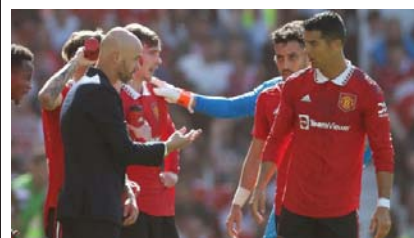
world number one who won the Canadian title in 2009, 2010 and 2015, has been rising in the rankings this season from 194th to 50th.

He reached finals in Sydney in January and Stuttgart in June, but fell in the first round in Washington earlier this week to Sweden's Mikael Ymer.

Despite that disappointment, Murray said on Monday he believes he can get his ranking high enough to earn a seeding at the US Open, which he won a decade ago.

"It's still possible," Murray said. "I would just need to have a good run in Canada or Cincinnati really. It's pretty straightforward if I was to make a quarter-final or a semi-final, which right now - after a loss like that - doesn't seem realistic. AFP

Familiar failings cloud Ten Hag's prospects at Man Utd Premier League club's troubled transfer window makes new manager's job even more difficult



MANCHESTER: Erik ten Hag's first competitive game as manager on Sunday should herald a fresh start for Manchester United, but familiar failings behind the scenes have made the Dutchman's difficult job an almost impossible one.

Ten Hag's predecessor Ralf Rangnick signed off from his miserable caretaker spell last season by stating the United squad needed "open heart surgery" and up to 10 new players after labouring to a sixth-placed finish in the Premier League.

So far, only three new faces have arrived at Old Trafford - Lisandro Martinez, Tyrell Malacia and Christian Eriksen.

The United squad is arguably weaker than last season with Paul Pogba, Edinson Cavani, Jesse Lingard, Nemanja Matic and Juan Mata having left for free, while goalkeeper Dean Henderson has joined Nottingham Forest on loan.

The prospect of a much more significant departure is set to hang over the first few weeks of the season with Cristiano Ronaldo trying to force his way out to play Champions League football this season.

Ronaldo made his first appearance of pre-season on Sunday, playing in the first half of a 1-1 draw against Rayo Vallecano.

But his decision to then leave the stadium before full-time was branded "unacceptable" by Ten Hag.

The former Ajax boss has shown a disciplinary streak during his early weeks in charge, reportedly reintroducing fines for bad time-keeping and banning the players having their own personal chefs.

Ten Hag has shown no signs of appeasing Ronaldo's ego, ordering the five-time Ballon d'Or winner to get fit after missing most of United's preparations for the new campaign.

"It starts with him getting fit because he's only just started," Ten Hag told Sky Sports.

"He is a fantastic football player, and he has proved it so many times, but you are always judged on what you are presenting now and how you are performing now.

Commonwealth Games

Pakistan badminton duo sails into pre-quarterfinals

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's badminton duo-Irfan Bhatti and Murad Ali have cruised into the pre-quarterfinals in the Commonwealth Games 2022 on Thursday.

The duo has qualified for the next round of the badminton event after thrashing their South African rivals-Jarred Elliot and Robert Summers-by 2-0 in the Men's Doubles Round of 32.

Both the players put up their show quite aggressively to control the game with wins in straight sets by 19-21 and 17-21. They managed to book a pre-quarterfinals berth in the Commonwealth Games 2022.

The Pakistan duo will next face India's Rakireddy Satwik Sairaj and Shetty Chirag Chandrashekar today



(on Friday).

Irfan and Murad, though performed well in the doubles match, lost their respective Singles on Thursday. Irfan Bhatti clashed with Malaysia's Tze Young NG in the Men's Singles round of 32 match. However, the 29-year-old Pakistani got thrashed in straight sets

21-10 and 21-9.

Murad Ali also faced upset in another Men's Singles fixture at the hand of Singapore's Jia Heng Teh who beat the Pakistani player by 14-21 and 16-21.

In Women's Singles, Pakistan's player lost her match to her Jamaican opponent. Ghazala Siddique played quite well against Tahlia Richardson in the round of 32 on Thursday but was defeated by 21-15 and 21-15.

Pakistan's top female badminton player, Mahoor Shahzad had to pull out of her round of 32 fixture against India's Akarshis Kashyap owing to her injury. Mahoor gave a tough time to her Indian rival who won the first set by 20-22. AFP

Bremen, Schalke 'ready to deliver' on return

Two of German football's most successful sides seek to stay at the top table after a season in second tier

BERLIN: Two of the biggest and most successful sides in German football history return to the Bundesliga this weekend with fallen giants Werder Bremen and Schalke back in the top flight after a season in the second tier.

Bremen have won four Bundesliga titles, most recently in 2004, and six German Cups, the last in 2009.

Schalke have won the German league seven times, the most recent in 1958, and are five-time German Cup winners, last lifting the trophy in 2011.

Bremen open at home against

Wolfsburg on Saturday with champions Bayern Munich kicking off the campaign on Friday at Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt.

While Schalke and Bremen only had to wait one season to return, they have adopted contrasting approaches as they seek to stay at the top table.

Schalke have brought in a dozen new players to the squad which won the second division title while Bremen have opted to stick with the core of the side that won automatic promotion with second place.

Werder will also have a British flavour with England under-21 defender Lee Buchanan arriving from Derby and Scotsman Oliver Burke, who spent a season in the

Bundesliga with RB Leipzig in 2016-17.

Defenders Niklas Stark and Amos Pieper should help Bremen improve their stability at the back.

Most importantly for the 'Green and Whites', they held onto Ole Werner, 34, one of Germany's hottest coaching prospects.

Werder were languishing in 10th place last season when manager Markus Anfang was forced to step down after it emerged he had shown the club fake Covid vaccination certificates.

Werder took charge and was able to right the ship, with Bremen winning 14 of their remaining 20 games to rocket to

the top of the table, before finishing the year in second.

Werder was typically pragmatic when asked about the club's prospects on Thursday, saying "the goal should be that we stay in the division and continue to play in the Bundesliga next year."

Despite their fall from grace, Schalke remain one of the best supported sides in German football, with more than 70,000 turning out for a fan day in late July, a far cry from the riots which greeted their relegation after winning just three games in 2020-2021.

Schalke, who won the Europa League in 1997 and played in the Champions League semi-finals as recently as 2011, have brought in 12 newcomers for their push to



return to the elite.

Kramer replaces the popular Mike Bueskens, who played 11 years for the club and won eight of the side's last nine games to secure promotion last season.

Kramer's first competitive

Hockey Competition

Pak's semifinal hopes ends after 7-0 defeat against Australia

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan suffered a crushing 7-0 defeat at the hands of six-time Commonwealth Games champions Australia, who maintained their 100% record in the final Pool A match at Birmingham on Thursday night.

In order to ruin the South African party Pakistan needed to win this game by two goals or more, and to their credit they started on the front foot. They could not find a way through however, and Blake Govers hammered home just how tough this would be for Pakistan by opening the scoring in the 12th minute.

The second quarter only served to make the already extremely tough Pakistan challenge almost impossible when Jeremy Hayward doubled the Kookaburra's lead.

A strong period for the Aussies only yielded the one goal but put them firmly in the driving seat.

Any lingering hopes of a Pakistan comeback were firmly crushed in the third quarter, as goals from Hayward and Tom Wickham just two minutes apart extended the lead to 4-0.

Australia saved their most prolific quarter for the final 15, adding three more goals from Wickham, Jacob Anderson and Nathan Ephraums.

A thoroughly professional performance from a side looking to make it 7 out of 7 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games. The result of the game means Pakistan will take on Canada in the 7th/8th classification match, while Australia will play hosts England in the semi-final on Saturday. APP

Pakistani wrestlers

Inam, Zaman qualify for final in C'wealth Games

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistani wrestlers Inam Butt and Zaman Khan Friday qualified for the Men's Freestyle Wrestling event of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 scheduled to be held later Friday.

Inam defeated South Africa's Edward Lessing by 5-3 in Men's Freestyle 86kg Wrestling event's semi-final to ensure a medal for Pakistan CWG.

In a close contest, both the fighters dominated with their defending skills. However, Inam made the most of the last minutes to score two crucial points to qualify for the final.

Gujranwala-born Inam will meet India's Deepak Punia in Men's Freestyle 86kg Wrestling event's final on Friday.

On the other hand, Zaman Khan outclassed his England opponent to reach the final of the Men's Freestyle 125kg wrestling event. Zaman will meet Canada's Amarveer Dhese later on Friday.

In Men's Freestyle 65kg Wrestling event, Inayatullah lost to Canada's Lachlan McNeil by 11-0. He managed to make his place in the bronze medal contest against Scotland's Ross Connelly.

PCB wishes happy Birthday to Dahani

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board has wishes happy birthday to Shah Nawaz Dahani. The board has appreciated the right-arm pacer Dahani by mentioning his appearances.

Taking to Twitter, Pakistan Cricket Board wrote, "Three international appearances for Pakistan so far 32 first-class, 21 List-A and 48 T20 wickets.

Happy 24th birthday to right-arm pacer @ShahnawazDahani! Earlier, the board wished birthday to cricket star Aqib Javed who made record of seven wickets in an ODI. APP



Pakistan squash players in Men's Doubles round of 32



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's squash players have reached the Men's Doubles Round of 32 after sealing a convincing victory in the Commonwealth Games 2022 competition.

Pakistani duo of Tayyab Aslam and Nasir Iqbal competed against Ghana's duo of Evans Ayih and Clement Anafa. The Pakistani pair won the match by prevailing over the rivals in both sets in the multi-sport event underway in the United Kingdom city of Birmingham.

They won in straight sets by 11-1, 11-1. Now, they will clash with Scotland's Greg Lobban and Rory Stewart today (August 5).

But, in both the Mixed Doubles and Women's Doubles round of 16, Pakistan lost. Pakistani duo of Faiza Zafar and Nasir Iqbal faced a drubbing at the hand of their opponents from New Zealand, Joelle King and Paul Coll. Faiza and Nasir were defeated in straight sets by 11-3 and 11-4. Agencies