



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ ہم سے سنی گئے ہیں کیا ہم سے کوئی نے بیان کیا ان سے سفیان نے ان سے ابو حازم نے اور ان سے صحابی کلب بن سعد رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ایک آدمی سے فرمایا کہ نکاح کرو، تو بولو ہے کیا ایک انگوٹھی پر ہی ہو۔ (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5150)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Elections will be held on time in 2023: Asif

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said that the general elections will not be held as per the demands of PTI Chairman Imran Khan but the country will go to polls at its designated time in 2023. The defence minister maintained that Khan's strategy was all about "destroying the establishment", adding that since the no-confidence motion to oust him from power has become successful, he "wants the establishment to support him".



India cannot change IIOJK demography under UN resolutions: Attique

President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmed has said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a part of Kashmir geographically, linguistically, historically, culturally. Taking into account the geographical, historical and ground realities of Kashmir, the leadership of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference had decided to associate with Pakistan even before the establishment of Pakistan. News on Page 2

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Queen Elizabeth II death

Pakistan declares state-mourning



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has announced one-day state mourning in memory of the UK's Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday, September 8.

The national flag will fly at half-mast on Monday, September 12, according to a government notification.

The foreign ministry had proposed the one day of mourning for the UK's Queen, who was also the head of the Commonwealth of Nations. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the mourning and instructed the cabinet division to make arrangements.

Pakistan is a Commonwealth member but unlike Commonwealth realms where the king or queen of the UK is seen as the head of the state, it is a republic.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said a day of mourning would be observed across the country on Monday over the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has given approval to (a proposal) of observing a day of mourning over demise of the Queen of the United Kingdom. September 12 (Monday) will be observed as the day of mourning in Pakistan," she added.

Unending Miseries

BUDHAPUR: Internally displaced people wade through floodwaters area of BudhaPur some 60 km from Hyderabad in Jamshoro district.



Photo: Online

Info over relief assistance

Digital Flood Dashboard to ensure transparency

Upon directive of PM, the DFD will be formally launched by Minister for Planning, Dy. Chairman NFRCC

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Upon the directive of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, a 'Digital Flood Dashboard' (DFD) to ensure transparency over flood relief assistance and its distribution system, will be formally launched by Minister for Planning, Deputy Chairman National Flood Response and Coordination Center Ahsan Iqbal on Monday.

It would provide direct information to the general public about the financial support and the relief goods being received and distributed among the flood affectees at the global, federal and provincial levels.

Nation pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam for untiring struggle: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the entire nation paid tribute to the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his untiring struggle, sagacity and leadership qualities which led to securing of Muslims' rights in the sub-continent. In a series of tweets, the prime minister said today, the nation was observing 74th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation. Without his dynamic leadership, the dream of a sovereign state for the Muslims of India would not have come true.

An announcement in this regard was made during a meeting chaired by the prime minister. The meeting comprehensively reviewed the ongoing rescue and relief activities in the flood-hit areas.

The prime minister was

apprised that as per his directive, a digital flood dashboard had been prepared with the use of the latest technology to provide all the relevant details about the relief activities and receipt and distribution of relief goods and assistance.

Besides, ensuring transparency in the ongoing processes, the general public and media would be kept abreast of the relief measures.

The prime minister would personally supervise the digital dashboard as he had promised to the international community and the nation that relief assistance would be provided to the flood victims in a transparent way. The launching of this dashboard would be a step in this regard.

The prime minister had also announced that the audit of the financial aid received for the flood victims would be conducted by the AGPR and the world's reputed audit firm for the sake of transparency.

For creating chaos

People will not respond to IK's call: Marriyum

Info Minister says Imran Khan's call for protest is another hoax

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Sunday said the people would not respond to the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for creating chaos, anarchy and violence in the country.

"Imran Khan's call for protest is another hoax as people do not pay heed to those who ridicule the Election Commission and hurl threats on judiciary," Marriyum said in a news statement.

Those who are involved in smear campaigns against the martyrs of the Army and hatched conspiracy to create Sri Lanka like economic turmoil did not get response from the people, she added.

She said that the people had unanimously responded to the call of Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif who appealed them to help the flood affected people.

The minister castigated Imran Khan for abandoning his people in midway of a protest which he announced by himself. He bent on creating chaos and anarchy instead of joining the whole nation in flood relief and rehabilitation efforts.

She said that Imran Khan, who was mired in his ego, wanted to ruin every institution, people and national interests. Imran Khan again wants to reinstall corrupt model of governance in the country by imposing people like Usman Buzdar, Farah Gogi and Bushra, she alleged.

Marriyum said that Imran Khan, who had announced the so-called "Haqeeqi Azadi" (real freedom) movement, hired services of a former CIA chief for improving his image in the United States.

'Unelected institutions don't represent people'

Fawad Chaudhry says ECP facing "administrative crisis"

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said political parties are supposed to represent the people as opposed to "unelected" institutions.

Chaudhry, while speaking during a press conference in Islamabad, said that the decisions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) are made in closed rooms.

"The body utilises taxpayers' money but then suddenly cancels the elections," the former information and broadcasting minister said.

He said that the ECP was facing an "administrative crisis due to the incompetence of the Chief Election Commission-

er Sikandar Sultan Raja and his team". Chaudhry said that his party had filed a reference against ECP members in the Supreme Judicial Council but it has not been heard yet.

Berating Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chaudhry said that the premier took his oath the same day he was supposed to be indicted. The PTI leader then criticised the judiciary and said: "If justice is being done in this country, then it should be visible to everyone," he said.

The former minister further added that state institutions should be on the same page and acknowledge that political parties represent the will of the people, while "unelected institutions do not represent the people".

Iraq to increase no. of visas for Pakistani devotees

Othman Ali Farhood Moshir Al-Ghanimi and Rana Sanaullah also agreed to take steps to promote Pakistan-Iraq ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Iraq has announced to increase the number of visas for Pakistani Zaireen and open all entry points for them. The announcement was made by Iraqi Interior Minister Othman Ali Farhood Moshir Al-Ghanimi during a telephonic conversation with Pakistani counterpart Rana Sanaullah on Sunday.

Earlier, Rana Sanaullah had requested his Iraqi counterpart to allow five thousand stranded Pakistani Zaireen at Iran border to enter Iraq.

He also requested for issuance of special visas to Pakistani Zaireen wishing to visit Iraq for upcoming Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and to permanently open Iran-Iraq border for them.

Iraq assured to allow 5000 Pakistani pilgrims stranded on Iran-Iraq border to enter Iraq and to issue special visa to pilgrims wish-



ing to visit Iraq for Chehlum Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah had requested his Iraqi counterpart to allow five thousand stranded Pakistani Zaireen at Iran border to enter Iraq which was agreed by the Iraqi counterpart.

Iraqi Interior Minister Othman Ali Farhood Moshir Al-Ghanimi welcomed all suggestions of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and assured prompt implementation on them.

It was also agreed to form a Pakistan-Iraq joint committee for a sustainable

solution to other problems including pilgrims.

Both the Interior Ministers also agreed to take steps to promote Pakistan-Iraq relations and improve coordination between the Interior Ministries.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah also thanked his counterpart for speedy processing of visa applications and increasing the number and issuing special visa permits for devotees. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah invited Iraqi Interior Minister Usman Ali Farhuda to visit Pakistan soon.

Flood-hit power transmission system fully restored: Dastgir

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan said that the flood affected power transmission system has been fully restored across the country.

Addressing a news conference in Gujranwala on Sunday, he said the transmission system was badly damaged by the unprecedented floods, as power poles were washed away in some areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Replying to a question, the Minister said load shedding has been controlled during summer by running all power plants in the country.

He said the oil and power prices are likely to decrease from next month which will also help to lower prices of other items.

Khurram Dastgir said the difficult time has been passed and now economic conditions will improve gradually. He said this is the time to help the flood affectees rather than doing politics.

Partnership

US looks to bolster trade, security ties with Pakistan: Chollet

Says the US and Pakistan have a robust partnership based on decades of bilateral cooperation and support

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Counselor of the U.S. Department of State, Derek Chollet and a delegation of senior U.S. government officials from the Department of State, Department of Defense, U.S. Agency for International Development and the White House National Security Council visited Islamabad and Karachi Sept 7-9 to meet with senior government officials, civil society members and private sector leaders to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Pakistan, highlight the importance of bilateral partnership, and reaffirm shared goals.

While in Pakistan, Counselor Chollet discussed a wide range of issues, including strengthening trade and investment ties, cooperating to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, advancing the bilateral health partnership, expanding our people-to-people connections, and conveying U.S. solidarity with the Pakistani people in addressing the humanitarian crisis caused by destructive flooding throughout the country. Counselor Chollet serves as a senior policy advisor to U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, said a press release issued by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on



Derek Chollet

Sunday. "This has been a very productive visit to Pakistan, and I'm honored to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations," said Counselor Chollet. "The United States and Pakistan have a robust partnership based on decades of bilateral cooperation and support. We look forward to strengthening our relationship in trade, investment, clean energy, health, security, education, and other shared priorities."

During his meetings, Counselor Chollet offered condolences on behalf of the United States on the devastation caused by widespread flooding in

Pakistan and emphasized U.S. sympathy and support for people who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Bhutto-Zardari, Counselor Chollet discussed the \$53.1 million dollars in humanitarian assistance provided by the United States this year to support disaster resilience and flood response, with \$50.1 million for emergency flood relief in addition to \$3 million in programming provided earlier to bolster disaster resilience.

This funding from the United States will provide Pakistani communities with urgent humanitarian supplies for those most affected, while also building resilience against future natural disasters and helping to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.

In Islamabad, Counselor Chollet met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss strengthening the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship, including increased cooperation on trade and investment, climate, and health. The Counselor highlighted the strong bilateral health partnership between the United States and Pakistan, particularly the U.S. commitment to donate more than 77 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Pakistan.

Deliberation

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail and Governor Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in a group photo with the delegation of businessmen at Governor House, Lahore on Sunday.



Photo: Online

6 months required to drain out floodwater: CM Sindh



KARACHI: Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that three to six months will be required to drain out rain and floodwater from submerged areas of Sindh.

CM Shah accompanied by acting governor of Sindh Siraj Durrani, was talking to media here. "Flooding and rainfall have destroyed thousands of houses in Sindh with around 1500 deaths," chief minister said. "The people have lost livestock of around 50 billion rupees," he said.

"Around 350 billion rupees losses to the farmers reported in the province," Murad Ali Shah said.

"We have asked the United Nations Secretary General, not about funds, but the need of medicines and other essential items," chief minister said.

"At least 12.5 million people have affected in the disaster," he said. "We have devised programme for rehabilitation," he said. "In Karachi 18,000 people have reached and the government have a record of it."

Secretary General UN said, he didn't witness such huge devastation while visiting the flood-hit areas, he said.

Commenting on power load shedding in scorching weather in Karachi, chief minister said, "We have communicated to the prime minister and the power division that we are not satisfied with the performance of the power supply companies. Agencies

Addressing banking scams

President calls upon banks to regularly warn customers

Simple people were being frequently entrapped by fraudsters, says Dr Arif Alvi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon all the banks of the country to regularly warn their customers and clients about banking scams, including banking frauds involving online funds transfers, and improve their regular communication with clients.

He said that simple people were being frequently entrapped by fraudsters and swindled out of their hard-earned money through fake calls and sometimes even inside the banking premises.

The president gave these remarks while writing his decision on a representation preferred by the Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

He rejected HBL's representation and further directed it to pay Rs 249,525 to a poor cook from Rahim Yar Khan, who had been defrauded out of his money by

fraudsters who had obtained his personal banking credentials by posing as bank officials on the telephone and got the money transferred out of his account through online means.

Ali Muhammad (the complainant) was swindled out of his money by fraudsters and he approached the bank for getting a refund of his lost amount.

After getting no results, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib for retrieval of his defrauded money.

The mohtasib, after investigating and hearing the case, directed HBL to refund the lost amount, but instead of implementing the decision, HBL preferred a representation with the president, which was rejected.

The president highlighted that as per the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) directives, the bank was bound to obtain the customer's consent before activating the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) facili-

ty and the bank had failed to submit any document/evidence to the effect that it had complied with the provisions of law, rules and regulations.

The bank could not prove that it had informed the customer about the EFT facility in writing and explained to him its pros and cons in a clearly understandable manner, he added.

The president further highlighted that the loss of money had occurred due to the reason that the Bank's EFT facility was made operational unilaterally without the consent and knowledge of the account holder.

"Had this channel not been opened by the bank, the account holder could have avoided this financial loss," he noted.

The president held that gross violations of rules/regulations of SBP had rendered the bank non-compliant, and malpractice and maladministration had been established.

Masood calls for world to help flood victims

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Focusing on the devastation caused by climate-induced floods in Pakistan, Ambassador Masood Khan has called for greater contributions to cope with the disaster that has killed over 1,400 people, injured over 13,000 and displaced 33 million.

"The recent flood and the massive devastation in Pakistan is an exhibit for the devastations of climate change," the Pakistani envoy told American and international media persons at the National Press Club of Washington, DC.

"This (climate change) phenomenon is going to grow whether it is Pakistan or any other countries in South Asia or the world", he said.

"Today it is Pakistan, tomorrow it would be another country".

The Ambassador said that although international media was extensively showing some "heart-wrenching" visuals of the affected areas, it has only captured "a fraction of the calamity what we are facing in Pakistan."

While it was a collective responsibility to reduce emissions, the international community must think of ways and means for compensation to those bearing the brunt of climate change despite making negligible contribution towards global warming, he said.

"We should make quick transition from mitigation and adaptation to preparedness and resilience," Masood Khan said.

In Pakistan, he told journalists that around 6.6 million people needed immediate assistance. Nearly 800,000 farm cattle have perished.

Country needs quick fix to avert winter gas crisis

ISLAMABAD: International power politics, Russia's Ukraine attack and after effects of Corona pandemic have landed many countries in an arena of energy shortage with countries booking their quota for winter season in advance.

Both the developed and the developing countries are in a struggle to steer out from this crisis with recent months hike in petroleum and gas exerting extra pressure on economies and people across the globe.

Pakistan is no exception to the global energy crisis which is worsening with each passing day and there is dire need for a quick fix to the problem in view of previous government's failure in materializing contracts with international gas suppliers at an appropriate time and affordable prices.

The country largely depends on imported gas as its own natural reserves are depleting at the rate of 10 per cent annually and the international market is short of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

The domestic gas extraction varies around 3.5-7 Billion Cubic Feet per Day (BCFD) against the demand of 8 BCFD and it is difficult for any government to meet domestic, commercial and industrial sectors' needs efficiently.

Besides, it is a harsh reality that Exploration and Production (E&P) companies, operating in potential areas, made no major discoveries for long.

The situation continued to worsen despite claims of the respective governments to overcome this problem. The experts believe that in present circum-

stances LNG and LPG could be the immediate remedy to fill supply and demand gap, besides successful execution of Iran-Pakistan (IP) and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline projects.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik has cautioned that arranging LNG for the peak winter needs will be a big challenge. "It is unfortunate that the PTI government did not procure the LNG cargoes, available last year at reduced rate of \$4 per MMBTU (Metric Million British Thermal Unit) for 2-4 years."

"Today we are bearing brunt of their negligence of not signing long-term agreements with LNG exporters as the international market is sluggish in responding to our tenders even on increased price," he added. APP

Flood relief, rehab

Miftah seeks business community's help

Finance Minister says govt has given Rs70b for relief, rehabilitation of flood-hit people

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail said on Sunday the government alone could not overcome huge losses due to flash floods and torrential rains in the country, therefore the rich and wealthy people would have to come forward for the help and support to the people affected by the floods.

He said that rehabilitation of affected people and reconstruction/repair of damaged roads, bridges, railway tracks and other infrastructure was a Herculean task, which was impossible to surpass without active participation of the industrialists and business community.

Miftah Ismail expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of industrialists and businessmen here at Governor's House. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also accompanied him. The delegation comprised Shahzad Salim, Shahid Abdullah, Arif Saeed, Khalid Afridi, Farooq Naseem, Zubair N. Chattha, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Abbas Mukhtar, Murad Saigal and Adnan Aftab.

Miftah Ismail told the delegation that government had given Rs 70 billion for relief and rehabilitation of flood affected people and another Rs 50 billion would also be provided

for the purpose. He mentioned that 33 million Pakistanis were currently living under the open sky, asserting that estimates of flood destruction were US \$18.5 billion as 6,500 kilometers of roads, 246 bridges, 1.7 million houses had been destroyed. One million animals died and 1,300 people lost their lives in the natural calamity.

He said that Rs 1,000 billion were needed to reconstruct the damaged roads.

He suggested that business community should form a committee comprising industrialists and businessmen from Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot and other industrial cities of Punjab for collection of flood donations and it should collect at least Rs 2 billion for the flood relief fund. He assured that the government would not only conduct internal audit of the flood relief funds and donations but also get the same from a reputable international audit firm. The government was maintaining balance sheet of each and every penny of the flood funds.

Miftah Ismail said the government was ensuring provision of 100 percent facilitation to export-oriented industry with an effort to enhance the country's overall exports that was a prerequisite to speedy economic development.

Rehab of schools in flood-hit areas top priority: Tanveer

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Sunday said that rehabilitation of schools and providing relief to students in the wake of recent flood disaster will be the government's top priority.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the assessment of damages caused by the recent flash floods is underway and once it is completed, immediate steps will be taken for the rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure of schools.

Schools and damaged government property were on the priority list, he mentioned.

Minister said PML-N government was fully aware of its responsibilities and it would never leave the affected people specially students alone in the difficult time.

Sanaullah could be arrested on bail expiry

Staff Reporter

FAISALABAD: Punjab Home Minister Hashim Dogar said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah could be arrested if he remains unable to obtain an extension in his bail.

Talking to the reporters in Faisalabad, he said that since ex-PM Imran Khan is facing cases, his opponents have to face them too.

He said that the Punjab government could apprehend Sanaullah if the court doesn't extend his bail.

The minister stated that some 30 lawmakers of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) were hiding in Islamabad after obtaining bail to avert arrest. Agencies



Devastating Floods

Helping Flood Victims: PM expresses gratitude to UAE, Turkey and UNSG

PM Shehbaz Sharif thanks Turkish President for flood relief assistance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday thanked United Arab Emirates Minister for Culture, Youth and Community Development Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan for his generous donation of \$10 for the flood victims of Pakistan.

In a telephonic conversation, the prime minister said that the Pakistani nation would always remember his huge support as he had proved his immense affection for the people of Pakistan and expressed compassion for humanity.

On the individual level, so far, it was the biggest financial assistance provided by any

person for the flood-affected people of Pakistan. The prime minister observed that the amount would be of great help in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts.

He also informed the UAE minister about the historic devastation caused by the recent floods and the government's steps in response to the natural disaster. UAE minister Sheikh Nahyan expressed his grief over the human and financial losses and expressed his solidarity with Pakistan in this difficult situation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday and expressed his gratitude to him and the people of Türkiye for extending humanitarian relief assistance to Pakistan.

The relief assistance from Turkey was in the form of immediate dispatch of tents, emergency food items, and medicines via 12 Turkish military aircraft, four 'Goodness trains' and two Turkish Red Crescent Trucks.

The Prime Minister exclaimed that this is in the truest tradition of Pakistan-Türkiye exemplary relationship. He also expressed his gratitude for the visit undertaken on September 1, 2022, as a gesture of solidarity and support, by Suleyman Soylu, Minister of Interior, Murat Kurum, Minister for Environment and Urbanisation, the Head of AFAD and representatives of TOKI to see the devastation caused by flash floods for themselves.

Sensitising President Erdogan of the havoc

caused by the riverine floods, the Prime Minister stated that as per initial estimates, the floods were likely to reduce Pakistan's GDP by over 2 percentage points. He underlined that the ongoing floods have devastated millions of acres of standing crops, houses and critical infrastructure in the country.

Prime Minister Sharif conveyed that Pakistan was grappling with the immediate challenge of averting imminent food insecurity in the country as well as providing for rescue and rehabilitation of the victims of this climate-induced calamity.

The Prime Minister briefed President Erdogan about the ongoing relief activities by the Government, and expressed his intention to

seek Türkiye's assistance in overcoming the food shortage as well as in undertaking reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas.

In the bilateral context, Prime Minister Sharif reaffirmed commitment to boost relations in all areas.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday thanked United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres for his visit to Pakistan to express his unprecedented support for the flood victims. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the UN secretary general's two-day visit to Pakistan was vital for raising global awareness about the human tragedy.

CM Bizenjo directs to speed up steps to prevent epidemics

Says effective implementation of immunization program will be ensured

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday instructed to take measures on a war footing to control the spread of epidemics in flood-affected areas of the province.

He directed to the Secretary Health that a special vaccination campaign to prevent epidemic diseases should be started immediately in the flooded areas. "Effective implementation of maternal and newborn health



and immunization program will be ensured in the affected areas", he

directed. The CM said that Lady Health workers, lady health visitors and MNCH program should be started in the affected areas despite the appointment of additional lady doctors in the hospitals and health centers of the affected districts should be implemented in order to control epidemic diseases in the area.

"In addition to the flood damage, the protection of the health of women

and children is a big challenge", he said adding that prevention of the spread of epidemics was important in the aftermath of floods.

The Chief Minister said that all these challenges would require special attention to tackle them in proper manner for welfare of flood victims in the areas of the province. He said that the incumbent government would provide necessary resources to deal with health problems.

Floodwaters

BUDHAPUR: Internally displaced people wade through floodwaters area of BudhaPur some 60 km from Hyderabad in Jamshoro district.



Photo: Online

India cannot change IIOJK demography under UN resolutions: Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir and President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmed has said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a part of Kashmir geographically, linguistically, historically, culturally.

Taking into account the geographical, historical and ground realities of Kashmir, the leadership of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference had decided to associate with Pakistan even before the establishment of Pakistan.

In response to India's August 5, 2019 initiative, the government of Pakistan should prepare a database of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, refugees living in Pakistan, refugees living in Kashmir in Azad Kashmir and migrants to reflect the proportion of population that India is trying to change in Occupied Kashmir.

According to the resolutions of the United Nations, India cannot change the population ratio in Kashmir, such a move will be illegal and the world will not recognize it. The issue of Kashmir is the issue of the right of self-determination of 12 million Kashmiris. The right of Kashmiris to self-determination is



internationally recognized.

He expressed these views while speaking as a guest speaker at the internship program organized by the Kashmir Policy Research Institute for the students of various universities on the topic of the current situation and future action plan of the Kashmir issue. Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission and KPRI Raja Sajjad Lazeef Khan explained the aims and objectives of the internship program.

The guest speaker, Sardar Atiq Ahmed, said that my government suggested Pakistan not to go out of the United Nations resolutions on the Kashmir issue in the context of the current situation, and not to negotiate on Kashmir after August 5, 2019, and strictly adhere to this interim. It should be noted that the issue of Kashmir is

the issue of the right of self-determination of Kashmiris. He said that the Maharaja of Kashmir has not annexed India and neither has India been able to present this fictitious accession in any forum of the world. According to the research, there is no document of the Maharaja's accession.

The Maharaja of Kashmir offered a Stand Still Agreement to Pakistan and India on 12 August 1947, but India rejected the proposal of the Maharaja and Pakistan accepted the offer on 15 August 1947. The mail that came out of Srinagar was stamped by Pakistan Postal Services. This process continued till 26th October 1947 and on 27th October 1947, India landed its troops in Kashmir, thus on 27th October India attacked the independent state. India took the Kashmir issue to the United Nations.

The right of Kashmiris to self-determination has been recognized in the United Nations resolutions. He said that Occupied Kashmir should also be included in CPEC and there may come a time when India, which is currently the biggest opponent of CPEC, will request to join CPEC tomorrow because it is for this region. It is a very important project.

Pakistan's first Exclusive Metaverse Club launched



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: MetAsia Celebs, in collaboration with TrustVibes Inc., has launched Pakistan's 1st Exclusive Metaverse Club (EMC) which aims to transform the entertainment industry of Pakistan. The initiative brings celebrities, industry professionals and fans under one roof in a community centric approach with local and global privileges. The grand launch took place in a star-studded ceremony at a local hotel in Karachi.

Co-founded by Dr. Muzna Ebrahim, Sadi Shahrukh, Rashid Jamal and Hassan Farooq, metAsia Celebs is a UAE based entertainment start-up that offers metaverse & NFT services to artists and musicians in the metaverse & NFT revolution.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muzna Ebrahim, co-Founder metAsia Celebs & CEO, Checkmate Group said, "There is a lack of awareness and knowledge of metaverse integration among celebrities in the southeast Asian market. This platform will offer 360 solutions and help these artists in the creative endeavours through metaverse concerts, fashion shows, and metaverse related businesses."

The launch of EMC-Pakistan Chapter kicked off with a networking session followed up with an interactive Q/A session with the founders. Dr. Irfan Hyder, Vice Chancellor, Ziauddin University, enlightened the audience on how metaverse is shaping the next generation of education and institutions. Zeeshan Abbasi, CEO, mParsec also shared his valuable insights on 'reality vs. fiction'.

The experience lounge was presented by TrustVibes US, which gave the attendees a look and feel of the metaverse starting with the selection of their avatars along with the immersive environments and ecosystems in the metaverse. Guests from various sectors took a keen interest in the offerings of the business opportunities in the metaverse.

Youth of Karachi sets example by helping flood victims of Chuhar Jamali

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL/ CHUHAR-JAMALI: Unbreakable spirit of service and pain of marooned flood victims brought youth of Karachi, most of them students to Chuhar-Jamali town of district Sujawal where they spent a whole with displaced population of the remote district.

Females belonging to the flood affected families had tears in their eyes when they saw young boys and girls heading towards them with ration bags. A group of around 25 boys reached road Mori area of Chuhar Jammali where flood victims had taken shelter to distribute ration and other basic amenities followed by free medical camp where Dr Mahemuna Sheikh, Shahenaz Hamshmani, Arqa Hasmani and others examined ailing flood victims and provided them with required medicine.

While talking to this correspondent Danish Alwani a member of the youth team said that after the flood emergency across the province they came up with an idea of forming an organisation named "Social Worker Team" and started collecting funds adding that after resolute efforts of 15 days they were able to facilitate around 200 families.



Ali Muhammad Hamshmani a key member of Social Worker Team said that they had also approached doctors and paramedics to render their services for the flood affected masses after which they successfully arranged medical camp for them adding they would continue serving poverty-stricken people in future as well.

Emotionally charged 18 year old Zaim Hussain said that since Sujawal was his native district he had special

feelings for his people whose abodes had been washed away by flood adding that most of them belonged to Tarr Khowaja village of Sujawal and had gone to Karachi for studies.

The humanitarian move of youth was extolled by local police and soldiers of Pakistan Army who helped them manage the Medical camp and ration distribution process. They vowed to visit other flood-affected areas of the province to support their brethren.

Education key to development: Dr. Sadiq Ali



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: As per the direction of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Amjad Meraj, Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali attended Farewell Ceremony held by New Iqra Public School & College Wana for the Matric students

The Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr Sadiq Ali was invited as the chief guest. Students showcased their talent via PT shows, National Songs, Speeches and other Educational Items. The Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali spoke about the importance of education and its role in nation building and prosperity.

The principal presented traditional turban to the chief guest and enlightened upon the achievements of the school in promoting education in South Waziristan since 22 years. The Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali ensured maximum support and cooperation from District Administration in promotion of education and extra-Curricular activities.

Former PA Speaker meets CM Parvez Elahi

LAHORE: Former Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Muhammad Afzal Sahi on Sunday met Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi.

According to official sources here, during the meeting rehabilitation of flood affectees and matters of mutual interest came under discussion. The CM said that Punjab government was committed to ensure quick rehabilitation of the flood-hit people.

He appreciated the efforts of philanthropists who were donating in Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund. Medical camps had been set up in flood-affected areas to control epidemic and provide medical facilities to people, he added.

Punjab government had sent medical relief commission in Sindh and Balochistan to promote country's solidarity. Nine trucks had been sent for flood-stricken people carrying ration, medicines and other relief goods, he concluded.

Sindh Govt fixes price of wheat at Rs4k

KARACHI: The Sindh Cabinet has fixed the price of wheat at Rs 4,000 Per 40kgs for the year 22-23.

Provincial Information Minister Sindh Sharjeel Memon said "we are currently importing wheat at the rate of Rs 9000 per 40kgs instead of benefiting our own residents, we are benefiting other countries.

"Sharjeel Memon said that in the cabinet meeting, Agriculture Adviser Manzoor Wasan informed that at present the lands are submerged, the farmers would have to work hard to prepare the new crop. By giving a good support price, the farmers would prepare their land for the new crop quickly.

The Chief Minister of Sindh said that if the wheat crop was not ready this year, a situation of famine will arise.

NHMP kicks off crackdown against violators

ABBOTTABAD: National Highways and Motorways Police (NHMP) Sunday kicked off an operation against over speeding in Hazara Motorway Tunnel to avoid road accidents. This was told by Sector Commander Hazara Motorway Syed Saqib Shah while talking to media.

He further said that crackdown against exceeding the speed limit in the motorway tunnels has been started to avoid accidents as some commuters are not following the speed limit and in this regard checking and action have been accelerated to make the implementation of the speed limit inside the tunnel more effective.

Saqib Shah said that the speed limit inside the tunnel was 60 km per hour in dry weather conditions and 30 km per hour during rainy weather, adding exceeding the speed limits can be dangerous.

He said that the E-35 Hazara motorway from Burhan to Manshehra was 182 kilometers long where our teams were busy day and night to maintain law and order and provide a congenial environment to the drivers.

Commissioner visits hospital, inspects facilities

LAHORE: Lahore Divisional Commissioner Amir Jan paid a surprise visit to Kot Khawaja Saeed Teaching Hospital and inspected provision of medical facilities, cleanliness and anti-dengue arrangements, here on Sunday. He inspected different wards including emergency and asked patients about the facilities being provided to them and the behaviour of the doctors and paramedical staff with them. He inspected cleanliness conditions and dengue surveillance in the hospital.

The commissioner promised that all available resources would be provided for the health sector besides ensuring modern medical facilities, availability of medicines and staff. He stressed doctors, nurses and other staff to deal with patients in a polite manner.

DDWP approves seven uplift projects for DG Khan

RAJANPUR: Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) approved seven new uplift projects at a cost of Rs 1.5 billion for Dera Ghazi Khan division.

The new projects included two of DG Khan, three of Muzaffargarh and two new schemes of Layyah districts. Orders were also issued to repair road cut damaged due to flood and restore traffic within a week.

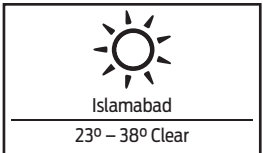
Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chhatta expressed these views while presiding over the video link meeting of the first divisional development working party of the financial year. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Anwar Baryar and other officers were present. The commissioner said that the speed of work will be accelerated on ongoing 433 projects during the current financial year, adding Rs 98 billion were being spent on these projects.

While reviewing the ongoing development projects, he ordered to accelerate pace of work at four districts of DG Khan division including Rajanpur, DG Khan,

Muzaffargarh and Layyah. Delay tactics will not be tolerated and ordered not to leave any scheme unattended in the four districts. There will be no compromise on the quality of material in development projects.

Instead of putting responsibility on each other, the departments should work together, he added. He asked the DCs to pay focus on the development projects after the flood. He also directed officials concerned to start OPD service in Cardiology Institute and to give priority to Tansa and Women universities.

Director Development Obaid-ul-Rasheed, SEs Sheikh Ijaz, Malik Jawad Directors Dr. Ahsan, Atta-ur-Rehman and others were present. It is pertinent to mention here that the new schemes for Rajanpur district were not approved due to the recent flood there, adding new projects of public interest will be approved in Rajanpur district as well after the complete elimination of water and restoration of communication facilities.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:24 am
Zohr12:05 pm
Asr4:33 pm
Maghrib6:20 pm
Isha7:45 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

Quaid-e-Azam conference held at PAC

Large number of people participate in the conference

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized "Quaid-e-Azam Conference" in collaboration with Daira Literary organization on the occasion of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah's death anniversary. The conference was presided over by the chairman of Daira Literary organization, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi and the Director of the Arts Council, Waqar Ahmed. Addressing the conference, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi said that if the teachings of Quaid-e-Azam were followed Pakistan would not have been divided. By following the teachings of the founder of Pakistan, the problems and difficulties of the present day can be overcome.

To solve it, we need to follow the words of Quaid-e-Azam. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said in his address to the conference that Quaid-e-Azam fought for Muslims on the basis of two-nation ideology. Pakistan emerged as an independent state under the leadership of the father of the nation, for which the nation pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The father of the nation's death



anniversary reminds us of a great leader who gave a motto to the scared and desperate Muslims of the subcontinent. Eminent lawyer M Iqbal advocate said that Quaid-e-Azam had declared Urdu as the official and national language of the country. His efforts confirmed this statement.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has issued instructions to all government institutions regarding the national language, he added. Ehsan Kabaria said that my father was with Quaid-e-Azam during

Pakistan Movement. We need to highlight the services of Pakistan Movement workers. Nacem Akram Qureshi, Fayyaz Kayani and other speakers addressed the conference and the life of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah. Before the start of the conference, recitation of the Quran and prayers for forgiveness were also performed for the repose of the soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah. A large number of people participated in the conference.

Negligence

ISLAMABAD: A view of green plants growing in Rawal Lake, that showing negligence of Capital Development Authority (CDA), needs attention for concern authority, in the Federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

29 professional beggars held

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police, in its crackdowns on professional beggars, arrested 29 beggars to discourage the menace of begging and avoid risk of road accidents due to jaywalking of tramps.

On the directives of the in-charge Beggars Squad, along with their respective teams, took action against the professional beggars, and detained them in different police stations of Rawalpindi city, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson.

On this occasion, SSP Operations Waseem Riaz said the special beggar squad was working hard to overcome the increasing number of professional beggars.

"The professional beggars stand on various highways and squares of Rawalpindi city and not only affect the flow of traffic but also increase risk of accidents. Therefore, the public is also requested that do not serve alms to them as discouraging such factors will not only improve the society but also the flow of traffic," he said.

17 bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling 17 bids to smuggle wheat and flour seized 9,424 bags during last seven days.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 17 drivers who were allegedly trying to smuggle wheat and flour.

The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq are strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. The administration



succeeded to intercept 17 vehicles besides seizing 9,424 wheat and flour bags.

The authorities had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said

adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq had instructed the authorities to monitor the movement of wheat round the clock and take strict action in accordance with the

law against the rules violators.

The spokesman said that all the exit points of Rawalpindi division were being monitored 24/7 to control wheat smuggling as the administration had set up 14 check posts at exit points of the four districts of the division to check wheat smuggling.

Rawalpindi district police and the Food Department on the special directives of Punjab government had also set up five special pickets at exit points of Rawalpindi district to control wheat smuggling.

According to a police spokesman, special pickets were established in Naseerabad area, Hakla Interchange, Gangu Bahadur, HMC road

169 dengue patients admitted to allied hospitals

RAWALPINDI: As many as 169 patients were admitted to three hospitals in the city, out of which 99 tested positive while the remaining results were being processed.

District Coordinator of Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Sunday informed that 58 patients were admitted to Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 57 to District Headquarters Hospital and 54 to the Holy Family Hospital.

He said that out of the total admitted patients, 127 belonged to Rawalpindi, 36 from Islamabad, two from Attock and one each from Abbottabad, Nowshera, Peshawar and Poonch, AJK.

Dr Sajjad added that around 47 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 830. Among the new cases, he said



that 33 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, eight from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Taxila Cantonment and one each from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, Potohar rural, Chaklala Cantonment and Murree.

Dr Sajjad said that maximum arrangements for treating dengue fever patients had been made besides all possible preventive measures in place to meet any eventuality. However,

he advised the residents to adopt preventive measures and inform the department immediately if dengue larvae were found in their houses, as the government alone cannot check the spread of dengue larvae.

Health Corner

Brain networks can play role in weight-loss

ISLAMABAD: When it comes to weight loss, the old adage it's all in your head may be true.

Scientists at Wake Forest University School of Medicine have shown that two specific networks in the brain can strongly influence how successful a person will be when trying to lose weight.

These findings, published in the April edition of the journal Obesity, may ultimately help in developing tailored behavior-based treatments that target specific brain circuitry to aid in weight loss, according to the study's principal investigator Dr. Jonathan Burdette, professor of radiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

The goal of this study was to determine whether the degree of weight loss after six months of a behavior-based intervention was related to connectivity within two functional networks (FNs), FN1 and FN2, in a group of older adults with obesity. Functional brain networks are areas of the brain that are working together in sync.

FN1 and FN2 were first identified by Burdette and his team in 2018 as being involved in successful weight loss.

In this study, 71 participants enrolled in a randomized weight-loss clinical trial were scanned at the beginning of the trial with functional magnetic resonance imaging to determine if FN1 and FN2 would be predictive of weight loss and if so how. Participants were scanned during a resting state and then again after receiving a food-cue task. At the end of the six-month trial, the data were then analyzed to compare the relationships between the baseline networks and the change in the participants' weight.

Burdette's team found that during the resting state the relationship of brain function in FN1, which involves sensory and motor skills, was significantly associated with six-month weight loss. During the food-cue state, six-month weight loss was significantly associated with FN2, which includes self-regulation and the ability to focus attention.

Two distinct brain network biases are related to the degree of success with weight loss: within the resting state, there is a sensory motor motivational bias to pursue food, whereas when processing food cues, there is a deficit in the executive control and attention network.

"These findings show that the brain network properties of people who were less successful at weight loss were different from folks who were more successful," Burdette said. "Some people have a stronger unconscious sensory motor bias to pursue food, while others appear to have less. In a society of food abundance with food cues everywhere, this information can help explain why some people have such difficulty in taking off excess weight and maintaining it."

This is the first study to link key concepts that have been identified as important in understanding obesity and overeating to success with behavioral weight loss among older adults with obesity.

"Our findings provide further insight into complex functional circuits in the brain so we now have a mechanistic understanding of why people aren't losing weight," Burdette said. "In theory, if you know more about urges and control, we will be able to tailor therapies to an individual as opposed to treating everyone the same." Courtesy Science Daily



China's Yunnan joins hands for a greener Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan increasingly confronts the challenges of Climate Change, Yunnan province of China comes forward to help Pakistan get better prepared for the same. Yunnan, the province known for its balanced, green development with focus on ecological uplift, is sponsoring sizeable tree plantation drives on National Highway-5 (N-5).

The project named as "Go Green Pakistan, Yunnan Chapter, Page 1" is co-donated by the province, through Yunnan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and China Yunnan Sunny Road and Bridge Corporation, working in Pakistan on various infrastructure projects. Yunnan – the province of eternal spring – is globally acclaimed for its significant progress in environmental protection through restoring forests and reducing pollution.

It is expected that tree plantation along N-5 would help reduce fast increasing pollution, enhance green coverage, check unabated carbon emissions and help the country mitigate the negative consequences of global warming. This would certainly make positive impact on the environment of the area.

This is just the beginning; the provincial authorities and representatives aim to come up with more such projects in Pakistan in near future. Pakistan indeed is in dire need of the same and it comes as a timely, relevant assistance.

Pak Embassy observes death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate 74th Death Anniversary of Father of nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Embassy of Pakistan Niger organised a special ceremony at Pakistan House.

The ceremony was presided by former Head of Human Rights Commission Niger, Prof. Khalid Ikhrī. The ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, member of Civil Society, academia, businesspersons and Pakistani community residing in Niger.

The event started with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the tune of national anthem. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Ambassador of Pakistan highlighted the importance of Day and underscored the efforts made by Muhammad Ali Jinnah for a separate country. The death anniversary observes with due solemnity and with pledges to follow his golden principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline.

At the end of program, Special prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the departed soul and prosperity of country.

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Humanitarianism must adapt to climate change

Michael Jennings

Aid is finally reaching the millions of Pakistanis whose lives have been upended by devastating floods. The UN has launched a \$160 million emergency plan; supplies are being flown in from the Middle East and Asia; and donors and publics across the world are responding to this most recent disaster appeal.

Pakistan's tragedy is the latest in a series of global emergencies resulting from a rapidly changing climate. And while the floodwaters have not yet receded, it is not too early to assess what this crisis can teach us about the challenges of humanitarian response in an era of increasingly extreme weather.

Since the mid-20th century, humanitarian action has made a measurable impact on lives and communities. Disasters, especially famine, kill far fewer people today than they did before the 1960s. But the changes wreaked by the climate emergency mean disasters will become deadlier unless the humanitarian aid sector adjusts its strategy. For all the good humanitarianism has

done, it has also created dependency on a system that reacts to, rather than seeks to prevent, disasters.

Meeting the new challenges will require the rethinking of some of the core tenets of humanitarianism and the speeding up of reforms and changes to create a more flexible, proactive system built on principles of prevention, resilience and decentralized disaster governance.

First, risk analysis and modeling must become firmly baked into the heart of humanitarianism. Early warning systems that can detect impending droughts or floods have long been a feature of disaster prevention and mitigation (and may have helped limit the number killed in Pakistan's floods, a tally that now exceeds 1,300). Models predicting the impact of changes in temperature, precipitation, disease outbreaks and other variables are already helping communities prepare for the worst.

Second, disaster management must shift from a response mindset to one of reducing risk and building resilience before crises strike. In 1970, flooding triggered by a massive cyclone killed about 500,000 people in Bangladesh (then part of East Pakistan). A similar cyclone and flood in the

same area two years ago killed 30, thanks to extensive flood-mitigation measures and policies.

Meanwhile, governments in Pacific Island states like Kiribati and Vanuatu are investing in health infrastructure that will be better able to withstand floods and typhoons, as well as preparing community-based disaster preparedness plans to respond more rapidly and effectively.

It is not only countries in the Global South that are focused on making systems, structures and societies more resilient. The Californian state government recently allocated an additional \$15 billion to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact of wildfires. Ensuring transport networks, health systems and food systems can withstand shocks is vital for protecting the most vulnerable during a disaster.

Building resilience and preparedness is often seen as falling outside the humanitarian sector's area of responsibility, acting as it does as the global first responder. Yet such activity is core to disaster management and must be a core part of humanitarianism's mandate.

The third change is shifting how the sector responds to disasters themselves. Here, reforms are needed to speed up

and better integrate local solutions that ensure more resilient communities emerge when the emergency passes.

In the aftermath of the devastating 2010 Haitian earthquake, humanitarian organizations were criticized for failing to work with local, state and nongovernmental organizations in their responses, creating parallel and separate systems that increased aid dependency and made building back local capacity harder.

Reflecting on those failures and others, the humanitarian sector and donors have committed to delivering more aid and interventions through local organizations. To date, however, progress has been slow and limited. Embedding responses within local contexts, with active participation from affected communities, will enhance and improve those responses.

But localization also needs to be integrated more fully into global and regional infrastructures. The UAE has played a critical role in coordinating support to Pakistan, while Dubai's International Humanitarian City is the largest of a growing network of humanitarian hubs that can respond quickly to regional disasters. Such infrastructure can support the bridging of global

and local responses. Many humanitarian organizations view building more resilient systems as beyond their remit, concerned that anything that deals with social inequality and vulnerability risks becoming politicized in a way that might conflict with the humanitarian concept of neutrality. But failing to address this necessity will only perpetuate dependency on external responses and organizations and worsen the impact of disasters.

The devastating human toll of the floods in Pakistan is a warning to us all. As the impact of the climate emergency picks up pace, and as rich countries continue to evade their culpability in its creation, the poor, vulnerable and marginalized are dying as a result. These issues are already being debated within the humanitarian sector, but as Pakistan's horrific floods remind us, commitments and discussions alone will not prepare the humanitarian system for the challenges that await.

Michael Jennings is a professor in global development at SOAS University of London, where he works on issues related to global health and the politics and history of global development.

Courtesy: Arab News

Quaid-e-Azam: A leader of unparalleled qualities

Praised by the world leaders owing to his unparalleled leadership qualities, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who changed the world map through his legal and democratic struggle, was remembered on his 74th death anniversary, observed with great respect and admiration. The day was dawned with special prayers in mosques for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and eternal peace of the departed soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The nation paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his untiring struggle, foresight and leadership skills in the fight for the rights of Muslims of the subcontinent. Jinnah dedicated his entire life to the struggle for a separate homeland for Muslims, but couldn't see his dear country prosper and passed away. "Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three." These historic remarks were passed by Stanley Wolpert, a renowned US academic, historian and writer about Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his famous book 'Jinnah of Pakistan' published in 1984. Wolpert has made a praiseworthy endeavor to sum up different aspects of the life, personality and leadership qualities of the great Quaid who changed the world's map by creating a separate homeland for the Muslims of Subcontinent i.e. Pakistan on August 14, 1947 within seven years following adoption of the historic Pakistan Resolution at Lahore on March 23, 1940 through purely constitutional, legal and democratic struggle.

Pakistan appeared on the world map in August 1947, and became the first Islamic ideological state of the modern times as a result of the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Despite the conspiracies from different countries against Pakistan, this country is still thriving even after passing of 75 years. The need of the hour is that the politicians follow the guidelines of our founding father to make Pakistan an economic power in the world. Unfortunately, we as Pakistanis have ignored the principles of our founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Quaid-e-Azam always talked about equality, rule of law, religious freedom, bribery and nepotism.

The government should include Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's speech of Aug 11, 1947 in the curriculum of schools and colleges. Quaid-e-Azam had the power to win hearts through pen, speech and vote and that's how he achieved the dream of founding a nation. If Quaid-e-Azam were alive today, Pakistan would certainly have been the best democratic country. It is crucial to continue the struggle to make Pakistan a state where democracy is strong, and the constitution and parliament are supreme. Keeping in view, the devastating floods in country, Quaid's political vision and democratic struggle are inspirational and teach us to remain resilient in every difficulty.

Moreover, adherence to Quaid-e-Azam's golden principles of faith, unity and discipline is what the nation needs the most in order to cope with the challenges Pakistan faces. We can put the country in the right direction together with faith, unity and harmony and solve the problems of Pakistan by following the Quaid-e-Azam's principles.



Can Liz Truss ride the perfect storm?

Yossi Mekelberg

It could not be more symbolic of the long and dutiful seven decades of service to the nation that in her last formal act, Queen Elizabeth asked Liz Truss to form a new government only two days before her passing. The British monarch looked frail and weak, but this did not stop one of the most dignified and loyal servants to her country from fulfilling her duty and confirming the 15th prime minister of her reign.

One can only hope that some of the rare qualities demonstrated by the queen throughout her life might rub off on the other Elizabeth at this meeting. Mary Elizabeth Truss. After all, one of the positive aspects of the announcement that Truss had won her contest with former chancellor Rishi Sunak to lead the Conservative Party and, consequently, become the UK's new prime minister, was that it drew to a close seven weeks of endless, dull and uninspiring public debates between two candidates who could not hide their loathing for each other.

Neither left a strong impression that they believed the country would be in safe hands should their opponent become leader. Now one has to hope and pray that it was Sunak who was wrong in claiming that his rival was talking "fantasy economics." However, both left the public baffled about what exactly they believe in or stand for beyond wanting the most powerful job in the country, as they kept flip-flopping with proposals on how to deal with an ailing economy and a society in crisis, while dark clouds were gathering above an unstable global arena.

As it stands, according to YouGov pollsters, half of Britons are disappointed to see Truss as prime minister, a third are "very disappointed" and a mere 22 percent expressed satisfaction with her. Cynics

might say that the low level of confidence that the public and many of her party colleagues are showing could be her most powerful weapon, as it will be a nice surprise should she rise above the low benchmark of current expectations.

Though she lacks charisma and oratorical skills, Truss compensates with ambition and a ruthless streak that seems to stand out even in the cut-throat environment of the Conservative Party. She proved this on her first day in office by culling all the senior Cabinet members who had supported Sunak. Such ruthlessness might enhance the image she likes to present of herself as a tough, Thatcher-like leader, but unless she and her government hit the ground running it might prove to be a gross miscalculation, considering that she is walking on thin ice with her Westminster colleagues.

Obviously, no one should envy the new government's intractable in-tray. Inflation is at its highest for 40 years; as winter approaches, energy prices threaten to push millions into poverty and bring down many businesses; the economy is being hit by the unholy combination of high inflation and recession; and the war in Ukraine is raging; and the Northern Ireland issue remains a source of contention in relations with the EU.

During what Truss herself called her "longest job interview," she failed to convince people that she has a coherent worldview and a firm set of values. It is not about her being a supporter of the Liberal Democrats in her youth, or even being anti-monarchist during her teenage and university days. It is about a supposedly mature and established politician making U-turns on every crucial issue that the country has faced in recent years, and how she jumps from one side of a debate to the other, as she did on Brexit, switching from being a Remainer to an ardent Brexiteer, and on how best to ease the pressure on families as a result of

the energy crisis, from opposing a cap on energy prices to spending £130 billion on emergency support, something she resisted during her leadership campaign.

Moreover, as millions face uncertainty about their financial situations, fearing poverty and the loss of their homes as interest rates rise, her insistence that it is right to cut taxes that disproportionately benefit the rich also suggests someone who lacks empathy. Such a lack of humanity is also evident in her support for deporting asylum-seekers to Rwanda, especially as this measure offers no guarantees for their rights and wellbeing. Then there is Truss's creation of a Cabinet of like-minded and loyal ministers: This should worry those who would like some diversity of opinion among the decision-making unit, and not groupthink and cognitive closure in face of complex issues. This move of hers might indicate insecurity rather than strength and determination.

Prime Minister Truss and her government might deserve a short honeymoon, a little time to prove that they have a plan, but there are too many question marks, especially with her appointment of a home secretary who supports leaving the European Convention on Human Rights, and of a minister in charge of business, energy and industrial strategy who is a climate change skeptic. There is a jury out there — not one that has doubts about Macron's France being a friend of the UK, but one that is not at all certain of Truss's suitability to steer the UK through these troubled times. It is up to her to convince it otherwise.

Yossi Mekelberg is professor of international relations and an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House. He is a regular contributor to the international written and electronic media. Twitter: @YMekelberg
Courtesy: Arab News

How Taliban instability is a risk to Central Asia

Luke Coffey

More than a year after taking power, the Taliban are beginning to realize that fighting is far easier than governing. As winter approaches and Afghanistan faces a humanitarian crisis, the government has failed to gain international recognition and foreign aid has been reduced to a trickle.

The economic situation remains dire with no prospect of improvement. The Taliban's problems continue to mount. All these problems are exacerbated by the division inside the Taliban's own ranks; they are too paralyzed by fighting to govern in any effective way.

The security situation is hardly better. Even though their agreement with the Trump Administration said the Taliban would "prevent any group or individual, including Al-Qaeda, from using the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies," the Taliban's takeover has enabled terrorist groups. Daesh has been able to take advantage of the chaos that emerged in some parts of the country when the Afghan state collapsed. Mass casualty terrorist attacks, often aimed at the Shiite Hazara minority, remain common.

Al-Qaeda also benefited from the Taliban's takeover. According to a recent report by the UN, "Al-Qaeda members reportedly remain in the south and east of Afghanistan, where the group has a historical presence... Al-Qaeda intended to establish a position in northern Afghanistan, mobilize new fighters and generate increased resources." The report said Al-Qaeda's leadership "plays an advisory role with the Taliban, and the groups remain close."

Another concern for Tashkent is the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Founded in 1999, the IMU has well-established links to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and fought alongside the militants during their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Traditionally, the IMU had its

base in northern Afghanistan. However, soon after the Taliban were ousted in 2001 the IMU fled south to the porous and remote Afghan-Pakistan border region. In recent years, as the Taliban expanded their presence, the IMU started to back back to its natural habitat in the north. Now, it can operate freely across all of northern Afghanistan. As the Central Asian country that shares the longest land border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan is also under renewed threat. There has been a history of extremist groups emerging from the region to threaten its security.

Tajikistan's concerns are not unfounded. The Taliban have handed control of the Tajik-Afghan border to Jamaat-e Ansarullah, which was formed in 2010 and comprises Tajik extremists with the stated goal of overthrowing Tajikistan's legitimate government. Many Jamaat-e Ansarullah fighters received their training and combat experience in Iraq and Syria. A new group called the Tajikistan Taliban Movement is also operating in northern Afghanistan. While little is known about the group and its links to others such as Jamaat-e Ansarullah and the IMU, it opposes "Tajikistan's secular government."

Central Asia has a new geopolitical reality on its doorstep. The region is nervously watching how the security situation in Afghanistan develops. As the Taliban allow more nefarious groups to operate in northern Afghanistan, there is a real chance of chaos and terror spilling into Central Asia. This is the last thing the region needs right now.

In the coming months and years, Afghanistan will increasingly become a place of instability, as it was in the 1990s. And just as in the 1990s, neighboring countries in Central Asia will have to decide what role they want to play to bring stability and peace to the region.

Central Asia has been, is, and will continue to be an area of geopolitical importance. Pay attention to Pakistan, but keep an eye on Central Asia too.

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Courtesy: Arab News

Ukraine pushes major counter offensive as war marks 200 days

Ukraine shuts down Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

KYIV: As the war in Ukraine marks 200 days, the country has reclaimed broad swaths of the south and east in a long-anticipated counteroffensive that has dealt a heavy blow to Russia.

The counterattack began in the final days of August and at first focused on the southern region of Kherson, which was swept by Russian forces in the opening days of the invasion. But just as Moscow redirected attention and troops there, Ukraine launched another, highly effective offensive in the northeastern region of Kharkiv.

Facing the prospect of a large group of its forces becoming surrounded, Moscow ordered a troop pullback from Kharkiv, in a dramatic change of the state of play that posed the biggest challenge to the Kremlin since it launched the invasion Feb. 24.

"The Ukrainian army has taken advantage of the relocation of the bulk of the Russian forces to the south and is trying to direct the course of the war, excelling in maneuver and showing great ingenuity," said Myko-



la Sunhurovskyi, a military expert with the Razumkov Centre, a Kyiv-based think tank. Ukraine's quick gains, he added, are "important both for seizing initiative and raising troops' spirit."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy commended the military in a video address late Saturday, saying it has reclaimed about 2,000 square kilometers (over 770 square miles) of territory so far this month. He also taunted

Moscow over its withdrawal, saying the Russian army was "demonstrating the best it can do — showing its back" and "they made a good choice to run."

Both sides have suffered heavy losses in Europe's largest conflict since World War II. Ukraine's military chief said last month that nearly 9,000 of the country's soldiers have been killed in action. And while Moscow hasn't reported its own losses since March,

Western estimates put the toll as high as 25,000 dead, with the wounded, captured and deserters bringing the overall Russian losses to more than 80,000.

Ukraine has sought to mobilize the population to reach an active military of 1 million people, while Russia, in contrast, has continued to rely on a limited contingent of volunteers for fear that a mass mobilization could fuel discontent and upset internal stability.

As the war slogs on, a growing flow of Western weapons over the summer is now playing a key role in the counter-offensive, helping Ukraine significantly boost its precision strike capability.

Since the counteroffensive began, Ukraine said, its forces have reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region.

In the Kherson region, troops sought to drive Russian forces from their foothold on the west bank of the Dnieper River, a potential vantage point for a push deeper into Ukraine by Moscow.

Will continue fight for restoration of IIOJK's special status: Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference vice president, Omar Abdullah, has said that his party

will continue fighting democratically, constitutionally and politically for restoration of Article 370, which was abrogated by the Indian government three years ago

Omar Abdullah in a statement issued in Srinagar said that his party, which has filed a petition in the Indian Supreme Court challenging the decision announced by the Indian government on August 5, 2019, to abrogate Article 370, has a strong case.

"We (NC) are not misleading people or not even taking the law into our hands for the restoration of Article 370. We will continue to fight democratically, constitutionally and politically to bring it back. It is our right," he said.

He further said, "I will not give up on Article 370. We have faith in the Supreme Court but our only request is that it should at least listen to us. We believe our case is strong. The top court is taking time. I think they also know that this case is strong."

The NC leader stated that the government cannot be expected to restore Kashmir's special status under Article 370 as it took it away in the first place. He said it is a political fight and they will surely win it and restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

USAID head urges crisis-hit Sri Lanka to tackle corruption



COLOMBO: A visiting U.S. diplomat on Sunday urged Sri Lankan authorities to tackle corruption and introduce governance reforms alongside efforts to uplift the country's economy as a way out of its worst crisis in recent memory.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power told reporters that such moves will increase international and local trust in the government's intentions.

"Assistance alone would not put an end to this country's woes," Power said. "I stressed to the Sri Lankan president in my meeting earlier today that political reforms and political accountability must go hand in hand with economic reforms and economic accountability."

She said that international investor confidence will increase as the government tackles corruption and proceeds with long sought governance reforms. "As citizens see the government visibly following through on the commitment to bring about meaningful change, that in turn increases societal support for the tough economic reforms ahead," she said.

Xi to meet Putin in first trip outside China since COVID began

LONDON/BEIJING: Xi Jinping will leave China for the first time in more than two years for a trip this week to Central Asia where he will meet Russia's Vladimir Putin, just a month before he is set to cement his place as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong.

The trip, Xi's first abroad since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, shows just how confident he is about his grip on power in China and just how perilous the global situation has become.

Against a backdrop of Russia's confrontation with the West over Ukraine, the crisis over Taiwan and a stuttering global economy, Xi is due on a state visit to Kazakhstan on Wednesday.

China's president will then meet Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's summit in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand in



Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Kremlin said.

Putin's foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, told reporters last week that the Russian president was expected to meet Xi at the summit. The Kremlin declined to give details on their talks. China has yet to confirm Xi's travel plans.

The meeting will give Xi an opportunity to underscore his clout while Putin can demonstrate Russia's tilt towards Asia; both leaders can show their opposition to the United States just as the West seeks to punish Russia for the Ukraine war.

Swedes head to polls in close-run election

STOCKHOLM: Swedes voted on Sunday in an election pitting the incumbent centre-left Social Democrats against a right-wing bloc that has embraced the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats as it tries to win back power after eight years in opposition.

With opinion polls pointing to a tight race, lines to vote were long in many places. The campaign has seen parties battle to be the toughest on gang crime, after a steady rise in shootings that has unnerved voters, while surging inflation and the energy crisis following the invasion of Ukraine have increasingly taken centre-stage. "I'm fearing very much a repressive, very right-wing government coming," said Malin Ericsson, 53, a travel consultant outside a voting station in central Stockholm.

Polls show the centre-left running neck-and-neck with the right-wing bloc and suggest the Sweden Democrats will be



the second biggest party behind the Social Democrats, overtaking the conservative Moderates.

Paediatrician Erik George, 52, said he thought the election campaign had been marked by a rise in populism. "I think that times are really tumultuous and people have a hard time figuring out what's going on," he said outside the voting station. For others, the main goal is change. "I have voted for a change in power," said Jorgen Hellstrom 47, a small business owner,

as he voted near parliament. "Taxes need to come down by quite a bit and we need to sort out crime. The last eight years have gone in the wrong direction."

While law and order is home turf for the right, gathering economic clouds as households and companies face sky-high power prices may boost Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, seen as a safe pair of hands and more popular than her own party.

SCO Samarkand Summit: Dialogue and Cooperation in an Interconnected World

Samarkand can become platform that can unite and reconcile states with different foreign policy priorities

Spokesman Report

Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO has fallen on a dynamic period, fraught with various events and trends – the period of the historical rift, when one era comes to an end and another begins – thus far unpredictable and unknown.

The modern system of international cooperation, based on the universal principles and norms, begins to falter. One of the main reasons for this is a deep crisis of trust at the global level, which, in turn, provokes a geopolitical confrontation and the risk of reviving the bloc thinking stereotypes. This process of mutual alienation complicates the return of the world economy to its former course of development and the restoration of global supply chains.

The ongoing armed conflicts in different parts of the world destabilize trade and investment flows, exacerbate the problems of ensuring food and energy security.

Along with this, global climate shocks, growing scarcity of natural and water resources, decline in biodiversity, spread of dangerous infectious diseases have exposed the vulnerability of our societies as never before. They lead to destruction of existential common goods, threatening the basis of people's life and reducing sources of income.

In these circumstances, it is obvious that no country alone can hope to avoid or cope with these global risks and challenges.

There is only one way out of the dangerous spiral of problems in an interconnected world where we all live today – through a constructive dialogue and multilateral cooperation based on consideration and respect to the interests of everyone. It is exactly at the time of crises, when all the countries – whether they are large, medium or small by size – must put aside their narrow interests

and focus on such mutual interaction, unite and multiply the common efforts and possibilities to counter the threats and challenges to peace, security and sustainable development that are related to each of us.

The effective international cooperation makes the world more stable, predictable and prosperous. This is the most viable, accessible and closest way to solving common problems of our time as well as a universal insurance policy against the future challenges and shocks.

The international cooperation that lays in the interest of everyone is impossible without multilateral institutions. Despite the certain shortcomings, they continue to serve as the most important agents of interaction between the countries – at the regional and global levels. The international and regional organizations help countries to overcome the differences and strengthen mutual understanding, to develop political and economic cooperation, to expand trade and stimulate cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

These are the goals and objectives that are pursued by one of the youngest multilateral institutions – the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In fact, it is a unique interstate structure that has managed to unite countries with different cultural and civilizational codes, their own foreign policy guidelines and models of national development. In a relatively short historical period, the SCO has come a long way, becoming an integral element of the modern global political and economic world order.

Today, the SCO family is the world's largest regional organization, which has united a huge geographical space and about a half of the population of our planet.

The basis for the SCO's international attractiveness is its non-bloc status, openness, non-targeting against third coun-



tries or the international organizations, equality and respect for the sovereignty of all participants, refusal to interfere in the internal affairs, as well as prevention of political confrontation and unhealthy rivalry. The SCO's success concept is the promotion of multifaceted cooperation through ensuring regional security. In fact, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is called upon to become a pole of attraction without dividing lines, in the name of peace, cooperation and progress.

Therefore, the number of states that are ready to cooperate with the SCO is growing every year, and this is especially noticeable in the context of the transformation of the modern system of international and regional relations.

The economic value of the SCO is enhanced by the self-sufficiency of its space, where there are dynamically developing economies of the world with huge human, intellectual and technological potential, and the existence of large volumes of unused natural resources.

Today, the total GDP of the SCO member states has reached about a quarter of the global figure. This is already a very solid contribution to the global sustainable development from a regional organization that has just crossed its 20-year threshold.

In a world with the new challenges and opportunities, the SCO has excellent prospects for transformation and growth, not only through quantitative replenishment, but also through the opening of new strategic vectors. These are transport and connectivity, energy, food and environmental security, innovations, digital transformation and green economy.

Accepting responsible mission of Chairmanship in the SCO, the Republic of Uzbekistan has relied on the strategy of advancing the development of the Organization by opening up new horizons for cooperation and launching usage of untapped reserves that each of its members has.

Our slogan is «The SCO is strong if each of us is strong». Implementing this, we have made serious efforts to make the Organization even stronger from the inside and more attractive from the outside to our international partners.

for development.

All these promising directions of cooperation for the SCO at the new stage of its historical development are reflected in more than thirty conceptual programs, agreements and decisions prepared during our chairmanship period.

I would say even more. Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO is a logical continuation of an active and open foreign policy course that has been pursued by our country in the last six years. This policy is embodied, above all, in Central Asia, the geographical core of SCO, where positive and irreversible processes of strengthening good-neighbourliness and cooperation are now taking place.

All SCO member states are our closest neighbors, friends and strategic partners.

The Chairmanship has given us a good opportunity to further strengthen multilateral collaboration and expand bilateral cooperation with each of them, as well as set new targets for even deeper partnership.

I am full of confidence that it is important and necessary for the SCO to share its success story with Afghanistan. This country is an integral part of the larger SCO space. The Afghan people need good neighbors and their support now more than ever. It is our moral obligation to extend a helping hand, to offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis by promoting socio-economic growth of the country, its integration into regional and global development processes.

Afghanistan that has played for centuries the role of a buffer in the historical confrontations of global and regional powers, should try on a new peaceful mission of connecting Central and South Asia.

The construction of the trans-Afghan corridor could become a symbol of such mutually beneficial inter-regional cooperation. It is also important to

understand that by implementing joint infrastructure projects such as the Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railroad we are not just solving socio-economic, transport and communication problems, but also making a significant contribution to ensuring regional security.

By bringing our positions closer to each other, together we can develop a new SCO agenda for a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Only in this way can we create a truly stable and sustainable SCO space with an indivisible security.

After a three-year pandemic pause that has caused serious disruption in trade, economic and industrial ties, the countries and peoples of the SCO need to communicate directly.

The ancient city of Samarkand, the jewel of the Great Silk Road, is ready to welcome the leaders of fourteen countries with new breakthrough proposals and initiatives designed to serve for good and prosperity of the SCO and each of its members.

There is no doubt that this legendary city will open another chapter of the SCO success story. Glorious historical heritage of Samarkand will contribute to this.

For many centuries, this city has been threading together countries from Europe to China, merging North and South, East and West into a single node.

Historically Samarkand has been a melting pot of ideas and knowledge, that was "cooking" a common goal of living better, being more successful and becoming happier. And everybody has known that the friendly neighbors are half of your wealth, you yourself are a blessing for them, because you know that cooperation, trade, oeuvre, science, art and the best ideas do good, enrich and bring nations together.

These unique qualities of Samarkand, which today has a modern and dynamically developing infrastructure, turning it into the most suitable and demand-

ed platform for joint discussions, searching for necessary responses to regional and global challenges.

The integrity and interconnectivity of mankind are such that most challenges require joint work not only at the regional level, but also at the global arena.

Relying on the experience of our many years of joint work, we are confident that the Samarkand SCO summit will set an example of how we can launch a new, inclusive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and constructive cooperation for the sake of common security and prosperity.

Samarkand can become the platform that can unite and reconcile states with different foreign policy priorities. Historically, the world looked upon from Samarkand has been seen as single and indivisible, rather than fragmented. This is indeed the essence of the unique phenomenon of the «Samarkand spirit», which can serve as the basis for a fundamentally new format of international interaction, including within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The Samarkand spirit is designed to naturally complement the very «Shanghai spirit», thanks to which more than 20 years ago our countries decided to create a new and eagerly sought organization.

Therefore, we are confident that in Samarkand we shall witness the birth of a new stage in the life of SCO – the number of its members will grow, and its future agenda will be formed, and this is highly symbolic. We are full of optimism and are convinced that the decisions of the upcoming summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will make a feasible contribution to strengthening the dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation both at the regional level and on a global scale.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

CPEC channelizing economic diplomacy: PBF



LAHORE: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) said on Sunday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing a role in channelizing the notion of economic diplomacy in policy-making arenas.

"Indubitably, CPEC has the potential to become a breeding ground for Pakistan's venture of economic diplomacy not only through special economic zones but also by enhancing regional connectivity in multifarious manner." Addressing the PBF executive committee here, forum's Deputy Secretary General (Economic) Dr Larai Elahi said that it was a widely accepted fact that economy was central to foreign policy and was curated in accordance to it. Since geo-economics shaped geopolitics, she added, it was indispensable to ensure economic amplification through diplomatic means to build and maintain regional influence.

She asserted that it would not be wise to bifurcate economic policy and foreign policy, as it was an effective tool of national security as well. She said that the West, being far ahead of the rest of the world, had realised the importance of economic diplomacy and had set up European Union—the biggest trade bloc, with more than 100 countries in trade relations—was the epitome of building trade superstructure over diplomatic infrastructure.

The EU started its envious journey from a treaty of merely six countries trading in just two goods (European coal and steel community) ultimately coalescing the entire continent.

The PBF office-bearer observed that Pakistan's trade outreach was limited to European states that stretches to American continent for most. If it coupled with aggressive yet prudent diplomacy supplemented with local think tanks or NGOs, the reach could turn global within no time. No doubt the centre of gravity for the global economy had now shifted from the West to Asia and Africa, later it would be labelled as the 'Continent of the Future' owing to its promising economic potential and lucrative investment. In this perspective, Pakistan would also have to diversify its exports by focusing more on the CPEC.

Spices export decreases 10% in July

ISLAMABAD: The exports of spices from the country witnessed a decrease of 10.61 percent during the first month of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported spices worth US \$5.090 million during July 2022 as compared to the exports of US \$5.694 million during July 2021, showing negative growth of 10.

61 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the exports of spice however rose by 5.40 percent as the country exported 1,522 metric ton of spices during the month under review as compared to the exports of 1,444 metric ton during last fiscal year. APP

Financial support

BISP disburses over Rs23b among flood hit families

BISP is executing the challenging task of disbursing cash relief of Rs25,000 per family to the flood affected families

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 23 billion among the flood-hit families in a short span of time under the Flood Relief Cash Assistance, to mitigate the sufferings of flood affected population.

Emerged as the most effective and reliable social protection intervention during the recent floods devastation, the BISP is executing the challenging task of disbursing cash relief of Rs. 25,000 per family to the flood affected families in devastated areas.

The task of disbursing Flood Relief Cash Assistance among the flood-hit people was assigned to the BISP by the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif which is being carrying out speedily.

Under the leadership of Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri, BISP rolled out its operations in the flood affected areas within no time and presently the flood relief activities are operational in 69 districts by establishing more than 400 payment sites.

Since August 19 till September 11 (Sunday) 3:00 pm, BISP has disbursed a total amount of Rs. 23,063,125,000 has been disbursed

among 922,525 affected families under this programme.

A total of 112,301 affected families have received Rs.2,807,525,000 in Balochistan; 548,979 families have received Rs.13,724,475,000 in Sindh; 114,029 families have received Rs. 2,850,725,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 147,216 families have received Rs.3,680,400,000 in Punjab.

Azra Bibi from Qambar, Swabi said, "My husband is a factory worker. I have seven children, four sons and three daughters. My house is made of mud so rain is a big problem and whenever it rains, water gets inside our house. Now my house has been destroyed due to the rains".

"I got a message from BISP to come and collect flood relief money from their center. I borrowed some money for commute and reach BISP Center where they checked my CNIC and got my biometric. After all the clearance, they gave me the flood relief money of Rs. 25,000. With this money, we will fulfill our basic needs as we don't have the groceries at home. I thank Benazir programme with all my heart; May Bless her", she said.

Razzaq Mehmood, Deputy Director BISP

who is supervising the cash disbursement process at Flood Relief Camp set up in Government Boys School, Taunsa Sharif said the camp has been established on the directions of Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri to disburse Rs. 25,000 among the flood affected families.

He said that the payment process is going on smoothly and the staff is vigilantly extending all possible support and guidance to the visitors.

Irfana, mother of two children visited the same camp for receiving her payment said, "My husband is a piece rate worker. The recent flood has completely destroyed our house and we have nothing to survive".

She thanked the government and BISP for providing cash assistance of Rs.25, 000 through which she intends to buy ration to feed her family.

Amina Bibi from Sukkur, said, "My house is made of mud and has been destroyed due to the floods like other houses in surroundings. My husband is suffering from illness. I thank BISP for providing Rs. 25,000 much-needed cash relief which I would spend on buying medicine of my husband and ration".

All the payment centers are kept open on holidays for the disbursement of payment to

the affectees. The administration of BISP has directed the concerned staff present at the campsites to fully cooperate and facilitate the people in their respective regions.

The affected families can send their CNIC number to 8171 for registration in Flood Relief Cash Assistance program and upon receiving payment message they can visit their nearby campsite to receive their payment. A control Room has also been established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

It is also worth mentioning that the federal minister, Shazia Marri has announced that the flood affected pregnant mothers and children will be covered under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP).

For this purpose, an additional amount of one billion rupees has been allocated for the flood affected mothers and children apart from the existing beneficiaries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also announced to increase the flood relief assistance under BISP from the existing Rs. 28 billion to Rs. 70 billion in view of gross damages of lives, infrastructure and crops in the wake of flash floods. APP

Subsidized Rates

RAWALPINDI: A man carrying flour bag along with his daughters after buying from low price truck vendors placed by Punjab Government outside Allama Iqbal Park alongside Murree Road in the city.



Photo: Online

Pakistani traders to participate 19th China-ASEAN Expo

BEIJING: Pakistan, like previous years, will participate in the 19th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, Capital of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region of China, from September 16 to 19.

The relevant authorities have completed all the arrangements in this regard, a senior official said on Sunday.

Pakistani traders and industrialists will display handicrafts, furniture, auto parts, gem stones, carpets, sports goods, agricultural machinery and surgical instruments during the expo.

Themed in sharing new opportunities of the RCEP and jointly advancing version 3.0 of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, the events will showcase the new achievements and highlights of the

economic and trade cooperation between the two sides.

Covering an area of 102,000 square meters, this year's exhibition for the first time will feature several sections on new energy vehicles, culture and tourism, healthcare and cross-border e-commerce.

As many as 21 high-level forums and more than 80 economic and trade promotion activities will be held during the expo.

China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner for 13 consecutive years. During the first seven months of this year, their trade with each other surged 13.1 percent year-on-year to \$544.9 billion, accounting for 15 percent of China's total foreign trade during the period.

As of the end of July, bilateral investment between

Younis stresses for giving importance to impacts of climate change

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman, Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday called for attaching a greater importance to the adverse impact of extreme heat on human lives and economy.

He said that deadly heat waves will hit most parts of world three times more often in the coming decades, said a press release.

Talking to a delegation of environmentalists led by Principal, College of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Punjab University, Prof Dr. Sajid

Rashid Ahmad, he said that facing the extreme heat, the world should vigorously build heat-resilient societies and strive to create a more sustainable and healthy future with combined endeavours by the comity of nations.

He said that priority in heat adaptations varies by country and region, and the current global responses to intensifying extreme heat remain largely spontaneous and incremental.

Adapting to climate change in a Post-Pandemic World, he pointed out

the insufficiency in adaption planning, financing and implementation worldwide.

He said agricultural production has also suffered because of droughts, raising concerns over food insecurity in some countries and regions.

He warned all these highlights the vulnerability of the world to heat waves.

He said humanity's response to climate change has not achieved the desired results including Pakistan.

He said not only are the efforts

to mitigate the impacts of climate change sluggish but also climate change adaptation actions lag far behind what is needed.

Meher Kashif Younis who excels expertise in various sectors including environment, said it is obvious that humanity was not fully prepared for the extreme heat and many countries were caught off guard by the scorching heat which has taken a heavy toll on the people's health. He cautioned that unprecedented high temperatures have been reported around the

world, even in the Arctic region.

He said this summer, temperatures in the UK exceeded 40C since records began, prompting the government to issue the highest-level warning and declare a national climate emergency.

In China, an unusual heat wave persisted for more than 70 days, with temperatures in some parts of the western region soaring to 45C and even the lowest night-time temperatures hitting 34C which has never happened before in the country and the world, he alerted.

PIDE launches research on Gas Crises in Pakistan

Gas exploration and production have declined in the country

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Gas is the third-largest energy source consumed around the world. However, Pakistan has less than a 1 percent share in world gas consumption. It meets its energy demand through imported and indigenous resources in the ratio of 44:56. Natural gas and imported LNG contribute more than 40 percent to the country's current energy mix, including gas resources used in electricity generation. In recent years, the demand for gas has increased rapidly in Pakistan. However, gas exploration and production have declined, and the LNG operational and regulatory framework is weak, leading to nationwide shortage and increased supply costs. The latest research brief on "Gas Crises in Pakistan" was revealed by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

According to a Press Release issued from the PIDE, a national think tank of the country, it stated that in upstream, 15 gas explorations and production companies work in 55 gas fields spread throughout the country. The gas distribution and transmission are mainly owned and operated by two state-owned companies Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL). The gas exploration/production industry and gas distribution/transmission industry lack competi-

tion in Pakistan.

It was said in the study that OGDCL predicts that Pakistan's indigenous oil reserves will be exhausted by 2025. However, current reserves will last a maximum of 15 years if demand is capped at present-day gas levels by 2030.

PIDE research showed that 78% of households have no access to natural gas in Pakistan. Natural gas consumption in the domestic sector has grown by about 11% over the years. Supplying gas to households requires significant investments. The cost of gas supply to households is much higher than the cost of supply to the industry or power sector. Gas allocation policy has remained based on political priorities rather than on the objective of maximizing value addition. Low gas prices and inefficient gas allocations have encouraged higher demands.

With 30.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, Pakistan shares 0.8% of global production. There is a sharp increase in gas demand in Pakistan, but due to the inefficient distribution of natural gas resources, Pakistan has been facing a colossal gas shortfall, the brief revealed.

National Think Tank briefly described that large areas in the country remain unexplored due to security concerns and the law-and-order situation. For instance, Baluchistan's Pishin basin is considered a valuable block.

However, no exploration activity in this basin because of the law-and-order problem.

According to the PIDE research, all the activities in the gas sector in Pakistan, directly or indirectly, are under government control. An independent regulator was established in 2002 to regulate mid and downstream activities.



Still, it remained hostage to government decisions because of the extensive state presence in all activities in the supply chain. The OGRA law allows too much mandatory government involvement in the current oil and gas regulatory system. That has made the regulator powerless. Government interference in service providers' affairs has led to cross-subsidy and an overall deficit in the gas sector. The circular debt in the gas sector has crossed Rs 1.5 trillion, contributed by both the utilities SNGPL and SSGCL. Government irregularities in regulatory frameworks and poor policy formulation are hindering sectoral growth and creating inefficiencies in

the supply chain. Politically influenced allocations and monopolistic business operations are all bottlenecks.

The research brief recommends that ensuring reliable and high-quality uninterrupted natural gas supply and efficient services is one of the critical aspects of the regulatory process. The gas distribution companies must maintain adequate pressure in the transmission pipelines and distribution networks and upgrade the system where necessary to ensure supply of contractual volume and pressure to its consumers. Gas resources are depleting, but these monopolies are expanding their transmission and distribution networks to maximize their financial returns. As a result, these companies, especially SNGPL, have earned enormous profits over the years.

The research further state that in both utilities, mismanagement and irregularities have affected their operational performance. Though private entities own 40% or more of their shares, these companies have no business model. There is no regulatory mechanism to link their financial returns to their operational efficiency. Underground pipeline leakage, poor maintenance, measurement errors, wrong billing, law & order, and theft have contributed significantly to Pakistan's unaccounted-for gas. The two integrated companies, SNGPL and SSGC, are over-regulated monopolies with no incentive to

improve their inefficiencies and service delivery. Against the OGRA allowance of UFG at 4.5%, the gas losses in these companies remained relatively high. After 2017, this allowance increased to 7% and 8.5% for SNGPL and SSGCL to compensate for declining profits.

PIDE research brief suggested the way forward in the following key recommendations:

Prioritize exploration activities to rely on LNG imports, correct well-head prices, and minimize government interference.

A progressive and market-based exploration policy is needed.

Pakistan should de-regulate the natural gas sector and liberalize the pricing structure. Market-based pricing systems will also curtail the misuse of gas. For LNG imports, incentivize third-party access increased involvement of the private sector in the LNG supply chain happening in mature LNG markets like Japan, South Korea, and even India. Higher private sector participation in these countries facilitates cheaper fuel availability, smooth procurement processes and allows market-based price discovery (SBP, 2021).

To maximize returns from private sector involvement and guarantee the sustainability of the natural gas sector, it is essential to first solve the profound structural and operational challenges. Without rationalizing the subsidy

structure, the financial viability of the natural gas sector is difficult to achieve. The tariff must be set on a cost-of-service basis for a reliable and sustainable gas sector.

Gas allocation to industries should be from a growth perspective and not based on political decisions. Energy efficiency legislation and strict implementation in all sectors are compulsory.

Restructuring of gas utilities is required to improve their operational and managerial efficiency. Unbundling these monopolies between 'pipeline' and 'retail' is inevitable before allowing for other private participants in the 'pipeline' and 'retail' business.

To improve management and administration in SNGPL and SSGC, slicing them into smaller units may also help.

It's high time to get rid of guaranteed returns based on network expansion. Companies must have a business model to earn profits from operational efficiency.

All gas companies should operate commercially without any political interference by government.

Government should limit its role to policy making and effective legislation for market liberalization.

There should be a single autonomous regulatory authority for upstream, midstream, and downstream activities. But the regulator must have the powers and capacity to monitor the sector effectively and ensure market development.

Brilliant Sri Lanka clinch Asia Cup 2022 title

Rajapaksa, Hasaranga mount Sri Lanka's fightback

DUBAI: A brilliant performance from Sri Lanka helped them beat Pakistan by 23 runs to win the 2022 edition of the Asia Cup.

Winning the toss, Pakistan came out all guns blazing in the final in Dubai. Naseem Shah got the ball rolling by bowling a beauty to dismiss Kusal Mendis for a duck. Pathum Nissanka also could not carry on his brilliant run, with Haris Rauf getting the better of him on 8. Rauf would then bowl a sizzler to send Danushka Gunathilaka packing for 1.

If Sri Lanka believed they would get a reprieve, the spinners would then chip in with a couple of wickets for Pakistan. Ifikhar Ahmed got the wicket of Dhananjaya de Silva for 28, who up to that point was looking in good nick. Skipper Dasun Shanaka also couldn't contribute much, with Shadab Khan bowling him for 2.

At the halfway mark, Pakistan were well and truly on top.

Sri Lanka would then launch a bril-



liant counter of their own, with Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Wanindu Hasaranga leading the charge. The pair put on a partnership of 58 runs, playing some

incredible shots against a high-quality bowling attack. Their stand would come off only 36 deliveries, getting Sri Lanka well and truly back in the game.

Hasaranga would be dismissed by Rauf, who had his third scalp for 36, but it was a job done well. Rajapaksa would then unleash carnage, bringing up his half-century while upping the ante. Chamika Karunaratne gave him brilliant support from the other end, rotating the strike as the pair put up a stand of 54*. Rajapaksa would have some luck, being dropped a couple of times but he made full use of it.

Just when it was time for Pakistan to put the foot down on the accelerator, Sri Lanka bowled and fielded with excellence. They dried up the runs, increasing the pressure while upping the required run rate. This paid off with Ifikhar first perishing for 32, with Madushan getting his third scalp. Mohammad Nawaz too couldn't deliver the big hits, falling for 6 against Karunaratne.

Pakistan would eventually run out of wickets, with Karunaratne getting the final scalp of Haris Rauf, as Sri Lanka won by 23 runs to win the Asia Cup 2022.

Six Pakistan women to attend ACC Level 2 coaching course

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Six Pakistan women internationals are amongst 24 participants that have registered for the six-day ACC Level 2 Women Coaching Course, which will be held at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore from 12 to 17 September.

Pakistan international players include Ayesha Zafar (29 ODIs, 20 T20Is), Iram Javed (21 ODIs, 51 T20Is), Nahida Bibi (66 ODIs, 54 T20Is), Nashra Sundhu (49 ODIs, 28 T20Is), Natalia Pervaiz (three ODIs, 11 T20Is) and Sidra Amin (48 ODIs, 25 T20Is). Farah Naeem, Saira Iftikhar, Samina Bibi and Shehla Bibi are other participants from Pakistan.

Other participants in the course, include representatives from Bahrain, Bhutan (two), Hong Kong (two),



Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal (two), Maldives, Qatar (two) and Singapore.

The Level 2 course participants will be taught the advance coaching skills which include batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping. This also includes work on communications skills, mental and physical strength, planning and creating quality learning environ-

ments which help players graduate to the next level.

The course will be conducted by National High Performance Centre coaches Mauhtashim Rashid, Mohsin Kamal, Rahat Abbas Asadi and it will be headed by Shahid Aslam. At the conclusion of the course, the participants will be given three months to complete their assignments. The successful participants will be awarded Level 2 coaching certificates.

ACC Level 2 Women's Coaching Course participants: Ayesha Zafar (Pakistan), Dechen Wangmo (Bhutan), Deepika Rasangika (Bahrain), Elnaz Parvin (Iran), Emyleia Eliani Binti Md Rahim (Malaysia), Farah Naeem (Pakistan), Iram Javed (Pakistan), Janaki Bhatt (Nepal), Kary Chan (Hong Kong), Khadija Khalil (Kuwait), Mariyam Zoonaa (Maldives), Nahida Bibi (Pakistan), Nashra Sundhu (Pakistan), Natalia Pervaiz (Pakistan), Rochelle Sherlene Quyn (Qatar), Saira Iftikhar (Pakistan), Samina Bibi (Pakistan), Shafina Mahesh (Singapore), Shahreen Nawab (Qatar), Shehla Bibi (Pakistan), Sidra Amin (Pakistan), Sobha Ale (Nepal), Tammy Chu (Hong Kong) and Yeshey Choden (Bhutan)

National Basketball Women's C'ship from Oct 3

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) would be holding the National Basketball Women's Championship 2022 here at the Laiquat Gymnasium, Pakistan sports Complex from October 3 to 7.

According to Ouj-e-Zahoor, General Secretary, FBBA as many as eight teams would fight for the top honour in the five day competition. "Eight teams have been divided into two pools. Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta are bracketed in Pool A while Pakistan Army, Lahore, Peshawar and hosts Federal Basketball Association are placed in Pool B." Each two teams from both groups would qualify for the semifinals, to be played on October 6 at the same venue while 3rd position play-off and final will be played on October 7.

The programme of opening and closing ceremonies was being finalized. On October 3 Islamabad would face Lahore in the opening fixture of the championship.

Schedule, October 3, 2022 (Day-1): Lahore vs Islamabad at 4 pm; Karachi vs Rawalpindi at 5 pm; Wapda vs Quetta at 6 pm; Army vs Peshawar at 7 pm.

October 4, 2022 (Day-2): Wapda vs Rawalpindi at 4 pm; Army vs Islamabad at 5:00 pm; Karachi vs Quetta at 6 pm; Lahore vs Peshawar 7 pm.

'Sky's the limit' for Swiatek after US Open triumph

NEW YORK: Iga Swiatek believes "the sky is the limit" after she crowned her rise to the pinnacle of women's tennis with a third Grand Slam title at the US Open on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Polish world number one claimed her second Grand Slam title of 2022 at Flushing Meadows, defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

It was the latest staging post on a dazzling season which has provided ample evidence Swiatek is the front-runner to dominate the sport as it heads into the post-Serena Williams era. A second Grand Slam title on Saturday and a victory at the French Open in June are part of seven tournaments she has won this year, which included a 37-match winning streak as she swept to the top of the rankings.

Swiatek, whose favourite surface is clay, says the fact that she was able to triumph in New York could prove to be a psychological watershed for her game. "At the beginning of the season I realized that maybe I can have some good results on WTA events," she said. "I also made it to semi-final of the Australian Open.

"But I wasn't sure if I was on the level yet



to win actually a Grand Slam, especially at the US Open where the surface is so fast. "It's something that I wasn't expecting for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that sky is the limit.

"I'm proud, also surprised little bit, just happy that I was able to do that." On Saturday, Swiatek shrugged off the uniquely

raucous New York crowd - chair umpire Louise Azemar Engzell made repeated calls for quiet amongst spectators which were routinely ignored - to close out her 10th straight victory in a final since 2019.

Swiatek believes her ability to block out distractions, and mould her gameplan to suit matches as they are evolving is a sign

that she has become a mentally tougher player.

"I'm mostly proud of the fact that mentally I'm not kind of breaking up in those important moments," Swiatek said. "I have, like, after the matches, even if I lose, I kind of have no regrets because I know I'm doing 100%."

"I'm proud that I have much more solutions and options on court than I had before tennis-wise, but yeah, also mentally. "I'm really proud of that because I just know how it feels to not have ideas on court, not have anything you can change to make the match better. Right now it's been a long time since I didn't have any idea."

Swiatek plans to celebrate her victory by taking in a Broadway musical on Sunday. "I'm not going to say the name of the musical because I want to have a little peace tomorrow," she said as she reflected on a US Open campaign that included a chance encounter with pop star Seal. "After I met Seal, I was like, 'Even if I lose right now I already won this tournament, because I got photo with him.' "It's something that it's only going to happen probably in New York. Yeah, because it's New York."

Pakistan Volunteer to be part of FIFA World Cup

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The Pakistan Volunteer will be in action at Qatar FIFA World Cup and all the credit goes to Pioneer Volunteer of Qatar.

Pioneer Volunteer of Pakistan has a facebook group which included Fahad Ismail, Faisal Anwar, Kamran Khan, Ali Raza, Ali Shan, Naveed Tahir, Raheel Habib, Ijaz Abdullah, Faisal Hamahu, Abdul Basit, Zeeshan Sheraz, Dil uk, Rana Anwar, Ali Jawad, Hassan Ali, Anwar Abbas, Atique Ul Rashid, Khalid, Idrees Ismail, Ali Khan, Abdul Haleem Afridi, Amjad Akbar, Rana Kashif. For the successful of FIFA World Cup there are twenty thousand volunteer still be deputed. In Qatar Overseas Pakistani are also included who has registered with FIFA.

According to Rana Kadhiif Areeba Faisal and Ali Shan has been included as a Brand Managers by Committee of Legacy. In a Ceremony which was held in Qatar Gifa CEO appreciated go Pakistani Volunteers which is great honour for Pakistan.



IOC Olympic Solidarity Technical course concludes



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: IOC Olympic Solidarity Technical Course for Gymnastics Coaches concluded at Pakistan Olympic House Lahore.

The course was organized by Pakistan Gymnastics Federation in collaboration with NOC Pakistan under the IOC OS Technical Coaches Program. Mr. Hamid Reza Hashemi, FIG recognized International Expert from Iran conducted the course. Thirty one coaches benefited from the course who came from various centers and coach teams of Punjab, Sindh KP, Balochistan, Army, HEC, Railways, Police and WAPDA.

Ahmd Ali Rajput, President Pakistan Gymnastics Federation thanked Pakistan Olympic Association for allotting this course to Pakistan Gymnastics Federation and FIG for deputing expert Mr. Hamid Reza Hashemi, International Expert from Iran who is FIG and AGU lecturer and facilitating Pakistan Gymnastics Federation.

Secretary General POA assured, on behalf of President POA, continued support to NSF for the capacity-building program through IOC and OCA. The President Pakistan Olympic Association Lt. General (Retd) Syed Arif Hassan and General Secretary POA Khalid Mahmood were the Chief Guests and distributed the certificates among the participants. The General Secretary Pakistan Gymnastic Federation Pervaiz Ahmad who also organized the course was also accompanied with them.

Taimoor stars in Northern's run win over Central Punjab

Spokesman Report

FAISALABAD: Taimoor Sultan's 72 scripted Northern's 10-run win over Central Punjab at Bohranwali Ground in the Cricket Association T20 on Sunday. In the second match of the day, Sindh defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by seven wickets.

Taimoor Sultan smashed four sixes and five fours in his solid innings of 63-ball 72 as Northern scored 144 for six after they were asked to bat.

Central Punjab crumbled in the run chase and managed 134 for eight. Gauhar Hafeez top-scored with 36 off 26 and Umar Akmal making 27-ball 30.

Kashif Ali was the only bowler in the match to take more than one wicket. He returned two for 26. Excluding Kashif, 10 bowlers across the two sides bowled in the match and each picked up a wicket.

Sindh's Mohammad Shahid and Arish Ali Khan took three wicket each and Muhammad Umar returned two for 16 as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were bowled out in 19.3 overs. Maaz Sadaqat top-scored with 23 and Rehan Afridi made 21. Ammad Alam scored 44 in 37 balls (eight fours) as Sindh chased the target with six overs and seven wickets in hand.

Robert, Sajjad bag men's doubles title of Tenpin Bowling Tournament

RAWALPINDI: Robert and Sajjad Shah won men's doubles title in the Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling Tournament at Leisure City Bowling Club, Jinnah Park, Rawalpindi.

In men's doubles, Robert and Sajjad bagged first position with 776 scores while Ahmer Suldera and Shabbir Lashkarwala obtained second position with 765 scores. Ijaz-ur-Rehman and Fahem stood third with 758 scores while Danyal Shah and Ali Suria were fourth with 747 scores.

English football shutdown slammed

LONDON: English football chiefs have been criticised for postponing all matches this weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, with the decision labelled a "missed opportunity" to pay tribute to the nation's longest-serving monarch.

After the Queen died aged 96 on Thursday, the Premier League opted to cancel this weekend's fixtures in consultation with the British government.

Football chiefs were told by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on Friday that there was no obligation to cancel or postpone sporting fixtures during the national mourning period.

But the Premier League felt it was the right move to honour the

Queen for her "extraordinary life and contribution to the nation".

The second tier Championship, as well as Leagues One and Two, followed the Premier League in postponing this weekend's matches.

It was not just professional football as all amateur Saturday and Sunday leagues across the UK, including youth football, were called off. However, the England and Wales Cricket Board started South Africa on Saturday after the first day's play was rained off and the second postponed due to the Queen's death.

Other sports also resumed, with Premiership rugby union fixtures, Super League games, the PGA Championship golf tournament

and Great North Run.

Horse racing, the sport the Queen was most closely associated with, also resumed on Sunday with the St Leger, one of the five English classics and which her horse Dunfermline won in 1977, the feature race at Doncaster.

Former Liverpool and England striker Peter Crouch questioned football's temporary shutdown, tweeting: "I know it's only a game and some things are much bigger but imagine all our games went ahead this weekend. "Black armbands, silences observed, national anthem, Royal band playing etc to the millions around the world watching? Isn't that a better send off?"

Manchester United, West Ham and Arsenal had all paid

tribute to the Queen by wearing black armbands and holding a minute's silence in their European matches on Thursday evening. West Ham fans even sang 'God save the Queen' throughout their match against FCSB at the London Stadium. The opportunity for a similar show of respect from the rest of English football has been denied by the postponements.

Television personality Piers Morgan, a noted Arsenal fan, wrote on social media: "Ridiculous decision. Sporting events should go ahead. a) The Queen loved sport and b) It would be great to see/hear huge crowds singing the National Anthem in tribute to Her Majesty, as West Ham fans did so magnificently last night."



Former Manchester United and England defender Gary Neville replied saying: "I agree Piers. Sport can demonstrate better than most the respect the Queen deserves." Fans were equally frustrated at being denied the opportunity to

pay tribute to the Queen.

A Football Supporters' Association statement said: "We believe football is at its finest when bringing people together at times of huge national significance - be those moments of joy or moments

of mourning.

"Our view, which we shared with the football authorities, is that most supporters would have liked to go to games this weekend and pay their respect to the Queen alongside their fellow fans. "Not everyone will agree, so there was no perfect decision for the football authorities, but many supporters will feel this was an opportunity missed for football to pay its own special tributes."

Football Association chair Debbie Hewitt, who was involved in Friday's meetings with Government, defended the decision. "This is a great example of football working in unity. We all absolutely 100 per cent agree this was the right thing to do to pay our respects," she said.