



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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RAWALPINDI

Geelani 'true voice of Kashmiris' struggle: Munir

Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram on Thursday paid rich tributes to Syed Ali Geelani, the iconic Kashmiri leader, for his life-long struggle for right to self-determination, freedom and fundamental human rights. Ambassador Akram said: "Ali Shah Geelani inspired every Kashmiri in resisting the illegal Indian occupation and unabated repression."



DG ISPR pays tribute to Geelani's lifelong struggle

DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar has said Hurriyat Leader Syed Ali Geelani's lifelong struggle for right to self-determination as per aspirations of Kashmiri people and UN resolutions shall always inspire generations to come. He said Pakistani nation pays tribute to the brave Kashmiri leader for his epic resistance and fight against worst Indian oppression and atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

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Chair KC-EU pays rich tribute to late Syed Ali Gilani

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed paid a rich tribute to late Syed Ali Shah Gilani, the prominent Kashmiri leader for his life-long freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir.

In a statement issued from Brussels on Syed Ali Gilani's first death anniversary, Ali Raza Syed said, Ali Gilani spent his whole life under prolonged house arrest and detention in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) but never gives up his commitment to the right to self determination of the people of Kashmir.

Despite of hardships of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, his fearless devotion to the Kashmir cause was unparalleled. He inspired three generations of Kashmiris in resisting the illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He was a true voice and hero of the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination, who never lost his ideological moorings for a single moment.

He never compromised on the cause of Kashmir and will be remembered for his unconditional love for Kashmir and people of Kashmir.

Ali Raza Syed said, he was a great Kashmiri freedom leader who struggled during his entire life for right to self determination of the people of Kashmir.

He said, long detention and torture by Indian authorities could not force Ali Gilani to compromise as he was a fearless leader and remained resolute.

Ali Raza Syed said, we pray that may Almighty Allah grant Syed Ali Gilani the highest place in Jannah and give courage to the people of Kashmir to continue his great struggle.

Alternative Energy

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on Imported Fossil Fuels Substitution with Solar Energy on Thursday in Islamabad.



Photo: PID

Providing relief

PM waives off FCA for consuming up to 300 units

Pakistan is facing unprecedented situation due to floods: Shehbaz

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has waived off fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for people consuming electricity up to three hundred units in a month.

Addressing the PML-N members of the national and provincial assemblies in Islamabad on Thursday evening, he said despite financial constraints the government is committed to provide relief to people. The Prime Minister said decision of increasing prices of petroleum products was taken with a heavy heart. He said imprudent economic policies of the last government have pushed the country into economic instability.

Shehbaz Sharif said as part of a plan to generate 10,000 mega-

PM gives go-ahead to 10,000MW solar energy project

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday gave a go-ahead for the early execution of 10,000 megawatts solar energy project to reduce the import bill of costly diesel and furnace oil. The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to provide major relief to the masses, said the electricity should be generated through solar instead of imported fuel. The decision has been taken to save the foreign exchange as it would help the country save billions of dollars.

watt solar energy, government has decided to call pre-bid conference of all stakeholders next week. He said government buildings and tube wells running on diesel will be shifted to solar. He said power plants operating on diesel, coal and furnace oil will be partially replaced.

The Prime Minister said a major chunk of electricity is produced from imported fuel whose prices have gone up in recent months. He said National Solar Energy Initiative is aimed at substituting costly energy with cheap solar power, which will provide massive relief to people and save precious foreign

exchange. Shehbaz Sharif urged all political parties to set aside their political differences and come forward to help the flood victims.

He said Pakistan is facing an unprecedented situation due to floods. He said government will make all out efforts to provide relief to flood affected people. Commenting on the UN Flash Appeal to help flood affected people of Pakistan, the Prime Minister thanked friendly countries for their generous support in this regard.

He advised the PML-N lawmakers to visit flood victims and offer them all possible support. He directed PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaulah to constitute teams and dispatch relief goods to flood victims.

Devastating flood

COAS lauds resilience of masses

General Qamar Javed Bajwa visits flood affected areas of Rojhan, district Rajanpur

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday visited the flood-hit areas of Dera Ismail Khan and Rojhan.

While interacting with flood victims at D.I. Khan, he consoled them over their loss and lauded the resilience of local residents in the face of unprecedented natural calamity. He also directed FC South KP troops to ensure timely assistance and help to brave people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in this hour

of need. During his visit to Rojhan, General Bajwa assured flood affectees that Pakistan Army will help them to overcome their problems in these difficult times. He directed ground troops to take this responsibility as a noble cause and spare no effort to lessen the burden of flood affected brothers and sisters.

According to ISPR, He visited the relief camp and reviewed the facilities being offered to the affected people. He also interacted with the people and listen to their problems.

US assures support to flood victims



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The United States has assured its continued support to the flood victims of Pakistan. The assurance was given by US Ambassador Donald Blome while talking to Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad on Thursday.

The US Ambassador expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives due to rain and flood and showed solidarity with people of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Planning Minister apprised the US Ambassador about the rescue and relief activities in the flood-hit areas. He said restoration of infrastructure is a big challenge at the moment.

Ahsan Iqbal further said that rescue and relief operations are continuing and the government is making all out efforts to ensure social protection of the affected people through Benazir Income Support Programme and other sources.

Govt disbursing Rs25,000 to each flood-hit family: Miftah

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismael says federal government is disbursing cash worth 25 thousand rupees to each women head of a household in flood affected areas.

In an interview with BBC, he said 4.2 million will receive this cash assistance. Moreover, National Disaster Management Authority and provincial disaster management authorities are distributing ration packets, tents, medicines and mosquito nets among flood affected people.

To a question, the Minister said government has taken off import duties from onion

and tomatoes to address the issue of their shortage. He said due to recent import of a million ton there is no shortage of wheat expected. He said eight hundred thousand tons of more wheat will also be imported.

Responding to another question, Miftah Ismael said Pakistan has lost thirty percent of its cotton crop in the flood.

He said although it is a challenging situation but government will import cotton also to fulfill the needs of textile industry.

Commenting on the loss of sugarcane, he said about ten percent of Paki-

stan's sugarcane has been destroyed. He said Pakistan has excess production of sugar this year and there will be no shortage.

The Minister said government is planning to compensate the farmers for the loss of their crops. He said draining out the water is an important task for provincial governments.

He said Pakistan faced a damage of ten billion dollars in deadly floods.

He expressed hope that Pakistan's foreign partners and international community will donate in this hour of need to handle the flood crisis. Agencies

UAE Vice President directs urgent aid AED50m to flood-hit Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai has directed urgent aid worth AED50 million to provide relief to those affected by the floods in Pakistan.

The aid, which will be provided by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), in cooperation with the World Food Programme and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment (MBCRH), will be in the form of direct food support to individuals and families affected by the massive floods that hit Pakistan, killing over 1,136 people, displacing millions, destroying more than 3,450 kilometres of vital roads and isolating entire villages, UAE's officials WAM news agency reported on Thursday.

Info Minister urges IK to join govt's flood relief efforts

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday asked PTI chief Imran Khan to join the government's rescue and relief efforts in different parts of the country which were under water after torrential rains and unprecedented floods.

"This is not the right time for politicking and dividing the people instead there is a need to show solidarity and unity for the sake of those who have been passing through difficult times due to flash floods which caused heavy loss of life and property," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

Flanked by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Energy and Economy Bilal Kiyani, she said it was not the right time to hold public gatherings as the people were in dire need of help at the moment.

"Shun politics and join us in helping the people who have lost their family members, homes, livestock and crops in the floods," she added.

The minister said, 60 per cent of the country was under water and 1,200 people had lost their lives, while 4,000 got injured so far whereas some 400 children were also among the dead.

"This is an evolving situation and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is monitoring the situation and sharing the flood related



updates regularly," she noted.

Marriyum said the country was in the grip of climate change phenomena despite contributing less than one per cent in the carbon emission. It had faced intense heat wave in the summer and the intensity of flood was also "unprecedented" due to massive rains which were recorded 450 per cent more than the previous monsoon seasons.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had visited the flood affected areas in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and would visit other areas to assess the on-ground situation.

The prime minister was personally monitoring the flood situation and holding meetings with international donor agencies to bring normalcy in the affected areas by ensuring timely provision of relief goods to the people,

she added. The minister said the federal government, NDMA, Pakistan Army and civil administration were vigorously carrying out rescue and relief operations in the flood hit areas.

Helicopter operations were also underway in those areas where the connectivity had been disrupted due to the flash floods, she said.

Marriyum said an amount of Rs 15 billion had been disbursed among 600,000 families from the Prime Minister Emergency Relief Fund. Rs 25,000 was being given to each family through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

She said funds amounting to Rs 15 billion were given to Sindh, while Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa received Rs 10 billion for providing relief to the people.

Over 23% surplus witnessed in Pak-US trade: SBP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's goods and services trade with the United States (US) witnessed a surplus of 23.21 percent during first month of current financial year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

The trade surplus during the period under review was recorded at \$335.091 million

against \$271.952 million last year, showing 23.21 percent growth.

The exports to the US were recorded at \$499.686 million during July this year against \$503.118 million during the same month last year, showing a nominal decline of 0.68 percent, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data revealed.

Consolation

President Dr Arif Alvi visiting the flood relief camp in Naseerabad, Balochistan on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Iran condoles over deaths due to floods in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari received telephone call from his Iranian counterpart Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahi today (Thursday).

During the call, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari shared that Pakistan has been battling one of the most severe cycles of torrential monsoon weather, which has resulted in loss of lives, livelihood and extensive damage to infrastructure. As a result, the delivery of assistance and relocation of affected people was severely limited.

Highlighting the government's efforts, the Foreign Minister informed that in addition to financial support, food packs, shelter items including tents, water, sanitation and Hygiene supplies are also being provided.

Acknowledging the international community's support, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted that Pakistan launched "UN Flash Appeal" for Flood Response Plan on 30th of last month, which prioritized focused interventions in specific areas.

Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahi conveyed condolences on the loss of lives and material damage due to the floods and assured to assist in provision of relief.

In the bilateral context, the Foreign Minister stated that the recently concluded session of Joint Economic Commission has helped further strengthen cooperation in multiple sectors.

President Alvi for build dams to counter floods

Dr Arif Alvi expresses grave concern over the loss of life, damages to standings crops

DERA GHAZI KHAN: President Dr. Arif Alvi Thursday stressed the need to improve flood warning system and highlighted the importance of building big dams to control floods and enhance water storage capacity.

President Alvi expressed these views during a visit to the flood hit areas of Dera Ghazi Khan where the district administration briefed him on floods and the trail of destruction it left behind, according to a statement issued by Media Wing of President House.

The president expressed grave concern over the loss of life, damages to standings crops spread over more than 300,000 acre area, thousands of buildings, homes destroyed and cattle heads killed in floods. The president said that compensating the affected people should be the top most priority of the government.

Dr. Alvi said that attention should be paid to building delay action dams to store water from hill torrents in DG Khan. He

said that building bigger dams was vital to control floods and enhance water storage capacity.

The president said that efforts should be made to ensure compensation is paid to the affected people soonest. He said that farmers should be encouraged to opt for crop insurance which, he added, could be helpful in getting their losses compensated in natural disasters.

President Dr. Arif Alvi also visited a relief camp where he met the flood affected people, sympathized with them and asked them about the level of difficulties being faced by them.

He said that he was in DG Khan to meet them, to make them feel they were not alone in these testing times and that government was there to help them out. He said that the first phase largely focused on saving lives which was more important than anything else. The administration made untiring efforts in saving lives and

making basic facilities available to people, he said adding that rehabilitation process should begin soon.

Dr. Arif Alvi said that hill torrents from Suleman Mountain Range witnessed extraordinarily high level of water this year that caused deaths, and destruction of infrastructure and buildings. He underlined the need for making boys scouts and girls guides organizations more effective and functional to help in rescue and relief activities carried out by the government and armed forces.

He said floods played havoc in all the provinces. He said that Punjab government had provided Rs 800,000 to heirs of each person who died in floods in DG Khan and Rajanpur. President advised officials to remain alert as there was the possibility of disease outbreak in post-flood scenario and bring improvement in their health care systems to provide health care facilities to the people. APP

'Four people conspired to disqualify me,': Imran Khan

SARGODHA: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Thursday claimed that four people conspired in a closed room to disqualify him.

While reacting to his recent telethon, PTI's Imran Khan said at a public rally in Sargodha that overseas Pakistanis generously donated to the telethon, adding that many people could not be contacted because all of the telethon's lines were busy. As more money is collected, a control room will be built to help the flood victims, where the victims will send aid to where they need help, he added.

"Chief Election Commissioner, you have understood for the first time what foreign funding is. We have been sent a lot of money by overseas Pakistanis," he added.

Imran Khan further said that due to the slavery of the IMF, Pakistanis have to spread



their hands, adding that by mobilizing overseas Pakistanis country can be saved from further debts.

"I have recorded a tape in which I have revealed the names of four people who conspired against me and planned to disqualify me. If something happens to me, that tape will be exposed to the public, and then the public will not spare those four people. The Election Commissioner was asked to disqualify me in the funding case," Imran Khan claimed.

The former PM challenged and said that the Tosha Khana case should be heard openly, adding that the cases of Nawaz Sharif, Zardari, Yousaf Raza Gilani should also be heard. Things would become crystal clear, Imran added. Agencies

Tarar for alternative dispute resolution system

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday said that there were laws in the country that need to be implemented and the system of "Panchayats" and Conciliation Committees would facilitate speedy delivery of justice.

He expressed these views while addressing a session "ADR in Pakistan - A Need for Reforms" of International Conference: Expeditious Dispensation of Justice - ADR the Way Forward.

The Minister said that alternative dispute resolution system would facilitate delivery of speedy

justice and there was need to change perspective and thinking in this regard.

He said that many cases were not brought to the courts in 1990s but were resolved through reconciliation and mediation. Conflict resolution through conciliation was part of Pakistan's culture, he added.

He said that Pakistan had made the best legislation and made rules and regulations but was weak in implementing it.

"We should ensure the implementation of existing laws and regulations, it is high time that we move away from the status quo of the judicial system towards change and we are ready for it," Tarar said.

Those who 'minus' IK are now rejected: Elahi

GUJRAT: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Thursday said that those who 'minus' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan have been rejected.

Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and former federal minister Moonis Elahi visited Zahoor Elahi Stadium and reviewed the arrangements for tomorrow's rally of PTI. On this occasion, Provincial Interior Minister Hashim Dogar, MNA Hussain Elahi and Musa Elahi were also present, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and Moonis Elahi directed to ensure the best arrangements for tomorrow's public meeting.

The Chief Minister said that tomorrow's meeting will be the biggest in the history of Gujrat, adding that it is heartening to see the enthusiasm of the people of Gujrat. While claiming that PTI's tomorrow rally will create history tomorrow, CM Elahi said that Pakistani politics is incomplete without Imran Khan.

Meanwhile, former federal minister Moonis Elahi said that he is with Imran Khan and will stand by him. Agencies

Sherry warns of looming crisis of health emergency

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has warned of looming crisis of health emergency in flood-hit areas. In a message on Thursday, she said the scale of climate change devastations in Pakistan is still unfolding. The Minister said after eight weeks of torrential rain with more downpours likely this month, the River Indus is now in high flood at key barrages. She said the flood water has inundated seventy five percent of Pakistan, resulting into a big humanitarian crisis which needs immediate attention of the world community. Sherry Rehman said government has already generated a UN Flash Appeal and while humanitarian relief is pouring in from our neighbors and countries around the world, it is not nearly enough to meet the needs of millions on the ground.

She said in addition to the UN system, given the scale and immediacy of the disaster, Pakistan needs more assistance from the international community for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-hit areas and the people.

Prohibited funding case

FIA sends fourth notice to Asad Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday sent a fourth notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and summoned him on September 5 in the prohibited funding case. The FIA started an investigation against Asad Qaiser after his two accounts were revealed in the PTI prohibited funding case while he had been summoned on September 6 at 11am. FIA had earlier issued notices to Asad Qaiser on August 11, 18, and 29, but he did not appear. Agencies

Vegetable imports from India

No proposals under consideration: FO

Pakistan issues strong démarche to neighboring country on first death anniversary of Syed Ali Shah Gillani

ISLAMABAD: Clarifying that the government is in touch with countries in the broader region to facilitate the availability of vegetables, the Foreign Office has that Pakistan has no proposals under consideration to allow import of vegetables from India.

The response came after Finance Minister Miftah Ismail had earlier stated that the government might consider importing vegetables and other edible items from India.

Addressing a press brief-



ing on Thursday, FO spokesman Asim Iftikhar Ahmad announced that Pakistan

issued a strong démarche to India on the first death anniversary of Hurriyat leader

Syed Ali Shah Gillani.

"Pakistan is with Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control in paying tribute to Geelani," he said, adding that the Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the foreign affairs ministry and a strong démarche was issued over India's refusal to accept Geelani's right to burial in accordance with his will.

The veteran Kashmiri leader passed away last year at the age of 92 after being under house arrest for at least 11 years. Agencies

Over 3m children at risk as devastating floods hit Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: More than three million children are in need of humanitarian assistance and at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition due to the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history, UNICEF warned today. UNICEF is working with Government and non-government partners to respond to the urgent needs of children and families in affected areas.

33 million people - including approximately 16 million children - have been affected by this year's heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan, which have brought devastating rains, floods and landslides. Over 1,100 people including over 350 children have lost their lives, and a further 1,600 have been injured. Over 287,000 houses have

been fully, and 662,000 partially, destroyed. Some major rivers have breached their banks and dams overflowed, destroying homes, farms and critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and public health facilities.

"When disasters hit, children are always among the most vulnerable," said Abdullah Fadiil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "These floods have already taken a devastating toll on children and families, and the situation could become even worse. UNICEF is working closely with the Government and other partners to ensure that children affected get the critical support they need as soon as possible."

In affected areas, 30 per cent of water systems are estimated to have been damaged, further increasing the risk of disease outbreaks with people



resorting to open defecation and drinking unsafe water.

There are reports of significant damage to education infrastructure as 17,566 schools have been damaged/destroyed, further jeopardizing the education of children. After two years of pandemic school closures in the last few years, children once again risk

further disruption to their learning, in areas where one-third of girls and boys were already out-of-school before the crisis. The rainfall - nearly three times the national 30-year average, and more than five times the 30-year average in some provinces, has led to the Government declaring a national emergency, with 72 districts declared 'calamity hit'

- mostly in Balochistan and Sindh, the two worst-affected provinces, as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Cases of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, respiratory infection, and skin diseases have already been reported. They affect populations which are very vulnerable - 40 per cent of children already suffered from stunting, caused by chronic undernutrition, before the floods hit. The perilous humanitarian situation is expected to continue to worsen in the days and weeks ahead as heavy rains continue in regions already under water.

As part of the UN flash appeal to support the response, led by the Government of Pakistan - launched this week - UNICEF is appealing for US\$37 million, and aims to reach children and families in the coming months with support including life-

saving medical equipment, essential medicines, vaccines and safe delivery kits, safe drinking water and sanitation supplies, nutrition supplies and temporary learning centres and learning kits.

According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), Pakistan is a known 'climate hotspot' and country where children are considered 'extremely high risk' to the impacts of climate change, ranking 14th out of 163 CCRI-ranked countries and regions, placing Pakistan in the 'Extremely high risk' classification category in the Index. Children in 'Extremely high risk' countries face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks combined with high levels of underlying child vulnerability, due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, health-care and education.

Kashmiris won't rest till accomplishing Geelani mission: Mushaal

"We will continue the dream of Gilani Sahab till our last breath," she vowed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation made it clear that people of Kashmir would not rest till accomplishing the mission of Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Geelani and icon of Kashmir freedom movement to break the shackles of Indian slavery.

Speaking at an event organized by Rawalpindi District Bar Association on the first Martyrdom Anniversary of Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Geelani Baba-e-Hurriyat, she paid glowing tribute to great Kashmiri leader for his life long fight against Indian occupation.

Mushaal, who is a wife of Jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, said that Geelani gave his life in the struggle for independence of Kashmir and exposed the fascist and oppressed face of India to the world.

"We will continue the dream of Gilani Sahab till our last breath," she

vowed, adding that the determination of Geelani would always be remembered as he was uncompromising leader of Kashmir.

Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the globe observed the first martyrdom anniversary of Baba-e-Hurriyat with the pledge that they would continue their freedom struggle till getting independence from the Indian rule.

Mushaal stated that Geelani spent more than a decade in Indian prisons for this unwavering stance on Kashmir dispute.

Arshad Mujeeb Malik Advocate President Bar Rawalpindi, Secretary General Advocate Mubashir Razaq, former president high court Sardar Abdul Razzaq and Sabeen Hussain along others also spoke on the occasion.

Mushaal said that 249 years ago, the body of Baba Bulleh Shah was also desecrated as whose funeral was not even allowed. Similarly, she stated that



permission was not given to offer the funeral of Geelani and even after the burial, his grave was declared a sub-jail, depicting the unimaginable fear of the Indian government.

She said that Syed Ali Geelani was symbol of resistance against Indian occupation and torchbearer of Kashmiri freedom movement and his legacy would continue to guide and inspire Kashmir's present as well as coming

generations.

She added that Indian authorities wanted to break the resolve of the iconic leader by keeping him in detention but failed in their nefarious designs, adding that Indian authorities' policy of oppression and suppression even could not weaken his ideological allegiance with Pakistan.

She said that Syed Ali Gilani's life long struggle for the Kashmir cause would be written in golden words in the annals of Kashmir history and he remained passionate advocate of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to Pakistan all along his life.

The chairperson stated that Geelani proved prophetic who predicted over decade ago that 500,000 Biharis would be given Kashmiri citizenship, as six to seven hundred thousand army would be given citizenship to change the demography of Kashmir and afterward, India would say OK, let us have a referendum now.

Federal Ombudsman directs staff to speed up relief work in flood-hit areas

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has deputed his officers and staff for making coordinated efforts among the concerned departments for working in flood affected areas. He observed that due to the vast scale of distress and suffering of the flood affected people, his Advisors and Staff should assist NDMA, DISCO's and Government Agencies in providing urgent relief and in the process of rehabilitation work. He said that at this critical moment, no efforts should be spared to ensure due relief for the affected people. He further said that senior officers of the regional offices of the WMS, preferably the ones who have served in administration should undertake frequent visits to the flood affected places, especially in the far-flung areas, to assist the govt. agencies such as NDMA, Gas companies, DISCOs, PTCL, PTA, NHA in restoration of their services.

The teams from the WMS regional offices will identify the neglected areas and gaps in provision of relief goods and services to the victims of flood in the areas falling within their domain and bring to the notice of the agencies concerned as well as WMS Head Office. The WMS team should also work in collaboration with the offices of the Provincial Mohtasibs for the purpose of relief and rehabilitation through the provincial agencies concerned.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib urged that at this crucial moment, no effort should be spared towards this national duty. Regional offices have been directed to furnish regular reports, which will be monitored personally by the Wafaqi Mohtasib on daily basis.

264 people died so far due rains in KP: PDMA

Adam Khan Wazir

PESHAWAR: From June 15 to August 29, 2022 in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 264 people have lost their lives due to floods and rains in various districts, including 36 women and 106 children. 327 people have also been injured, those who have been shifted to nearby hospitals for medical assistance.

According to the data released by the office of Director General PDMA, 156 schools and educational institutions have also been damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged districts as a result of rains and floods during the last two months and four night.

According to the statement, 9 thousand 411 cattle have also died during this period, the areas most affected by rains and floods include Dera Ismail Khan, Sawat, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Kohistan areas where not only the loss of life has been high, but houses and crops have also been severely damaged.

Director General PDMA Sharif Hussain said on this occasion that to deal with the disaster caused by the recent floods, PDMA has released funds of 85 crore rupees to the administration of various districts since July.

While tents, foam, non-food items and other urgent needs have been provided on an emergency basis for each district, especially the most affected areas. Which has been distributed to the flood victims through the mediation of the concerned district administration.

EZ Wage, 1LINK sign pact to digitize payment channels

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The strategic alliance with 1LINK will enable EZ Wage to access all member banks on 1LINK's portal and will facilitate 24/7 disbursement in real time when employees opt to withdraw a portion of their earned wages using the state-of-the-art EZ Wage mobile application.

Singapore-based EZ Wage is one of the first financial wellness platforms in Pakistan that offers Earned Wage Access (EWA), allowing users the benefit of retrieving a portion of their hard-earned money before payday. This revolutionary employee benefit not only boosts the morale and performance of employees but also benefits employers by reducing the workload of their HR/Finance departments and does not tie up their own working capital.

Needless to say, the backdrop of inflation and global recession coupled with rigorous downsizing during the pandemic has spurred people into considering sources of borrowing money, such as friends and family as well as loan sharks which may not necessarily work in their favour in

the long run. This renders the future of digitized payments and EWA quite promising in the region.

Present at the occasion were Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO 1LINK, Fatima Batool, Founder of CEO EZ Wage and Hisham Naseem, Global CFO EZ Wage, along with their respective teams. Both parties expressed mutual interest in shifting payments to digital channels so that the end beneficiaries can become more self-reliant and secure when it comes to their money.

Hisham Naseem, Global CFO of EZ Wage commented, "This partnership with 1LINK will enable EZ Wage to fulfill its mission of revolutionizing financial wellness for the masses and will advance women empowerment and financial inclusion in the country."

Fatima Batool, CEO of EZ Wage, added, "We are honored to onboard 1LINK as our official Payment Solution Provider in Pakistan. This is another leap towards financial inclusivity and wellness for the masses. We hope that the enablement of real time withdrawals makes monetary emergencies less daunting for the employees we are catering to."

FPCCI criticizes increase in electricity tariff

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has decried the ruthless and consultation-less consecutive increases in the electricity tariff will force shut the industry across Pakistan; as achieving a break-even in the current cost of doing business environment has become impossible, leave alone being competitive in the export markets. Sheikh maintained the process which started 4 months back; and will fully reflect in electricity bills in another 2 months; means a cumulative increase of 70-80 percent, if all billing components are accounted for, i.e. base tariff, sales tax, income tax and excise duty.

100th Anniversary of Victory Day

Pakistan reaffirms solidarity, unflinching support for people, Govt of Turkiye

Reception on the occasion of Victory Day of Turkiye held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Turkiye Dr Mehmet Pacaci and Defence Attaché Brigadier Mehmet Suha Oztekin hosted a reception on the occasion of Victory Day of Turkiye.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) Gen Nadeem Raza was the chief guest who performed the cake-cutting ceremony. High commissioners, ambassadors, senior military officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces, Defence advisers and attachés of Different Countries present on the occasion.

The government and the people of Pakistan reaffirmed their solidarity and unflinching support for the people and the government of Turkiye as the country celebrated the 100th anniversary of Victory Day.

"This day, a hundred years ago, the great Turkish nation secured the ultimate victory by defeating foreign occupation and imperialism. Unyielding determination, courage and unity exhibited by the Turkish nation laid the foundation of Turkiye's liberation, independence and national sovereignty," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

He paid special tribute to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who inspired and led his compatriots to one of the most brilliant victories in world history.

The spokesperson said that in their heroic struggle against the foreign occupation through the war of Independence, the valiant Turkish nation was wholeheartedly supported by the Muslims of South Asia.

Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pacaci read out the message of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued on the occasion where he emphasised the Turkish nation's struggle for freedom.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday marking Türkiye's Victory Day. "The holiday commemorates the decisive victory in the Battle of Dumlupınar, the last battle in the Turkish War of Independence on Aug. 30, 1922. Following the battle, the Greek presence after World War I in Anatolia ended. Victory Day has been celebrated as an official holiday since 1926 and was first celebrated on Aug. 30, 1923".

Releasing a message addressing Turkish citizens, Erdogan said: "We are proud of reaching the 100th anniversary of the Great Victory. I congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our nation, our brothers in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and all our citizens living all over the world. On behalf of myself, my country and my nation, I would like to thank all our friends who share our holiday joy."

"Our nation, whose history is full of glorious victories, concluded its liberation struggle despite all kinds of poverty and impossibility with a definite and indisputable victory on Aug. 30, 1922. With the Great Victory, it has been registered once again that the lands on which we live freely today are our eternal homeland," he added.

Erdogan underlined the Turkish nation's passion for freedom in his message and said: "Rather than remain under the control of the enemy for even one day, our nation marched to martyrdom with courage that killed death and claimed its independence and future. Last-



Photos by Ghulam Farid

ly, what happened on the night of July 15 has once again shown that the unwavering will that inspired the Great Offensive is still alive in our hearts. Türkiye is taking firm steps toward building its bright and prosperous future with the strength it receives from its past."

"2023, when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our republic, will hopefully be a new milestone in which we herald the construction of a great and powerful Türkiye. With these thoughts, I commemorate with gratitude the founder of our republic, the Commander-in-Chief of the Great Offensive, Gazi Mustafa Kemal, and his comrades in arms. I wish God's mercy on our martyrs who fell to the ground as if they were entering a rose garden for the sake of our homeland, and I commemorate our veterans with gratitude. May the souls of our martyrs rest in peace and their place be in heaven. Happy August 30 Victory Day," the president said.

Later in the day, Erdo addressed the crowd to mark the anniversary of the victory in Kütahya. "We are deter-

mined to turn the century we are in into the century of Türkiye," he said during his speech.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry also issued a congratulatory message for the 100th anniversary of the August 30 victory. "Military cooperation between our countries further strengthens our unity. Azerbaijan-Turkey fraternal relations contribute to the preservation of peace and stability in the region," it said.

"The courage of the Turkish nation in the War of Independence is written in history with golden letters. The image created by the heroes of this war, their dreams of freedom and statism came true in the example of one nation and two states, Azerbaijan and Turkey," it added.

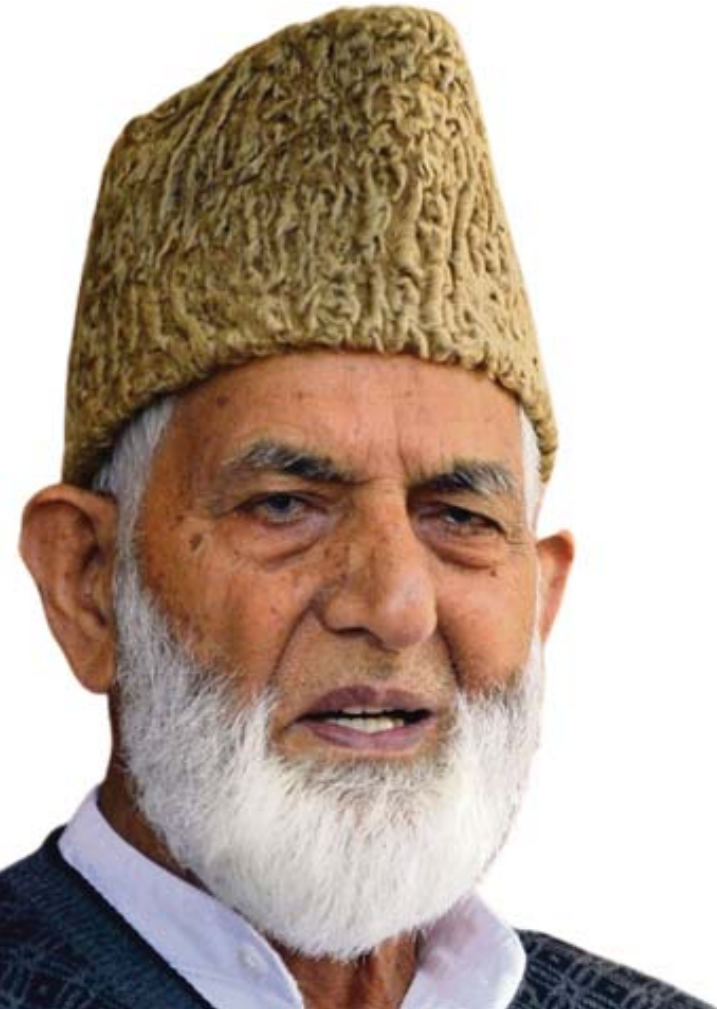
The Battle of Dumlupınar ended with Türkiye's decisive victory against occupying Greek forces in a campaign that took place between 1919 and 1922. Greek forces had invaded most of western Türkiye following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of World War I. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (then known as the Ottoman

Pasha Mustafa Kemal) hit the road in 1919 to mobilize forces to fight for Turkish independence. In a brief period of time, he managed to organize a movement with the support of the public. After dealing a crushing blow to Greek forces in the Battle of Sakarya in 1921, Mustafa Kemal's forces launched the Great Offensive one year later to push Greek forces further to the west and, eventually, force them to leave Anatolia.

Finally, the offensive began in the last week of August in 1922. Turkish forces, one by one, recaptured places invaded by Greek forces, forcing them to start retreating to western cities. On Aug. 30, the two sides confronted each other near the town of Dumlupınar, located in the present-day Kütahya province. The victory ensured the recapture of Kütahya while inflicting heavy losses on the Greek forces. It would take another two weeks before the Turkish army captured the last Greek stronghold in the western province of Izmir and cleared Anatolia of all Greek forces.

#Ham_Pakistani_Pakistan_Hamara

Every Kashmiri has become Syed Ali Geelani now tribute to legendary leader



SRINAGAR: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and abroad are paying rich tributes to the veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani on his first martyrdom anniversary, Thursday.

APHC leaders Bilal Ahmad Siddiqui

us through different and difficult phases of our freedom movement." Bilal said, the veteran leader was also a qualitative writer, a great orator and an able administrator.

On his first martyrdom anniversary, we with great reverence and regards remember the great leader for his uncompromising and unflinching determination towards the sacred cause of freedom and renew our pledge to continue our just and legal struggle till its logical end, he added.

Mir Shahid Saleem said Syed Ali Geelani was subjected to a lot of pain, trials and tribulations for his political beliefs. He said this great leader made supreme sacrifices to safeguard the political and democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Other Hurriyat leaders and organizations in their statements said that the slogan 'Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Ha' was coined by Kashmir's visionary leader Syed Ali Geelani, who remained an ardent supporter of Pakistan throughout his life.

Syed Ali Geelani, they added, was a staunch advocate of Kashmir's merger with Pakistan all his life. His devotion to free Kashmir from Indian yoke and make it part of Pakistan remained a dominating factor of his life till his last breath, they said.

Today, every single Kashmiri has become Syed Ali Geelani and "Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Ha" is reverberating in every nook & corner of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, seminars and rallies were held in Europe and other parts of the world where Kashmiris are present in large numbers to remember Syed Ali Geelani for his unparalleled sacrifices for the Kashmir cause.

and Mir Shahid Saleem in their statements on Thursday said that Syed Ali Geelani will continue to serve as a guiding force for Kashmiris' just cause of self-determination. "His able and courageous leadership will continue to guide

Syed Ali Geelani was a strong voice of Pakistan: AJK President

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Syed Ali Geelani was the strong voice of Pakistan in Occupied Kashmir who raised the slogan "Hum Pakistani hain, Pakistan Hamara hay".



In his special message released on the occasion of the first anniversary of the renowned Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani, the President said, "Geelani Sahib was a man of principle who remained stick to his ideology till the last breath of his life". The president said that Mr. Geelani was made to suffer because of his political ideology. He said that at a time when he needed intensive care, the brutal Indian army forcibly detained him and kept him under house detention for several years. Terming Geelani as a symbol of courage and perseverance, Barrister Chaudhary said that Geelani spent his entire life advocating Kashmiris' right to self-determination. "The Indian authorities' policy of oppression and suppression could not weaken his ideological allegiance with Pakistan", he said. The government of Azad Kashmir, he said, would utilize all its resources to accomplish the martyrs' mission of freedom from India and accession of the entire state to Pakistan.

PM AJK hails Syed Ali Geelani's lifelong struggle for Kashmiris' right to self-determination

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while paying eulogizing tributes to veteran liberation leader and former chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani, has said that the deceased leader was an epoch-making personality who spearheaded the freedom movement against India with utmost courage and perseverance.



In his special statement, the Prime Minister said that the political void created by the demise of the iconic leader (SAS Geelani) could never be filled easily. "Geelani was the symbol of resistance against oppression", the PM said, adding that the proud legacy left behind by him would serve as a beacon light for future generations. "Years' long trials and tribulations could not deter him (Geelani) from pursuing the collective cause of freedom", he said adding that the Babai Hurriyat (father of resistance movement) bravely faced every challenge that came in his way and stood as a rock in the face of Indian oppression. "He devoted his whole life for the freedom movement of Kashmir and the rights of Kashmiris and remained stuck to his ideology till the last breath of his life", he said, adding that he was imprisoned and detained for most of his life, but these trials and tribulations could not dampen his undying spirit and passion for the freedom of Kashmir. Referring to the continued bloodshed and unending violence in the region, the PM recalled that 147 Kashmiri youth were subjected to extra-judicial killing by the Indian army in 117 different incidents this year. "Only in the month of August, 16 Kashmiris were killed in fake encounters", the PM said, adding that three Kashmiri youths were killed in a fake encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district yesterday.

The PM urged the United Nations and other human rights organizations should take effective notice of the matter and hold the Indian government accountable for the crimes its army has been committing in the held territory. He said that the Indian occupying forces have been given a free license to kill innocent Kashmiris. "The United Nations, OIC and other influential world institutions should take notice of the ongoing brutality and barbarism in Occupied Kashmir and play their role to resolve the lingering dispute that has been the main cause and consequence of rights violations and bloodshed in the region", the PM added.

Life of Syed Ali Geelani was a metaphor of courage: Sardar Atiq



MUZAFFARABAD: Supreme Head of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan has said that the life of Syed Ali Geelani was a metaphor of courage and perseverance. He transferred the struggle against the usurpation of India to the next generation. In his messages on the occasion of the first anniversary of Syed Ali Geelani, he said that the people of Occupied Kashmir were making sacrifices for the right of self-determination and freedom despite the very adverse conditions. India tried to destroy the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris by using all methods of oppression and oppression, but personalities like Syed Ali Geelani played an important role in keeping the Kashmiri people standing against Indian atrocities and occupation. India kept them in prisons for years. And even after his death, he was buried in the darkness of night due to public reaction, but now instead of being deceived by India, the youth of Kashmir is carrying forward the burnt torch of Syed Ali Geelani and other martyrs. The time is not far when these sacrifices will pay off and India will have to leave Kashmir in disgrace, he added.

SYED ALI GEELANI THE MAN AND THE MYSTIQUE

Amjed Jaaved

Syed Ali Shah Geelani was born in Zurimanj village (Bandipora tehsil), in the Baramulla district of North Kashmir on September 29, 1929. He died on 1st September 2021 while under house arrest (Aug 5, 2019 until September 1, 2021) for over a decade. Freedom lovers including Kashmiri Diaspora in different countries have decided to commemorate his death anniversary in a befitting manner.

His house remained heavily barricaded until his death. He was denied access to the internet and other communication facilities. Geelani's passport was seized in 1981. Though he suffered from renal cancer, he was not allowed to travel abroad for treatment.

When he died, Indian forces whisked away his dead body and buried it at a deserted place. That's why Kashmiris regard his death as a custodial killing.

Vision and struggle

Geelani was a farsighted leader. He never compromised on the demand for self-determination. He even opposed Pervez Musharraf's "innovative" proposals for resolving the Kashmir dispute. He understood that India wants to change the demography of the disputed state. He also realised that India's draconian laws, meant for nabbing timber mafia, would be applied to freedom lovers to stifle their voice. He vehemently opposed these laws particularly the Public Safety Act.

He was a symbol of indomitable resistance. During his incarceration in Indian jails, he was subjected to physical and mental torture.

Geelani played an active role in the formulation of the Muslim United Front (MUF) in 1987 ahead of provincial elections, against pro-India parties, including Nation-



al Conference. However, only four platform candidates, including Geelani, managed to secure seats due to rigging. Geelani, along with three other winners, was jailed by India.

In 1992, the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference (APHC) was

set up. It was meant to serve as a platform for 30 pro-freedom parties.

In August 2004, Geelani along with Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai launched Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (Movement of Freedom). He spearheaded mass civil uprisings post-2008.

In 2010 he led the move-

ment against the killing of three civilians in a fake encounter along the LoC in the Machil area of Kupwara district by Indian forces. In 2016 Geelani, along with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik organized protests against the killing of Burhan Wani by Indian forces.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani

29 September 1929 - 1 September 2021

The Epitome of Struggle for Freedom Pakistan Salutes You!

We reaffirm our commitment to side shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiris in their struggle for right to self-determination

انشاء اللہ! کشمیر بنے گا پاکستان #SyedAliShahGeelani



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SDGs: The possible solutions for Global issues



Raja Furqan Ahmed

Analysis

The term Sustainable development is defined as an approach to developing or growing by using resources in a way that allows for them to renew or continue existing for others. The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to the development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, political, social and economic limitations we face as a society. In simple terms, through sustainable development, we can recognize that what we do today to make our lives better should not have a negative consequence for our children or their children/future generation. Sustainable development is a common

agenda for global concern, which everybody agrees upon. It also highlights today world issue such as global warming, climate change, Overpopulation, Poverty, Racial discrimination, Global pandemic etc. It is generally the balance between economic growth, care for the environment and social well-being. After the industrial revolution, people-focused towards the technological advancement and development and due to the industrialization, the world started fear from the changes across the world. Air pollution, climate change as well as forest degradation play a key role in the world to think about the destruction of the earth as a planet.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states. The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, are a call from the United Nations to all countries around the world to address the great challenges that humanity faces and to ensure that all people have the same opportunities to live a better life without compromising our planet.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has 17 goals with 169 targets

that all 191 UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2030. Each of the 17 SDGs has specific targets to be achieved by 2030. The goals and targets are universal, means that they apply to all countries around the world, not just poor countries but developing countries have to follow. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts either it can be governments, businesses, civil society, non-governmental organization (NGOs), IGO's and people everywhere around the globe.

Let's discuss the 17th SDGs goals according to the United Nations. The first goal of SDGs is No Poverty. This goal-focused to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Next is Zero Hunger which emphasized to End hunger, achieves food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture. Good Health and Well-being is the third goal of SDGs which concentrate to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Quality Education, the fourth SDG goal stress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Next is Gender Equality which points out Gender equal-

ity and empowers all women and girls. Clean Water and Sanitation Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Affordable and Clean Energy also ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Decent Work and Economic Growth which Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, the nine-goal of SDGs focus to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. Reducing Inequality talk about Reduce income inequality within and among countries. Sustainable Cities and Communities emphasis to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Responsible Consumption and Production focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Another major SDGs goal includes the Climate Action in which it takes urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.

Life below Water and Life on Land are also the major goals of SDGs which focused on Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Next is Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions which Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The last goal of SDGs is Partnerships for the Goals in which Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalizes the global partnership for sustainable development.

As the SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. The goals provide the gateway to the state for their development. Now, this is the prior responsibility of the state to achieve goals before the year 2030.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqanraja1122.

Geelani symbol of Kashmiris' struggle

Syed Ali Geelani was the symbol of Kashmiri freedom movement. Geelani always raised the slogan that we are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours. This slogan is reverberating in every part of the world. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his message on first death anniversary of the great Kashmir leader, said that the struggle of Syed Ali Gilani was a golden chapter in the history of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as well as the Kashmir freedom movement. The PM said that late Syed Ali Gilani was a symbol of Kashmir freedom and the title of "Baba-e-Hurriyat" (father of freedom movement) by the Kashmiris was in fact the recognition of his historic struggle. "Syed Ali Gilani was not merely an individual rather a movement and a mission with the slogan of 'Kashmir to become Pakistan,'" he remarked.

Therefore, India must remember that by snatching the mortal remains of late Ali Gilani, India could not take away the Kashmiris' passion for freedom. "The people of Pakistan and Kashmir salute Syed Ali Gilani. His slogan "We are Pakistani and Pakistan is ours" still echoes across the world," the PM commented. The prime minister said that Syed Ali Gilani remained as relevant to the freedom struggle today as he had been in life.

Syed Ali Geelani was a great freedom fighting leader and a revolutionist. His political struggle has always been praised and will always be remembered by the Kashmiri people and the worldwide. His motive isn't left behind but everything seems deserted without his voice. His absence can't be filled but his efforts and struggle will continue to lead the Kashmiris people in their just struggle for freedom from Indian occupation. His greatest slogan of all time, "We are Pakistani and Pakistan is ours", is seen as the symbol of love for Pakistan and is still used as a slogan on various protests by Kashmiri people. With the aim set by a great freedom leader Syed Ali Gilani, Kashmiris will win their right to self-determination and ultimate freedom from Indian clutches.

Indian government used all forms of atrocities like a long period of over 12 years of house arrest against him, but he didn't fall behind. It is because of his efforts that all the Kashmiri people are standing behind his motive to take freedom from the Indian oppression. He told the world that our efforts will never be halted, until we achieve the right of self-determination and freedom. Syed Ali Geelani and his motive will always be in our heart, and with the blessing of Almighty Allah we will achieve it very soon. Today, his enthusiasm was anticipated in the Kashmiri youth, when they were out on the streets of Srinagar despite of large contingent of Indian army.

Kashmiri people want solution of Kashmir dispute in line with the United Nations resolutions. The UN, OIC and Amnesty International must take concrete steps for the resolution of this outstanding dispute. The Kashmiri people will continue fighting against Indian oppression, until they achieve their right of self-determination.



Food insecurity heats up with rising temperatures

To understand the globalized nature of our food system, look no further than your morning cup of coffee. That jolt of caffeine comes to your table via an elaborate network of some 25 million coffee farmers from Brazil to Vietnam, who are linked to the world by a far-flung supply chain of traders, roasters, financiers, shippers, grocery stores and cafes.

Coffee is the second-most-traded commodity in the world after crude oil and it comprises a \$466 billion industry, landing in your cup in no small part due to the fossil fuels that power the ships and create the packaging. Coffee is globalization in a mug.

But coffee is not alone. Our food system comprises a world of ever-connecting supply webs crisscrossing seas and continents, bringing Mediterranean olive oil and Californian almonds, Ukrainian wheat and Indian rice, and West African cocoa and Brazilian soybeans to markets worldwide. Our ecosystem of food is relentlessly global, creating an abundance the likes of which has never been seen before in human history.

That same abundance fueled by globalization has a flip side: Sudden disruptions can wreak havoc, leading to food insecurity and mass hunger. We have experienced three major disruptive events in the past two and a half years: The COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and, more recently, ongoing droughts and historic heat waves from the US West Coast to Europe and China.

The last of these problems, driven by rising temperatures, could prove to be the most disruptive over the long term. Consider the havoc in Europe today. Spain, Portugal, France and Italy have all recently suffered

historic heat waves and some of the worst droughts on record. This one-two punch of heat and drought has lowered river levels, withered crops, taxed electricity grids and slowed manufacturing.

Lower river levels mean less hydropower. Diminishing hydropower capabilities have come at a very challenging time for Europe's energy infrastructure, given the meteoric rise in natural gas prices. Germany is using more coal — the most polluting fossil fuel — to get by. However, lower river levels have even complicated coal usage: Ships that carry the coal on the Rhine are paralyzed.

European governments have deeper buffers and stronger supply chain safeguards than most countries worldwide. While the current disruptions will be painful, we will not see mass levels of food insecurity or hunger. Not so for the Horn of Africa. The most extreme drought in four decades has left some 18 million people across Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia struggling to find enough food to eat, while tens of millions face varying levels of food insecurity.

As for the Middle East and North Africa region, the World Food Program of the UN has issued a stark warning: A major crisis is growing across the region, with 73 million people across 14 countries lacking access to sufficient food supplies. While some of the worst-hit countries are plagued by factors beyond climate, such as war, mismanagement or corruption, the climate-food nexus will play a prominent role in the region's future.

A recent International Monetary Fund report noted that climate disasters displace 7 million people a year across the Middle East and Central Asia. On average, climate disasters also lead to 2,600 deaths and \$2 billion

in damage annually. These numbers only tell the story of disastrous events. They fail to capture the long-term health effects of everyday air pollution or bouts of inadequate food consumption for children.

Further exacerbating the problem, the MENA region is the most water-scarce in the world, according to the Population Reference Bureau. As the bureau notes, the region is home to only 1.4 percent of the world's renewable fresh water despite hosting some 6.3 percent of the world's population. Demographic pressures on the water supply are set to persist over the next two decades.

Droughts have also hit China. Several Chinese provinces have experienced their worst dry spells in more than six decades. This has slowed manufacturing, disrupted supply chains and dented Chinese demand. China has been a major demand engine for Arabian Gulf oil and gas over the past two decades. Any signs of faltering demand can weaken oil prices.

Extreme weather volatility should now be considered the norm, not an outlier. Our food systems should not be surprised by such volatility. The climate-food nexus needs better safeguards. As the next two global climate gatherings are scheduled to take place in the MENA region — in Egypt in 2022 and the UAE in 2023 — the climate-food nexus should be at the top of the agenda.

This is about more than just the rising cost of your morning latte. For many in the world, the climate-food nexus is about life or death.

Afshin Molavi is a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and editor and founder of the Emerging World newsletter. Courtesy Arab News

Palestinian prisoners demand to be treated with dignity

Daoud Kuttab

The images of Khalil Awawdeh released last week were jarring. After 178 days of abstaining from food, the body of this protesting Palestinian prisoner was nothing more than bones and skin. On seeing those photos, no one with any humanity in them could fail to empathize with a prisoner protesting a system that detains people without charge or trial.

Rescinding the use of administrative detention as a punishment is just one of the demands of the nearly 5,000 Palestinian prisoners of Israel. They have started preliminary actions, which are due to escalate on Sept. 1 to a nationwide open hunger strike.

In perspective, the demands of the prisoners are not that hard to accomplish. They comply with international humanitarian law and many of them are demands that the Israeli prison authorities have previously granted but then rescinded. Some were used on all prisoners last year because of the jailbreak by six Palestinians from Gilboa Prison. All escapees were caught and reimprisoned.

Hunger striking is not new. In fact, it is one of the most powerful nonviolent tools that prisoners have long used to gain simple basic rights and, most importantly, to demand dignity and to be treated in a humane way. This means family visits, the availability of basic food items, ending the constant use of solitary confinement, and ending detention without trial or charge as a means of punishment.

Administrative detention was introduced to the legal system in Palestine during the British mandate and was part of the 1945 emergency regulations. It was supposed to be used temporarily and was aimed at detaining individuals for a short time in order to prevent violence. Israel has not only adopted this draconian and undemocratic practice, but has also used it as a punishment rather than as a deterrent, prompting the prisoners' protests.

What danger can a frail Palestinian like Awawdeh pose to the security of one of the region's most powerful countries? Can anyone with a sane mind believe that simply shifting the status of a hospital-laden prisoner from detainee to free man will endanger the national security of the state of Israel?

Palestinian prisoners are known to be disciplined and committed. When they say they will declare an open hunger strike, they mean it. They will abstain from taking food for days, weeks and months until they reach an agreement with prison authorities. It is noteworthy that their demands include a request for freedom only for those who have not been charged or tried — this is hardly a dangerous demand for a country that claims day and night to be the only democracy in the region and, even more ridiculously, to operate the most moral army in the world.

A democratic country does not hold individuals without charge or trial. Palestinians have asked their lawyers to no longer represent them during the Israeli attempts to secure a military court review of the claims of secret documents, which supposedly lay behind the decisions to detain individuals, usually for six months, which can be and are renewed numerous times.

Awawdeh follows the example of others before him, who have made huge sacrifices with their own bodies to make sure that the world understands the injustices they have suffered. Israel may not have any direct reason to charge or try Awawdeh or the 700 other administrative detainees, but make no mistake they are guilty of something honorable: Of standing up to the occupier and oppressor; something powerful countries and leaders seem to be afraid of doing. They are also guilty of insisting on demanding an end to a foreign military occupation that rules their country and oppresses their people. If that is a crime, then we are all guilty of the crime of wanting to live in dignity and freedom.

Daoud Kuttab is an award-winning Palestinian journalist from Jerusalem. Courtesy Arab News

ADIB Egypt partners with SimpliFi to boost e-payments

Collaboration came in line with bank's objective to expand its portfolio

CAIRO: Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank-Egypt (ADIB Egypt) teamed up with SimpliFi, a Cards as a Service (CaaS) platform in MENA and Pakistan, to scale up the digital payments ecosystem in Egypt.

The collaboration came in line with the bank's objective to expand its portfolio and enhance its digital solutions, according to a recent press release.

Through the partnership, firms in the Arab Republic will be able to issue, manage, and run their own card programmes.

Mohamed Aly, CEO and Managing Director of ADIB-Egypt, said: "[The collaboration] allows us to empower Egyptian companies by issuing payment cards as a gateway to more integrated financial digitisation, aligning with the Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) vision towards expanding the efficiency and use of e-payments."

Ahmed Effat, Consumer Banking Head at ADIB-Egypt, noted: "Our partnership with SimpliFi is a pivotal step along our digitisation journey."

Effat elaborated: "Its value is not only limited to leveraging the company's integrated expertise in technology and digital payments but will include its extensive network of relationships with companies in Egypt as well as startups across [MENA] that are looking to enter the Egyptian market."

During the first half (H1) of 2022, the lender registered consolidated net profits worth EGP 1.01 billion, an annual hike of 48.40% from EGP 680.15 million, including minority interest.



CPA receives requests from 3 alliances to establish 'digital banking' in Kuwait



KUWAIT CITY: The Competition Protection Authority has received requests from 3 alliances to establish digital banks in Kuwait, including 7 listed companies, noting that the authority's officials have begun studying the competitive weights that can arise from these alliances in the future, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources pointed out that the three licensing applications submitted include the Boubyan Bank's alliance with Zain Telecom Group and other 'undeclared' investors, the alliance of 'Oore-doo', Warba Bank, the Kuwait Investment Company and Al-Manar Finance and Leasing Company, in addition to the alliance of Kuwait and Middle East Financial Investment Company. KMEFIC is with 'undeclared' investors, noting that there are a set of requests to establish digital banks submitted by unlisted entities.

Contrary to expectations, 'Agility' did not submit a request to the Central Bank of Kuwait within the specified deadline, which ended at the end of last June, which means that the company retracted its efforts to establish a digital bank, according to its disclosure on the stock exchange website on August 22, 2021.

The sources suggested that the Central Bank's approvals regarding licensing digital banks would not exceed the granting of licenses to two independent banks only, bearing in mind that the Central Bank will announce the names that meet the conditions and criteria at the end of 2022. According to the nature of advanced alliances, KMEFIC and others are the only ones that do not operate in accordance with Islamic law, which increases the chances of licensing them.

BisB managers earn CIBAFI's Islamic Banker Certification



MANAMA: Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), a leading Islamic bank, has announced the participation of several of its managers in the Certified Islamic Banker (CIB) programme by the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI). The course included six key components: Introduction to Islamic Finance Transactions, Islamic Banking System, Finance Operations, Investment Operations, Banking Services and Sharia Supervision for Islamic Financial Institutions. Some 20 employees attended the training workshop and 10 employees set for an extensive evaluation at the end of the Programme and successfully obtained CIB certification, they are: Jawad Humaidan - Chief Corporate & Institutional Banking Officer, Dalal Al Rayes - Head of Human Resources, Nada Ishaq - Board Secretary, Nada AlBastaki - Manager Risk Governance, Ayman Ahmed - Budaiya Branch Manager, Rasha Al Balbisi - senior manager of legal affairs, Sidharth Kumar Head of Corporate & Liquidity Risk, Sohail Kabir, Head of Operational Risk, Mohammed Memon - Card Development Manager, and Farid Najafov - Group Head of Taxation. Afnan Saleh, Chief Human Resources Officer at BisB, said: "The CIB programme helped participants gain a more enhanced understanding of Islamic financing requirements as well as the processes of preparing and executing Islamic financing transactions and corporate governance, comes as a part of BisB's commitment towards continually developing its employees and their skills." The CIB programme aims to acquaint the employees to Islamic finance institutions with a more broadened understanding of the field while improving their skillset and capabilities by providing them professional knowledge that will guide them in further developing their careers.

Oman's Alizz Islamic Bank offers home finance at only 4.75%

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has launched flexible finance choices for those looking to purchase or build their new home at a profit rate of 4.75% only. Home Finance, approved by the banks Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB), offers easy, quick and flexible financing. This comes in line with the bank's vision to provide fast, safe and innovative digital solutions to carry out financial transactions for its customers.

Home Finance is available for locals and residents working in the public sector with a minimum monthly salary of 300 OMR, or the private sector with a minimum monthly salary of 350 OMR including business owners, with flexible payment options for up to 20 years and financing up to 80% of the value of the property. Alizz Islamic Bank is proud of its role in helping customers to secure their dream homes while observing the provisions of Sharia. The bank has been continuously working on improving its services and product offering through continuous engagement with customers to thoroughly understand their needs.

Alizz Islamic Bank offers various Home Finance solutions that provide customer's the option to purchase a home using a proportionate portion



of their monthly income. The bank is always keen to help customers achieve their goals through a variety of solutions.

Customers that are interested can apply for finance by visiting any of Alizz Islamic Bank branches across the Sultanate. They can also call the customer service center on the banks 24-hour toll

free number 80072265 for answers to all their financing enquires.

As one of the first full-fledged Islamic banks in the Sultanate, Alizz Islamic Bank seeks to provide Islamic banking solutions and products inspired by the Sharia and approved by its Sharia Supervisory Board.

Seven Kuwaiti banks among 1000 largest banks in world

KUWAIT CITY: The Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Banks, Dr. Wissam Fattouh, stated that according to an analytical study issued by the General Secretariat of the Union, Kuwait ranked fourth in terms of the number of banks that entered the list of the largest 1000 banks in the world, with 7 Kuwaiti banks on the list, topped by the National Bank of Kuwait, the Kuwait Finance House, Burgan Bank, the Gulf Bank, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Al-Ahli Bank and the Kuwait Industrial Bank, reports Al-Rai daily.

He explained that the total core capital of these banks amounts to about \$29.8 billion, and they also manage assets estimated at \$272.4 billion, pointing out that the financial data available to Arab banks for the end of 2021 show that 72 Arab banks entered the mentioned list, where the total capital reached The main base of the 72 Arab banks is about \$374.9 billion, while their assets amounted to \$3.4 trillion.

Fattouh pointed out that the UAE recorded the largest number of Arab banks that entered the list of the largest 1000 banks in the world, as 14 Emirati banks were included in it,



followed by Saudi Arabia (10 banks), Bahrain and Qatar (8 banks), then Egypt and Kuwait (7 banks each), the Sultanate of Oman and Morocco (5 banks each), Jordan (4 banks), and finally Tunisia and Lebanon (two banks each).

He stated that Saudi banks are in the lead with respect to the total core capital, which amounted to about \$115.1 billion, followed by UAE banks (\$89.8 billion), Qatari banks (\$54.9 billion), Kuwaiti banks (\$29.8 billion) and Egyptian banks (\$25.4 billion).

As for assets, UAE banks topped the list in terms of total assets, which amounted to about \$35.4 billion, followed by Saudi

banks (808.8 billion dollars), Qatar (535.2 billion dollars), and then Egyptians (354.9 billion dollars).

Fattouh pointed out that there are 18 Arab Islamic banks in the list of the largest 1000 banks in the world according to the basic capital for the year 2021, distributed as follows - 4 Islamic banks for each of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, 3 Islamic banks in Kuwait, two banks in Bahrain, and one bank in Egypt, indicating that the study he prepared is based on data issued by 'The Banker' magazine during the month of July 2022, which includes the 1000 largest banks in the world according to Tier 1 capital by the end of 2021.

Egypt's FRA issues first license for Islamic microfinance activity

CAIRO: Chairperson of the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) Mohamed Farid revealed that the authority issued its first license to a financial institution to engage in financing micro enterprises according to Islamic financing formulas.

Farid explained that issuing the new license adds a new dimension to the existing financing mechanisms in the local market in terms of innovating the "agency investment formula." The formula is a contract in which another person is authorised to invest an amount of money owned in favour of the investor in return for a specified fee or a sum or a percentage of the invested money.

He added that the authority is currently looking into the option of issuing the necessary approvals to allow using products based on other main forms of Islamic financing - including murabaha and all types of musharaka for other companies - to be applied for the first time with the non-banking micro-enterprise sector.

Farid highlighted the importance of diversifying the applications of financing formulas in general to

finance micro-enterprises, adding that this would help accelerate the pace of addressing the problem of the informal economy through integrating new segments of micro-enterprise owners into the formal sector for the first time. This would eventually help with positive rates in achieving the objectives of the state's strategy towards financial inclusion.

Activity statistics at the end of July 2022 indicate that the number of beneficiaries of microfinance services reached about 3.8m with a financing portfolio of about EGP 33.3bn, 60% of which - or 2.3 million beneficiaries - were women. Also, young people of both genders constituted 64% of the total beneficiaries.

It is worth noting that after Egyptian microfinance company Maksab obtained a new license to engage in microfinance activity based on the application of the agency financing by investment formula for its various financing products, the number of companies licensed by the authority to engage in microfinance activity in the country jumped to 19.

The investment agency can vary,



as it can be classified as a general, private, absolute, restricted, temporary, non-temporary, paid, or unpaid agency.

This formula allows the finances of the funding bodies to be invest-

ed with clients with trustworthy creditworthiness (agents) in all economic activities. In return, the agent receives a sum of money, as the agreement between the two parties entail.

UAE central bank urges IFIs to appoint Emiratis as trainees

ABU DHABI: In line with the leadership's vision and the CBUAE's commitment to implement the Emiratisation strategy in the financial sector, the Higher Shari'ah Authority at the CBUAE ("HSA") has issued a Resolution encouraging Islamic financial institutions ("IFIs") to appoint UAE nationals as trainee members at the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees to train them in Islamic Finance Fatwa.

The Resolution includes guidance for IFIs on the membership of the trainees, required qualifications and competencies, appointments process, as well as, training and development plan for the trainee members.

The IFIs that should not have less than five members in the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees may appoint two trainees as members of the ISSC to serve for the fifth membership. The two trainee members will be considered for one full membership.

The trainee members do not have the right to vote on the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees resolutions, but may participate in discussions, research and other tasks that Committees may delegate to them. A trainee member may become a full ISSC member, with the entitlement to vote, after completing at least three years as a trainee member and meeting the specific qualification requirements.

The Resolution specified the qualifications and competencies required for train-



ee members, including holding a Masters' degree or its equivalent (as a minimum) in Islamic Shari'ah, particularly in the jurisprudence of transactions, from a recognised university for its Shari'ah studies, or have a minimum of five years' experience in fatwas related to the jurisprudence of financial transactions. In addition, trainee members should have a minimum of five years of academic experience in post-graduate teaching, Shari'ah supervision, Islamic finance or fatwas.

The Resolution also requires IFIs to establish a training and development plan for trainee members, which will include a minimum number of professional certificates to be obtained, which are issued by specified international organisations.

