الله عليه وسلم نے پالتو گدھوں کے گوشت

Barkat Rice Mills

Pakistani investors invited to explore UAE for investment

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan said that United Arab Emirates (UAE) was striving to attract USD 150 billion of inward investn 2030, therefore, it was the right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE for business and investment activities

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Kashmiris the right to self-determination.



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US President vows to help **Pakistan** addressing devastating

floods

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden has expressed the commitment to continue helping Islamabad in the wake of difficult humanitarian situation due to devastating floods in Pakistan. He expressed this resolve during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in New York. The meeting was held at the reception of world leaders participating in 77th session of UNGA hosted by Joe Biden. President Biden expressed grief with the affected families over loss of human lives and the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. On the occasion, the PM thanked the US President for his message to the international community to the flood affected people and to support Pakistan. APP

Nawaz Sharif seeks relief under Amended NAB Law

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has moved accountability court for relief in corruption cases under NAB Amendments Ordinance 2022.

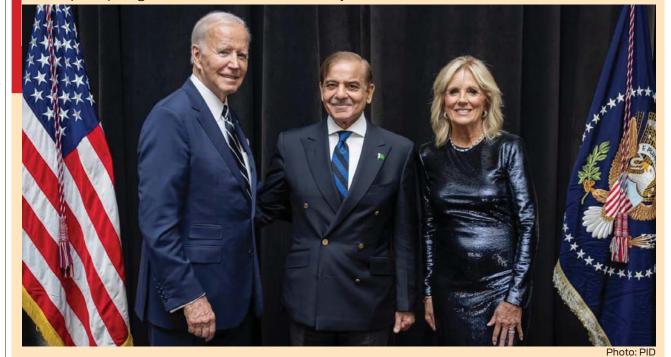
As per details, Nawaz Sharif has filed plea in the accountability court against declaring him absconder in the plot allotment case. In his plea, Nawaz Sharif has stated that as per new NAB amendments, corruption cases worth less than Rs500 million cannot be taken up by graft-buster body as he is accused of Rs130 million corruption in the case. Citing the acquittal of three accused in the corruption reference, the former prime

minister has pleaded with the court to end the reference and order revival of his seized assets. Agencies

Pak-US ties

New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President Joe Biden at the reception of world leaders participating in 77th session of UNGA hosted by US President Joe Biden.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while terming Kashmir dispute as one of the oldest disputes pending on the United Nations' agenda, said on Friday it yas high time that the UN and OIC must come forward to support



77th UNGA Session

PM urges global leaders to act against climate change

Addressing UNGA session, Shehbaz says no peace in South Asia without resolving Kashmir issue

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister us, smashing centuries of weath-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has er records, challenging everything urged the world leaders to come we knew about disaster, and how together and "act now" to deal with the issue of climate change.

session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday, he said we expect some approximation of justice for the loss and damage by this calamity that has not been triggered by anything we have done.

The Prime Minister said due to this global challenge, our glaciers are melting fast, our forests are burning, and our heat waves have crossed 53 degree C, making us the hottest place on the planet.

He said during the recent

calamity, for 40 days and 40 nights a biblical flood poured down on to manage it.

The Prime Minister said this In his address to the 77th calamity has pushed some 11 million people below the poverty line, while others will drift to cramped urban shelters, leaving little room for climate-smart rebuilding.

He said Pakistan's urgent priority right now is to ensure rapid economic growth and lift millions out of destitution and hunger. To enable any such policy momentum, Pakistan needs a stable external environment and we look for peace with all our neighbours, including India.



Talking about Kashmir issue, the Prime Minister said sustainable peace and stability in South Asia, however, remains contingent upon a just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He said India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, to change the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory further undermined the prospects of peace and inflamed regional tensions.

Shedding light on Afghanistan's issue, the Prime Minister said Afghanistan today presents a unique challenge as 30 million Afghans are left without a functional economy and banking system that allows ordinary Afghans to make a living to be able to build a better future.

He said Pakistan would also like to see an Afghanistan which is at peace with itself and the world. and which respects and nurtures all its citizens, without regard to gender, ethnicity and religion.

Ishaq Dar to return to Pakistan next week

Dar says he will take oath as a senator *immediately after his return*

LONDON: Former finance will return to London after minister Ishaq Dar has decided to return to Pakistan before October 7, confirming that he will probably be in Pakistan next weekend.

Speaking to a private tv channel, he said that he will take oath as a Senator immediately after his return.

Addressing rumours regarding him replacing Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, he said: "I will perform whatever duty is assigned to me by □PML-N supremo □ Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

He revealed that Shehbaz

attending the United Nations General Assembly summit being held in New York. "I will adhere to whatever is decided after consultations with Shehbaz and Nawaz," he maintained.

Earlier on Friday, an accountability court in the federal capital suspended the arrest warrants of the former finance minister till October 7 in a case pertaining to him being a proclaimed offender.

Commenting on the court's decision, he said that he will have to return before that. Agencies

COAS visits floodhit areas in Badin

Gen. Bajwa lauds role of business community to help flood victims



Market Correspondent

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday visited the flood-affected areas of Badin, and spent time with the affectees in the relief and medical camps.

He also met the army troops busy in rescue and relief activities in Malkani Sharif, Badin district, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said.

Later, the COAS had an flood-affected areas of Badin affected people.

and its surroundings. General Bajwa also interact-

ed with the business community in Karachi. During the interaction, the COAS said the business community had always helped the countrymen whenever a natural calamity hit Pakistan, including the recent floods. The business community members acknowledged the role and sacrifices of the Pakistan Army for ensuring a safe environment for the country's economic prosperity, and assured the COAS of maxiaerial reconnaissance of the mum support for the flood

PM raised voice on global warming: Marriyum

Says Pakistan facing health disaster due to floods and there was a dire need for medicines

跨 Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised his voice at international level regarding global warming and climate change, which was a common problem of the entire world.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion her visit the photo exhibition organized by the Ministry of Information at the United Nations Secretariat lobby, she said currently Pakistan was facing health disaster due to floods and there was a dire need for medicines.

She said winter was victims were in dire need of blankets, warm clothes and tablets. sheets etc.

Those who wanted to help through NDMA and civil society, she said.

Many women in the was a dire need for baby milk, items, she added.

The Prime Minister had issued instructions regarding the distribution of tents in Sindh and Balochistan, she said adding tents were being distributed keeping in view the needs of the victims.

The minister said that NDMA had been sharing its data with the general public on a daily basis and they were informed about what was required at which place.

She said all out efforts were being made to provide relief to flood victims.

Marriyum said that the Prime Minister yesterday had presided over a review meeting regarding the flood victims, in which it was found approaching and flood that there was a shortage of panadol and paracetamol

panadol and paraceta- over the world, when this role flood victims, they could help mol had increased due to flood-related diseases and dengue, the minister said.

She said that demand for flood-affected areas were these drugs was high, their expecting babies and there production was less than increased demand where-

baby food and other related as the cost of production was

The Prime Minister had clearly instructed that the prices of these medicines would not be increased, she maintained The PM had directed

the Ministry of Finance to subsidize these medicines, she added. The minister said process

of screening NGOs which were closed had been started by the Ministry of Interior so that they could start work in flood affected areas. At present, NGOs and

civil society were doing very good work in the flood-affected areas, which had been appreciated not only by the Prime Minister, but at the public level as well,

The minister said there The consumption of was a role of civil society all was included in the efforts of the government, any disaster could be faced.

The current focus of the government was on rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas, she added.

S Debt relief

Pakistan not seeking relief from commercial banks: Miftah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Friday said in the wake of climate related disaster. Pakistan was seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors only, not from commercial banks or the Eurobond creditors. "Given the climate-in-

duced disaster in Pakistan, we are seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors. We are neither seeking, nor do we need, any relief from commercial banks or Eurobond creditors", he said in his tweet.

"We have a \$1 bn bond due in December which we will pay on time and in full", he said, adding that the government had been servicing all the commercial debt and would continue to do so.

He said Pakistan's Eurobond debt was only \$8 billion due till 2051 which was not a large burden. "A significant portion of our debt is from friendly countries who have said they will re-roll their deposits", he

Imran urges nation to wage jihad for 'Haqiqi Azadi'

Pakistan is going through a decisive phase, says PTI chief

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday said that rural Sindh was going through the "worst form of slavery", therefore, the nation will have to rise up to the occasion and wage jihad (holy war) for future generations.

Addressing a students' convention in the federal capital, the former prime minister said that about 80% of women are stripped of their rights in rural Sindh, urging the nation to fight for the future generation and the "Haqiqi Azadi" (real freedom).

Once again criticising his political opponents, Khan said that the khalifahs (caliphs) in older times used to present themselves before the court but people like Nawaz Sharif and Zardari take money abroad.

"How will the country develop when it is ruled by these thieves?" he ques-

The ex-premier said that the "thieves" have taken over Pakistan and their crimes are being gradually forgiven. "Pakistan is going through a decisive

phase as Shehbaz Sharif always visits different countries to humiliate Pakistan," he added. The PTI chief has announced resuming his "Haqiqi Azadi" Movement from

Saturday (September 24) and appealed to the public to take to the streets as soon as he calls on them. Khan has urged party workers and

establishing the "rule of law" was the country's foremost need.

Since his ouster in April, Khan has



supporters to get ready for his call as time and again demanded "fair and

free" snap polls, warning of a "strict reaction" if the government failed to yield to his demands. Agencies

The Spokesman Saturday, September 24, 2022

Seeking support

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing G77 and China annual meeting of Foreign Ministers here



Disputed transaction cases

President lauds private bank for avoiding undue litigation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: While disposing of five separate representations of a private bank against the decisions of the Banking Mohtasib, President Dr Arif Alvi has appreciated the bank's policy of settling the grievances of customers and implementing the ombudsman's decisions, thus, saving the public's time and expenditure, and avoiding undue litigation. He urged the private banks of the country to provide timely relief to victims of bank frauds, comply with the State Bank of Pakistan's regulations, and save the time of public institutions and other forums of justice by avoiding unnecessary litigation, thus, saving their own time and resources. The president in his five separate decisions appreciated HBL for settling the cases of disputed banking transactions through mutually agreed settlements and paying its customers their lost amounts under its positive

At G77/China

FM urges 'urgent' help to 50 crises-hit states

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday called for urgent support to more than 50 developing countries that have suffered disproportionately from shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic, rising commodity prices, conflict proliferation, and the adverse impacts of climate change, as he highlighted the flood devastation in Pakistan.

"Our countries and peoples confront monumental challenges; we need to change the policies and structures that perpetuate inequality and poverty," Foreign Minister Bilawal said while presiding over a ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 (developing countries) and China. Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77

and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest inter-governmental group of emerging At the outset, FM Bilawal thanked all

members of the Group for their "trust and cooperation" with Pakistan as the Group's chairman during the current year.

Dealing with the difficult times facing the developing countries, the foreign minister said in his presidential address, "Our challenges have been exacerbated by a deficit in solidarity from our developed country 'partners".

"As a consequence," he said, "we now face the triple interlocking crises of food, fuel and finance."

In this regard, FM Bilawal called for larger ODA (official development assistance) and concessional finance.

"We welcome the proposal (of the UN Secretary-General) for a 'SDG (sustainable development goals) stimulus' of \$500 billion to enable those countries which are in extreme economic distress to revive their economies and development objectives."

He also called for providing emergency food supplies through the WFP (Word Food Programme) to the 250 million people in food distress; further moderate prices by enlarging food production and supplies; and support small farmers access to seeds, fertilizer and finance.

Ensuring the availability of energy, especially gas, for the developing countries and exploring mechanisms to reduce the financial burden of imports would also help, he said, while calling for mobilization of the universal availability of Covid-19 vaccines

countries suffering from the impacts of climate change was also necessary, he said.

"Pakistan emits less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions; yet, it is now the epicenter of the impacts of climate change," the foreign minister said, pointing out that one-third of the country – an area the size of the United Kingdom - was under water.

"A thousand people were killed and thousands more injured; 33 million have been affected and 6 million are absolutely destitute. Over a million homes, 7,000 kilometers of roads, 350 bridges and 5 million acres of crops, have been destroyed. The total damage is estimated at over \$20 billion, almost 7% of Pakistan's GDP (gross domestic product).

"The entire Pakistani nation - government, armed forces and common people has rallied to provide relief to their compatriots in need," he said, thanking Pakistan's friends, including members of the Group of 77 & China, for the generous support they had provided.

"We are confident that their support will be sustained as Pakistan moves to the daunting task of rehabilitation and recon-

Beyond the emergency actions outlined by him, FM Bilawal said there was need Urgent and adequate assistance to the for changing global structures and policies which could end inequity and

Sheikh Rasheed receives threatening calls

Upon the complain, police has registered a case against unknown persons

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A case has been registered against unknown persons after former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed complained of receiving threatening calls at his residence's landline number.

The former interior minister and chief of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rasheed filed an application in Kohsar police station against the unknown persons as he received threatening calls.

Sheikh Rasheed in his complaint

stated that he had been receiving threatening calls from unknown

"I have been receiving death and kidnapping threats from unknown phone numbers," he added.

In addition, the former minister has also stated that he had informed other relevant agencies except for the police about receiving threatening calls.

Upon the complaint, a case has been registered under section 306 and Telegraph Act 25-D against unknown persons.

Imran working on agenda of creating 'chaos': Latif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif on Friday alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman had the only agenda of creating 'chaos and anarchy' in the country. He claimed that Imran Khan wanted bloodshed. The government was fully aware of his intentions as his 'late night meetings' were no more secret, the minister said while addressing a press conference. "We know about the agenda of Imran's late night meetings. We also know that he is just a 'stooge' and working on the directions of others," he added. Javed Latif said Imran Khan had already indicated that his party would embark on another long march with full force and preparations as the PTI was not fully prepared at the time its so-called 'Azadi March' of May 25. APP

PML-N govt taking steps to control price hike: Fazal

VEHARI: President, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman said on Friday that PML-N government was taking steps to control price hike to provide relief to the people.

He expressed these views while addressing a gathering of Ulema, students and notables at Jamia Khalid Bin Waleed in Thingi.

PDM chief was on a visit. to Jamia Khalid Bin Waleed to condole the death of Mohtamim Jamia, Sheikh ul Hadith Maulana Zafar Ahmad Qasim.

He said that he was giving best tips to the government as how to push down troubles of the people.

Maulana Fazal underlined the need for forging unity among the Muslim Ummah. APP

Chinese envoy lauds Pakistan's commitment towards CPEC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassafor Power Khurram Dastgir Khan projects. in Islamabad on Friday.

dor, Khurram Dastgir Khan commitment towards CPEC and remarked that back in 9014 continuous engagement no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan, but our breth- ued association will bear fruit for ren China stood the test of time. Pak-China friendship and improve He said the Chinese investment the investment environment for Pakiin power sector is of immense stan.

importance.

Both sides noted the importance of hydropower projects under CPEC dor Nong Rong called on Minister and agreed to expedite the ongoing

The Ambassador appreciated Welcoming the Ambassa- the present government for their

He emphasized that this contin-

CJP for upholding rule of law, supremacy of constitution

Spokesman Report

pro-people banking policy.

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial has urged the legislature, the executive, and other state organs to play their role to uphold rule of law and supremacy of constitution in the country.

Addressing the 9th international judicial conference in Islamabad of marginalized segments of the socion Friday, he said the judiciary alone ety, the apex court of Pakistan has also cannot pursue these ideals single handedly. The Chief Justice said that the force other dimensions of rule of law. In court has the power to declare the rights guaranteed to the people by the consti- way to become a champion for cause tution and the law but it cannot imple- of democracy in the country by buryment the same except in some circumstances. He said it is therefore the exec- the past had been resorted to justify the

utive which must take charge in this imposition of martial law. regard and ensure that the words of the court are translated into practical actions for the people.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan said the bar is also expected to join hands in delivery of justice to the people.

Justice Umar Ata Bandial said apart from enforcing the fundamental rights delivered landmark judgments to reinthis respect, the court has come a long ing the doctrine of necessity which in

The Chief Justice recalled that the court had to intervene after the President ordered dissolution of National Assembly in April 2022 on the advice of the then Prime Minister. He said the court found the dissolution as unconstitutional and ordered restoration of the National Assembly for the formation of a parliamentary government in accordance with the provisions of constitution. The Chief Justice said regardless of the efforts of the court to strengthen democracy in the country, progress can only be made if all political parties come together to follow the established democratic practices and perform their respective roles in the parliament under the constitution.

Weekly inflation plunges down 8.11%

Kitchen items' prices ease as SPI falls 0.12 pc

ISLAMABAD: The prices of essen- increase of 29.28 percent. tial commodities witnessed a considerable decrease as the Sensitive Price 16 =100 is covering 17 urban centers Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on September 22 for the combined consumption group witnessed a sharp decline of 8.11 percent as compared to the previous week.

The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 203.21 points against 221.14 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released here

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an

The weekly SPI with base year 2015and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 8.45 percent decrease and went down to 205.98 points from last week's 224.98

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 11.91 percent, 8.02 percent, 6.07 percent and 4.08 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items. prices of 26 (50.98%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 15

(29.41%) items remained stable.

The items which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis included tomatoes (8.15%), bananas (1.90%), garlic (1.31%), pulse masoor (0.99%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.78%), onions (0.46%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (0.34%), vegetable ghee 1kg (0.06%), electricity for Q1 (64.23%) and LPG

The commodities which recorded increase in their average prices included tea packet (6.30%), wheat flour (22.47%), tea packet (6.42%), chicken (4.52%), pulse gram (2.54%), bread (2.36%), cigarettes (1.82%), rice basmati broken (1.51%), potatoes (1.45%), pulse moong (1.31%) and rice Irri 6/9 (1.07%). Agencies

S KSA National Day

Chairman Senate for further strengthening Pak-Saudi ties

Celebration of 92nd National Day of Saudi Arabia held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The diplomatic mission headed by the Saudi envoy to Pakistan hosted a grand ceremony at Serena Hotel in the capital, Islamabad, to commemorate Saudi national day on Friday evening.

The national day is celebrated annually on September 23 to commemorate the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 by its founder, King Abdulaziz bin Saud. A large number of foreign diplomats, Pakistani officials, dignitaries, parliamentarians, journalists, and senior military officials were in attendance.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, said the relationship between Pakistan Deputy Speaker also extended their

and Saudi Arabia had been further felicitations to the citizens and leaderstrengthened and enhanced the ship of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its strength of the relationship between 92nd national day. the two brotherly countries

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, in his address as chief guest, congratulated the Saudi leadership and people and said both countries had formed a deep trust and understanding.

"It is now time to take our historic linkages by developing strategic partnership across the key areas of trade and investment, defense and security. We also need to join hands for peace, unity, development across Ummah and to resolve issues in Kashmir and Palestine," he said.

The National Assembly Speaker and

The NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in his message congratulated the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince Deputy Prime Minister/ Defense Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Shura Council Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Royal Family and the Saudi people.

"Saudi Arabia is moving ahead of time when it comes to progress, prosperity and welfare of its people under the visionary and farsighted leadership of the Kingdom", the Speaker remarked.



the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy and others cutting cake during celebration of the 92 National Day of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia at a Local Hotel, in Federal Capital. Photo: Online by Sultan Bash

cherished its brotherly ties with the through thick and thin. Kingdom. Both the countries always

He asserted that Pakistan always supported and stood side by side The NA Speaker said humanitarian

assistance extended by the Kingdom and the people to flood-ravaged Pakistanis in the wake of devastating floods was highly appreciable and reflected the love and affection of the brotherly people of the country.

He also emphasized regular high-level exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries as it would further cement the bond of friendship and open new avenues of cooperation in all fields of mutual

On the occasion, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani while extending his felicitations to Saudi leadership and its people remarked that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are tied in deep-rooted bonds of faith, culture, and history.

Providing relief to farmers Govt's top priority: Sindh Info Minister

Sindh government forms committees to collect accurate data on damages

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, on Friday, said that providing relief to the farmers is the first priority of Sindh government so that they could be able to sow crops of upcoming season.

The minister, in a statement issued here, said that recent heavy rains, besides destroying standing crops, inflicted damages to 3,773,707 acres out of 4,070,614 acres cultivable land in the province.

He said that Sindh government has fixed the support price for new wheat crop at Rs.4000 per 40 kg to provide relief to the farmers. Apart from this, steps were being taken to defer recovery of agricultural loans, he added.

Sindh government has formed committees to collect accurate data



on the damages and those committees would start their survey from coming Monday, he informed.

Water level at two barrages on Indus River in Sindh has receded below 100,000 cusec as inflow at Guddu Barrage was recorded at 87,300 cusec and outflow at 76,000 cusec while inflow and outflow at Sukkur barrage was recorded 92200 and 82000 cusec respectively; Sharjeel Memon said

was 203,100 cusec and the outflow 199,300 cusec.

He said that flood water from some areas has been drained out and IDPs have started returning to their homes. Victims from government schools in different areas of Hyderabad like UC Tando Hyder, UC Musa Khatian and other areas had returned to their homes, he added.

The district administration was providing transport facilities, tents and rations to the victims returning to their homes from the relief camp, Sharjeel said.

Giving update on flood situation the information minister said that 4 more precious lives have been lost and total number of deaths reached at 728 people

adding that inflow at Kotri barrage while 8422 got injured. He further added that 26,506 cattle were reported dead taking the total to 340,015.

According to the report received, 1,061,788 houses have been partially damaged and 720,799 destroyed completely, he said adding that department of Works and Services had reported that 2548 government buildings have been damaged due to recent rains and flood.

He said that relief activities were continue and 295,093 tents, 281,669 plastic tarpaulins, 2,309,809 mosquito nets, 749,762 litres of mineral water, 40,575 jerry cans, 7,579 pillows, 4,620 bed sheets and other relief materials have been provided to the flood affected people while ration bags have been given to 777120 families.

Budget of over Rs3b approved for University of Gujarat

Spokesman Report

GUJARAT: In the 46th meeting of the Syndicate of the University of Gujarat, a budget of more than 3 billion was approved for the financial year 2022-23.

The 46th meeting of the Syndicate $was\,held\,at\,Hafiz\,Hay\!at\,Campus\,under$ the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shabbar Ateeq. In addition, in the Syndicate meeting various administrative and teaching matters of Gujarat University were discussed, various proposals and decisions of the Academic Council, Selection Boards

And the decisions of the Planning Board were also approved. Effective suggestions were made by the members for further improvement while discussing the important issues of different departments of Gujarat University. All the members who participated in the administrative performance of Gujarat University. Gujarat University is an Assembly Khadija Umar, Additional emerging university of Pakistan and every year thousands of students benefit from the academic, practical and various fields of life.

I am doing my duty to serve my couninitiatives to be implemented for the Ishaq participated online. Dean Profes-



development and promotion of Guja- sor Dr. Muhammad Mushahid Anwar, rat University were also mentioned. In the meeting, syndicate members Samira Elahi, Safia Javed Chaudhry, member of the provincial assembly Muhammad Abdullah Waraich, Professor Dr. Kausar Jamal Cheema, vice chancellor.

UET Taxila Professor Dr. Inayatullah Khan, Former Member PPSC Muhammad Anwar Rashid, Divisional Director Audit Sher Ali (Representative Secretary Finance Government of Punjab), CEO meeting appreciated the teaching and Education Gujarat Chaudhry Muhammad Aurangzeb, Member Provincial Secretary Universities HED Shahid Zaman, HEC Pakistan Representative Vice Chancellor PU Lahore Professor research activities of this university in Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar and Secretary, Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Punjab, Representatry. In the syndicate meeting, plans and tive Director LA Chaudhry Mudassar

Dean Professor Dr. Shahid Iqbal, Director ORIC Dr. Adil Rashid and Director QEC Dr. Rashid Saeed were also present in the meeting.

Prof. Dr. Shabar Ateeq told the syndicate members that transparency and assurance of financial matters introduces balance and moderation in the performance of institutions. It is the important duty of universities to open educational and research avenues for students through proper use of resources. Jamia Gujarat is providing academic and research training on modern lines to the under tehsil students by putting all its efforts into practice.

The development of sustainable and quality education and research is the key to the development of the beloved country of Pakistan. In the modern world, universities are a metaphor for social and economic development.

South Punjab Police launch special drive

MULTAN: Additional Inspector General of Police South Punjab Dr Ehsan Sadiq ordered crackdown against drug peddlers, dealers and drug addicts by launching two weeks special campaign.

He directed all regional and district heads to get assistance of narcotics, intelligence bureau and special branch for getting better results by making the special campaign a success. Additional IGP South ordered to identify the drug addicts in collaboration with deputy commissioner concerned and admitted the people with drug addiction to the rehabilitation centers.

He also directed to share information regarding the awareness campaign with the media and also submit performance report with south Punjab police office regularly. Strict action would be taken against the officers over not following the orders, he warned.

A regular control room has been established in south Punjab Police office regarding drug control.

The public is requested to inform the South Punjab police office if they have any information about drug dealers or drug addicts through telephone numbers 061-9210520, 0323-6298269 in order to get rid the curse of drugs.

Nestlé Pakistan, NFEH Governor commemorate World Cleanup Day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Nestlé Pakistan commemorated World Cleanup Day with a beach cleaning activity at Sea View Beach, Karachi, under its global employee volunteer program Nestlé Cares, in partnership with National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH).

Highlighting Nestlé's global vision for a waste-free future, Wagar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan said, "We are accelerating our actions to reduce the environmental impact of various kinds of packaging waste. Our vision is that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfill nor in oceans, lakes and rivers."

"Over the years, thousands of Nestlé employees worldwide have donated their time in supporting activities nities and the planet. 'Nestlé Cares' is one of the ways we bring our purpose forward so that we can facilitate them and values to life. Initiatives under the Nestle Cares' volunteer programs provide employees the opportunity to said, "This cleanup initiative with Nestlé



make an impact by engaging and assisting local communities," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Saleem assan Wattoo, CEO, Clifton Cantonment Board said, "We are delighted at focused on having a positive impact on the way Nestlé Pakistan is playing a individuals and families, our commu- responsible role, we encourage corporate and private sector entities to come on such initiatives.

Naeem Qureshi, President, NFEH

is in line with our long-term ambition and commitment to stop waste seeping into the environment and avoid further accumulation of packaging waste in environmental landscape."

Karachi District Municipal Corporation South Administrator Dr Afshan Rubab, Additional Commissioner Karachi, Jawwad Muzaffar, government officials, members of civil society, and community volunteers also participat-

urges students to contribute towards flood relief

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman Friday urged students to play their role in relief efforts for the flood-effected people as even small help was of vital importance.

Talking to a delegation of students from a (non-governmental organisation) NGO-run school at the Governor's House he said the flood victims were passing through very difficult times, adding that the floods have affected hundreds of schools and disrupted education of millions of children. The governor Puniab said this was time to stand with our flood-stricken brothers and

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said bright future of the country was linked with education, adding that Paki $stan\,Muslim\,League\text{-}\breve{N}\,(PML\text{-}N)$ had always prioritise the education

mishap Mazir WANA: One person was killed

One killed, 27 injured in road

and 27 others injured when a passenger van fell into a ravine on Wana Gomal Zam road in the tribal district of South Waziristan.

FC officials reached the accident site and rescued the injured by performing first aid operation. The injured were shifted to Tank Hospital. According to the officials, the injured included women and



children. The officials further added that the accident occurred as a result of over speeding. The dead body was also shifted to the hospital and will be handed over to his family.

Mondelez Pakistan's Hub Plant wins Environmental Excellence Award



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mondelez Pakistan achieved another milestone in establishing greener, more sustainable operational infrastructures by bagging the coveted Environmental Excellence Award 2022 presented by the National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) Pakistan.

The prestigious accolade is presented to organizations that are dedicated towards the mission of effective implementation of local as well as international environmental standards at their work facilities. Mondelez Pakistan's Hub Plant was declared a winner after careful considerations by the NFEH jury.

The 19th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards were hosted in Karachi. For almost 2 decades, the awards have recognized substantial contributions made by various organizations to promote environment-friendly practices.

Mondelez Pakistan competed for the honor from a group of more than 200 companies whose efforts were scrutinized by a panel of NFEH auditors on the basis of continuous improvement initiatives taken to reduce environmental impact. The steps and improvements implemented at the Mondelez Pakistan Hub Plant, stood out to the auditors.

Commenting on the development, Mondelez Pakistan representative, stated: "Sustainability and environment conservation is one of our priorities at Mondelez Pakistan. We continuously strive towards optimizing our business operations in a way that it can reduce the harmful footprint that these activities leave on the environment. Being awarded with the Environmental Excellence Award this year is an honor for us and it will motivate further initiatives in this regard."

From cutting deforestation and waste generation to preserving water and mitigating CO2 emissions, Mondelez Pakistan has been actively launching initiatives that support its objectives of reducing environmental risks posed by its operations.

Dengue larva found in 39 places in Sargodha

SARGODHA: Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr Khaliqdad Niswana said anti-dengue teams found larva at 39 places, including 23 indoor, three commercial and 13 cemeteries and on highways yesterday. Talking to APP on Friday, he said there was currently a dengue patient in Sargodha who belonged to Lahore.

Anti-dengue teams had carried out activities at 1,144 hotspots in a day while three FIRs had been got registered against owners of commercial points over the presence of dengue larvae, he added.

KPRA imposes fine on restaurants, hotels for tax evasion

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) South Region imposed a penalty on several restaurants and hotels during a crackdown launched against sales tax evaders here on Friday.

A team comprising Deputy Collector Muhammad Munir, Audit Officer Wasif Rehman, Inspector Abdul Khaliq and Admin Officer Mohammad Ejaz paid a visit to hotels and restaurants in Dera Ismail Khan area, in line with directives of Additional Collector KPRA South Region Masood Shah and checked their invoices and tax record.

DG NLC reviews progress of infrastructural work at **CBD Punjab**

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Director General National Logistic Cell (NLC), Major General Yousaf Jamal visited Central Business District (CBD) Punjab to review infrastructural work in progress. Chief Operating Officer of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical, (PCBDDA) and the support staff of CBD Punjab were also present at the site visit.

DG NLC was given a detailed briefing about the progress of the ongoing construction work by Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical, PCBDDA. During the briefing, he talked about the completion of the excavation, column work, steel fixtures and concrete pouring for the raft of the under-construction parking plaza along with the overall infra-

structure work in progress. Talking on the occasion Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Chief Operating Officer of PCBDDA said" the pace reality.

of the construction of parking plaza and infrastructure work of phase 1 is very encouraging. We have a healthy working relationship with NLC and our other consultants onboard, with their continuous support we will deliver a world-class amenity to the residents of the district". While sharing his views during

the visit DG NLC said "I can witness the progress in the construction of the parking plaza and infrastructure development. The synchronization between the consultants and CBD Punjab site support team is laudable which has made the construction work flawless". He further added that as a contractor NLC will ensure that international standards are being implemented throughout the construction process.

High-end quality standards and procedures are being observed during the construction of the parking plaza and infrastructure development at the CBD Punjab site, which is a step forward in turning the dream of an economically stable Pakistan into

Sugary drinks posing major threat to health, economy

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's economy is facing various challenges. The annual cost of management of diabetes is skyrocketing to \$ 2.6 billion US Dollars estimated by International Diabetes Federation in 2021.

Pakistan is now top country globally with new people becoming diabetic every year. The consumption of sugary drinks increasing 30 percent risk of diabetes. This was said by Speakers during a workshop held at KP Food Safety and Halal Authority on Friday 23 September. The workshop was jointly organized by Pakistan National Heart Association and KP Food Safety and Halal Authority. The workshop was attended by health experts, media, senior management of KPFSHA and civil society.

The KPFSHA has already passed regulations to ban sales and availability of sugary drinks in education- consumption he added.



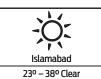
al institution of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said by Dr. Abdul Sittar, Technical Director KPFSHA. He said that sugary drinks are among the major contributors to obesity, diabetes, heart diseases and several types of cancers. The sodas, energy drinks and juices are major source of sugar intake and we must take all measures to stop its

Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that there are four high impact interventions to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and related diseases. Progressively increasing tax on sugary drinks, front of pack warning sign, marketing restrictions and removing beverages from public institutions especially schools are helpful to countries curbing the obesity and related NCDs. He said that increasing tax on sugary drinks will reduce hospital expenditure on NCDs and generate revenue for government which can be spent on the rehabilitation activities in flood effected areas. Husna Khattak, a representative

from PANAH informed the participants about their efforts to curb the harms of sugary drinks. She said that PANAH is not only working to raise public awareness about the health hazards of sugary drinks, but it is also working with policy makers to reduce its consumption, so that the disease burden of the country is reduced. She said that water and unsweetened milk is most healthful drink which people should consume, instead of sugary

The data from survey in 2014-15 by World Health Organization shows that 41.3% of people in Pakistan are obese or overweight.





SERVICES Namaz Timings Maghrib

...97.**026** pm EMEDGENCY

EMEKGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
W

Women Police

Statio	DNS
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQU	JIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
ΓΔΔ	9281092

HOSPITALS

HUSFII	
CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
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 ...0331-5022125

75 more dengue patients reported

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: As many as 75 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1.654.

District Coordinator **Epidemics Prevention** and Control (DCEPC) Sajjad Mehmood, Friday said that, among the new cases,38 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, eight from Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonments area, six from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, five from Potohar rural, and two each from Taxila Cantonment and Gujjar Khan.

Dr Sajjad said 241 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 98 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 72 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 71 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He added that out of the total admitted patients,152 tested positive, with 112 belonging to Rawalpindi.

The health officer informed that four patients were in a critical position at BBH and one in HFH. Dr Sajjad cautioned that September and October were crucial for dengue spread and all departments were fully alert to cope with any situation.

Students urged to play role towards energy conservation

Seminar titled "Children's Role in Energy Efficiency and Conservation" held

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At a seminar organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) at Fazaia Education System School E-9 Islamabad Campus, speakers urged the children to adopt best practices in Energy Conservation and play their role in making Pakistan an energy-efficient country.

The title of the seminar was "Children's Role in Energy Efficiency and Conservation" and its purpose was to raise awareness among school students regarding energy efficiency and conservation in the

The seminar was addressed by eminent speakers from the energy sector including representatives from the Fazaia Education System School.

They highlighted the importance of energy efficiency and



with innovation and climate change mitigation. NEECA team briefed the students NEECA' about building inter-

the same.

Representative suggested that there is a strong with help of animated series need to change people's behavbuilt on the character 'Captain iors toward energy consumption and its effect on our est amongst the children and environment in the shape Pakistan's youth, to conserve of Climate Change. In addienergy in their houses and tion, it was suggested that we conservation and its relation convince their families to do should reduce the unneces-

sary consumption of energy in everyday use.

The NEECA team distributed participation certificates among the students and the seminar ended with the pledge from students to save energy in the future. NEECA presented the commemorative shield to the principal of the school.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Girls taking keen interest in hand made dolls during Ignite's Culture Fest-22 at Lok Virsa, in Federal Capital.



'Pakistan has huge potential for digital transformation'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Google for Education team along with Tech Valley Pakistan visited the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training to understand the current challenges of the education sector of Pakistan and discuss the execution plan for Pakistan's first Educational Innovation Centre of Excellence in Pakistan (EICE).

EICE is a part of a larger digital education transformation journey that has been previously launched in 9 countries across the globe. The experience, research. output, and challenges accumulated from different countries will be duplicated in Pakistan with the help of the local country partner of Google for Education, Tech Valley Pakistan. The program will contribute to promoting skill sets for teachers and students with respect to the digital transformation of the education sector.

Aamir Ashraf Khawaja Secretary



Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training appreciated the Educational Innovation Center of Excellence provision in Pakistan and mentioned it can transform the educational ecosystem of Pakistan by empowering teachers with professional development and equipping schools with technology.

Chris Malone, Education Specialist, Google for Education said, "I am excited to visit Pakistan to discuss implementation of Educational Innovation Center of Excellence at a school, Islamabad that will be transformed with the help of Google for Education tools and Chromebooks.

He also added that Pakistan has a huge potential for digital transformation in the educational ecosystem.

A detailed research will be conducted in this center with the help of an academic partner where researchers will test different practices to develop a localised content and promote technology adoption at teachers and students level. Such centers were previously launched in Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Vietnam for successful digital transformation and professional development of teachers, students and administrators involved in

Health

Most long Covid patients recover within a year

ISLAMABAD: Most people infected with the SARS-CoV2 virus recover within 12 months, irrespective of the severity, said researchers.

The study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, showed that although 75 per cent had recovered at the 12-month mark after becoming ill with the virus, 25 per cent of patients still had at least one of the three most common symptoms, including coughing, fatigue, and breathlessness.

"Generally, one should not worry if they are feeling unwell right after their infection, as the chances of recovering within 12 months is very high, and just because you have typical long-Covid symptoms at three months does not mean they will stay forever," said senior author Manali Mukherjee from McMas-

Researchers also found that patients with persistent symptoms also had antibodies associated with autoimmune illnesses, as well as raised levels of cytokines, which cause inflammation, Medical Daily reported.

For the study, the team gleaned the results by surveying 106 people recovering from Covid-19 infections at three, six and 12 months after contracting the disease. All patients surveyed were otherwise healthy and had no pre-existing autoimmune conditions or any other underlying diseases pre-pandemic.

Mukherjee said that patients with persistent long-Covid symptoms should see a rheumatologist, as they specialise in autoimmune disorders and can better assess development of rheumatological complications and the need for an early intervention.

She said that most patients with long-Covid are currently assessed by respirologists or infectious disease specialists, who do not specialise in autoimmunity.

Mukherjee said that of the patients who recovered, a reduction in autoantibodies and cytokines was matched by their symptoms improving. Those who had elevated antibody and cytokine levels after one year were those whose symptoms persisted. APP

22 suspects held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders on Friday arrested 22 accused besides recovering over three kg narcotics, 20 liters liquor and weapons from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Rattaamral police held Sajjad and Tariq for having 300 grams heroin and 160 grams charras. Bani police rounded up Danial Zafar and recovered 1240 grams charras. Similarly, Sadiqabad, Dhamial, Rawat, Kalar Syedan, Kotli Sattian, New Town and Civil Lines police held Hamza, Niaz Khan, Fazal, Mazhar Iqbal, Yasir Ilyas, Bashir, Umar, Akram Hussain and Irfan on recovery of 1350 grams charras and 20 liters liquor. In other raid, conducted in different areas, nine accused namely Zain Ali, Saeed, Bashir, Abid Aziz, Qasim, Zahir and others as police recovered seven 30 bore pistols, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway.

CSOs urge effective coordination for flood relief, rehabilitation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Population Coalition of Civil Society Organisations has called on the government to mobilise increased domestic and international financial support for flood relief and rehabilitation in Paki-

The Coalition has also urged provincial governments to institute effective coordination mechanisms and enhance public-private partnership to restore reproductive health services for women, pregnant women and children. Joint actions to optimize humanitarian assistance through evidence-based policy measures, digital technology, increased advocacy for enhancing space for civil society were stressed by the Population Coalition as effective means to rehabilitate millions of shelter less children, pregnant women and the elderly currently bearing the brunt of the relentless rains and floodings across the country.

that as compared to 2010 floods,



the volume of resources available for relief and rehabilitation for the current floods is less even though the magnitude of devastation is much larger. They also stressed the need for enhanced civil society space for more targeted emergency response and rehabilitation for the affected

Based on the population estimates using district population projections form 2017 Population and Housing data, Population Council, which also holds the Secretariat of the CSOs Coalition shared estimates of poor and vulnerable populations particularly women, pregnant women and The coalition members observed children in the worst affected districts across Pakistan.

Indonesian Embassy, Waheed group collaborate to raise funds for flood victims

During the Indonesian Cooking Culinary Demonstration by the famous Indonesian Master Chef Contestant

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Republic of Indonesia and the Waheed group collaborated to host a joint fund-raising event in the form of an Indonesian culinary cooking demonstration in order to show solidarity with the people of Pakistan who have been affected by the flood disaster. The Indonesian Cooking Culinary demonstration was attended by the diplomatic corps with spouses, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director of the Waheed group, the Chairman of the Pakistan Red CrescentSociety, restaurant owners, the business community, the Indonesian student association in Pakistan, and the Indonesian Diaspora.

famous Chef Budiono, who is current-

ly working as the Executive Chef in Marriott, Nusa Dua Bali, and has had ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the professional expertise in cooking for more than 28 years. He also participated as a Master Chef in the Professional UK contestant series in 2021, and the following year, in 2022, he was a guest judge in MasterChef Indonesia. Chef Budiono introduced Betawi (beef soup), Maranggi chicken satay (chicken tikka), fried noodles, and bakwan (pakora). All Indonesian cuisines were made with the spices available in Paki-

Ambassador Tugio said, "many spices such as nutmeg, cloves, and pepper used in famous Pakistani Garam Masala, a combination of 11 spices, also come from Heartland of Spices, Indonesia". The Embassy has organized this event The fundraising activity with the in line with the Indonesian govern-Indonesia Culinary Demo featured the ment's program called 'Indonesia Spice Up the World (ISUTW)' to promote

local spices and cuisines, especially at the international stage to boost spice trade activities, he added.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Tugio, Director of Waheed group, Mr. Fahad Waheed, Regional Coordinator of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Mrs. Efi Indriyani, and the chair of Indonesian students in Pakistan, Mr.Ibnu Fikri Ghozali presented a cheque of PKR 1.2 million (USD 5,353), while guests who attended the culinary demonstration at the embassy contributed PKR 300,000 (USD 1,300) for the flood victims. Pakistan Nahdlatul Ulama (PCINU) Special Branch Management also provided logistical assistance (tents, mosquito nets, and food packages), as well as two HemoCue machines for blood donation.

The chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society expressed his deep



gratitude to the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad for arranging a fundraising event for the people of Pakistan who have been affected severely.

The Director of Waheed Groupappreciated the efforts of the Indonesian Embassy for the joint collaboration in hosting two Indonesian culinary demos in Islamabad, he also highlighted the similarities of flavor between Indonesian and Pakistani cuisines.

On September 20, 2022, Chef Budi-

ono conducted the Indonesia Culinary Cooking Workshop at the College of Tourism Hotel and Management (COTHM), by introducing Balinese chicken satav and beef curry in front of COTHM students. COTHM Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ahmad Shafiq praised the initiative of the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad to introduce Indonesian cuisine to students.

This culinary promotion activity is part of the implementation of the Indo-



nesian Spice Up The World program. The Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad is also finalizing a coffee table book, "Indonesia Spice Up Pakistan: Winning Hearts and Minds Through Foods and Flavors". The book, which is expected to be published in October 2022, captures the opportunity to increase exports of Indonesian spices to Pakistan, and at the same time introduces the culinary arts of the archipelago to the 5 super tourist destinations in the country.

Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, September 24, 2022

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The case of Kashmiris at UNGA

The Prime Minister in his address to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly presented the case of Pakistan before the world. The recent flooding in Pakistan has also complicated the economic situation of the country. The infrastructure, crops and properties have been completely destroyed and if the international community does not come forward, the country may suffer. There is a need to defer the international debt. The Prime Minister also highlighted the Indian atrocities and policies in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and

The prime minister told the world body that Pakistan looked for peace with all of its neighbours, including India. However, the sustainable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon a just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "At the heart of this longstanding dispute lies the denial of the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, to change the internationally recognized "disputed" status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory further undermined the prospects of peace and inflamed regional tensions," he remarked. He said India's relentless campaign of repression against Kashmiris had continued to grow in scale and intensity. In pursuit of this heinous goal, New Delhi has ramped up its military deployments in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to 900,000 troops, thus making it the most militarized

Pakistan is making all out efforts in developing consensus on the Kashmir dispute. It is an honor that the Foreign Minister chaired the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in New York where he urged the OIC members to formulate an action plan to halt Islamophobia in India. The friendly countries have acknowledged the narrative of Pakistan on this long-standing issue and extended their support in this regard. The Kashmir issue must be resolved according to the wishes of Kashmiri people and in accordance with the UN resolutions. Afghanistan is also a country where the new Afghan government cannot sustain all alone. The Afghan people also need the support of the international community in terms of recognition and financial assistance.

In an editorial published in the Guardian it was asked why Israel and India are above the law. OIC has condemned the Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The fact is that the world cannot remain silent over the Kashmir issue as it is the main bone of contention between the two nuclear states. The world is witnessing the promotion of Hindutva ideology but its silence is beyond understanding. All this is happening in the so-called world's largest democratic state. There is need to take particle measures and the world should boycott India economically in order to pressurize it to stop its human rights abuses in the Occupied valley.

We are living in a civilized world but the world is not an ideal place. The international community needs to play its role to minimize racism across the globe. Whatever our neighboring country is doing in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir should be condemned at all levels. The world is celebrating World Peace Day while around one million Indian forces have illegally occupied the disputed territory. It is responsibility of the UN member states and world organizations to play their role on resolution of Kashmir issue.

Pakistan-Qatar connection policy review



incumbent government of has Pakistan geared-up 'economic diplomacy" and tried to "diversify" its sources of seeking inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Current account deficit is widening. Foreign reserves are at the lowest ebbs.

Pak-US exchange parity (24 percent) has already created a huge economic and financial disparity in the country due to which policy makers are in the line of fire. In this regard, most recently Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid a two-day official visit to Qatar, during which he met high government's officials, ministers and business communities to invest in the

During Pakistan-Qatar Investment and Business Roundtables 2022 he invited potential investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy (renewables, wind & solar), oil & gas cooperation, aviation, industrial and infrastructural

security), livestock, maritime (blue economy), tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Prime Minister appreciated the QIA's rejuvenated interest in investing in Pakistan. Consequently, it was agreed that designated focal persons on both sides would closely follow-up on the key proposals for investments. For the further strengthening of bilateral relations and gearing up of economic diplomacy the Prime Minister invited Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al-Mehmoud and Sheikh Faisal Thani Al-Thani to visit Pakistan at their earliest convenience to build on the momentum generated by the visit.

The QIA officials expressed their keen interest and readiness in actively pursuing investment opportunities in the country. Moreover, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacted with the prominent Qatari and Pakistani business leaders at a "Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable 2022", jointly organised by the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), the Pakistan Business Council Qatar and the Embassy of Pakistan in Doha.

Pakistan and Qatar on Wednesday agreed to promote cooperation in different sectors. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

discussed matters pertaining Pakistanis, who are contributing to bilateral and mutual interest during the meeting. During his stay, PM met Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, besides addressing the Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable conference.

To conclude, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Qatar is timely, strategic, and articulated. It fetched huge pledges of investment amounting to US\$2 billion along with promises of financial assistance in terms of deferment of payments of energy bills (importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Moreover, export of human capital, especially military personnel to World Football in Qatar is a huge economic success for cash-stripped Pakistan. Since Russia-Ukraine war has destabilized the international energy and food markets the policy makers of Pakistan should further strengthen imports of LNG from Qatar.

Pakistan has two long-term LNG supply deals with Qatar to provide up to nine cargoes a month which should be further increased. Interestingly, both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties in terms of advancing energy-related cooperation, deepening trade and investment and exploring greater employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Qatar. Qatar

to the progress, prosperity and economic development of the two brotherly countries which should be further streamlined, systemized and strengthened.

The maiden visit of Premier Shehbaz to Doha should be termed as successful in all respects which definitely renewed impetus to deepening cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields and further strengthen their growing economic partnership. Hopefully, it will further enhance bilateral economic and investment engagement, particularly in the renewable energy including solar and wind power generation, aviation, maritime, industrial and infrastructure development, and hospitality sectors. Moreover, investments in the ongoing and CPEC Phase-II would be a game changer in the country. It seems that Pakistan-Qatar relations are promising in essence. The two-day visit of PM Shehbaz as he met the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, was meant to further the envelope of a long-lasting understanding

in all walks of life. Thus both reassured their resolve to make new strides in renewable energy, industrial and infrastructure development, as well as in tourism and hospitality. Ours is the age of globalization 3.0 where Islamabad, Regional Expert, economic diplomacy plays very

development, agriculture (food in Doha. The two sides also is home to more than 200,000 important role in achieving the desired goals of socio-economic development. Pakistan and Qatar are also gearing up their bilateral relations with the help of economic diplomacy. Qatar is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It is the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer and has become a major force in foreign investment, in addition to its achievements in political, cultural, social and legislative spheres. Despite some external challenges Qatar has succeeded to maintain and sustain economic independence and protected its national security and strengthened bilateral relations with all countries of the world. Cooperation in cotton would provide win-win position to Qatari investors because textile benefits are enormous and diversified.

> Moreover, oil & gas exploration would provide comparative advantage to Qatar which needs to be further strengthened. Extended cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security would be a game-changer in the days to come. Tourism, SMEs, chemicals and infrastructure sectors would be mutually benefited for both the countries.

The writer is Executive Director, the Centre for South Asia ಆ International Studies (CSAIS) Qatar & GGC.



A strong Saudi Arabia a beacon of hope for the world

Hasan Al-Massloom

audi Arabia is the largest country in the Arabian Peninsula and one of the most consequential regionally and internationally. Yet, one wonders how this land, with its unfavorable geography, heterogeneous population and long history of conflicts, changed in just a century from an isolated desert chieftaincy into a founding member of the UN and one of the most influential countries in the world.

The chronicles of the Arabian Peninsula indicate that the area between the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf has been home to more than two dozen Arab tribes. Besides, since the dawn of Islam, myriads of Muslims have come from all four corners of the globe to perform Hajj in the holy land of Makkah and Medina. Some pilgrims stayed afterward and resettled

in the Hijaz region. The currents of the Arabian Gulf carried ships of pearls and other goods and enabled the movement of people from far away to the east coast. Not to forget the trade caravans that ran from Yemen to the Levant and from Najd to Iraq, taking merchants and their merchandise all over. Specific tribes and families were famed for their trans-peninsular trade excursions. The vast stretch of desert, mostly arid with little or no rain, made living conditions in Arabia one of the harshest globally. Those fortunate enough to have a flock of sheep, a herd of camels or a piece of agricultural land stayed home to rear their livestock or tend topmost virtues.

tains to the olive trees of Jouf, from the palm made us a nation, namely the diversity of our

in the Empty Quarter and from the Gulf to the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia features diverse climates, landscapes and resources. Forests blossom in the southwest of the country.

Unlike the fake oases seen in Hollywood movies, with their serried ranks of date palms and watercourses, Asir's forests are natural, full of trees, shrubs and wild animals, which can be seen amid the peaks of the mountains.

On a recent visit to Jazan with a group of Shoura Council members, I was thrilled to venture through its diverse and fascinating terrains: The Red Sea, Fifa mountains, Tihama plains and tongues of desert scattered in

I tasted its homegrown mango and coffee and the local honey. It was such a delight to get acquainted with the amazing heritage of Jazan and to talk with its farmers, shepherds, fishermen, poets and artists.

Likewise, all provinces of Saudi Arabia exhibit unique historical, geographical and cultural attributes that distinguish them from one another. Yet, in spite of our diverse backgrounds, we have a consensus to honor and guard our authentic and magnificent heritage in the face of the profane, depraved and false values that are swarming us from elsewhere

As the descendants of farmers, shepherds, merchants, Bedouin tribes, urban families and all other stripes of society, Saudis take pride in their altruism, courage and compassion. We are a gracious nation that regards hospitality to strangers and charity to the poor as our

As we celebrate the 92nd national day of From the acacia forests in the Asir moun- Saudi Arabia, we should not overlook what

trees of Al-Qassim to the oil-harboring desert people and the unity of our homeland. Still, the country required a new vision that challenged the status quo, which was clinging to antiquated and unproductive social and economic structures.

In 2016, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched Vision 2030, which is a huge paradigm shift that is based on diversification of the economy, opening up to the outside world and tearing down the walls that kept wide swaths of society marginalized for

Vision 2030 is a massive social and economic reform program that pledges to purge corruption, entrench meritocracy and provide equitable opportunities across the full spectrum of the Saudi people. It behooves us on national day to celebrate our diversity and our Kingdom's vision, while doing our utmost to safeguard its secure and prosperous future, bearing in mind that we are stronger together and weaker apart.

Three hundred years ago in Arabia, incompetent governance, scarce resources and non-egalitarian societies resulted in disorder, conflicts and a prolonged period of social injustice and economic stagnation. Today, Saudi Arabia, with its bold leadership, vivacious forward-looking perspective, diverse heritage and rich resources, is much stronger than ever before. It is a beacon of hope and illumination to the whole world.

Dr. Hasan Al-Massloom is a member of the Saudi Shura Council and an expert on change management who writes passionately about its behavioral, social, and cultural aspects. He and his team were the recipients of the Minis $try \, of Health Award \, for \, the \, Most \, Inspiration$ al Story in 2020.

Misconceptions about Single National Curriculum-Way forward-II

Prof. Amer Jamil

herefore, the content of different disciplines comprises of too much detail at early age which in fact takes away their innovation and leisure time vital for personality building. The education until class 5th should comprise of training mostly with three books; English (covering basic concepts of science), Urdu (covering Islamic Studies and Pakistan Studies) and Mathematics. Regional language at this stage is also no appropriate as we need a unified nation with integration. Already we are being divided on ethnic basis in different sects. The languages may be included at college level where students are able to understand the philosophy behind the languages rather than cramming different stories. Special attention should be given to teach manners to the students. Then from class 6th to 12th, the subjects like Science and Mathematics should be taught in English as it is the international medium of instruction. The subjects like Islamic Studies should comprise of subjects like Quranic translation of the verses dealing with daily life and Seerat-un-Nabi, and Pakistan Studies and Geography in Urdu so that the students may comprehend it in true sense. Examination is the most important part of the any education system that brings critical thinking in the students. If we prepare students for the questions like Write a note on 14 points of Quaid-i-Azam or write translation of some verses etc., the students will go only for cramming. The teachers will also teach in the similar way so that they would give maximum marks to the students who replicate the same on the paper, and this is

actually happening! We should ask the students the questions like "what was impact of 14 points on struggle of independence of Indian Muslims" etc. Similarly, problem solving approach should be followed in all science subjects. Trainings of our teachers for implementation of such educational system is mandatory. Moreover, we need to motivate and incentivize our teachers so that they may do the work with full devotion and commitment. Exploitation of the teachers is common especially in ordinary private schools where teachers are highly underpaid as compared to workload given

Conclusively, we not only have failed for the last 75 years in bringing innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving approach in our students, but our education system has brought in class difference and ethnicity among them. SNC is one solution in minimizing such differences and to make a nation with uniformity. The expensive private schools are afraid of the SNC that their business will be affected due to its implementation. Whereas their business would not be affected. The difference between such private and public schools should be of the facilities such as air conditioning, co-curricular activities etc., and not based on content that is creating nothing but class difference. The one who can afford better facilities may send their children to the private schools with such facilities. But the whole nation should be given the same education. We need to bring both Professional and Personal excellence in our youth if we want to emerge as a developed nation.

Prof. Amer Jamil is Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

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Courtesy: Arab News

Ukraine says residents coerced into Russian annexation vote

Referendums in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia

KYIV: Russia launched referendums on Friday aimed at annexing four occupied regions of Ukraine, raising the stakes of the seven-month-old war in what Kyiv called a sham that saw residents threatened with punishment if they did

Ukrainian officials said people were banned from leaving some occupied areas until the four-day vote was over, armed groups were going to homes to force people to cast ballots, and employees were threatened with the sack if they did not participate.

"Today, the best thing for the people of Kherson would be not to open their doors," said Yuriv Sobolevsky, the displaced first deputy council chairman of Kherson region.

The votes on becoming part of Russia were hastily-organised after Ukraine earlier this month recaptured large swathes of the northeast in a coun-

With Russian President Vladimir



fight in Ukraine, the Kremlin appears to be trying to regain the upper hand in the grinding conflict since its Feb.

potentially using that to justify even a nuclear response.

Putin and other Russian officials have mentioned nuclear weapons as an By incorporating the four areas, option in extremis: a terrifying prospect Putin also announcing a military draft Moscow could portray attacks to retake in a war that has already killed tens of this week to enlist 300,000 troops to them as an attack on Russia itself- thousands of people, uprooted millions

and pummelled the global economy. Voting in the provinces of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the east and southeast, representing about 15% of Ukrainian territory, was due to run from Friday to Tuesday.

Serhiy Gaidai, Ukraine's Luhansk governor, said that in the town of Starobilsk, the population was banned from leaving and people were being forced out of homes to vote.

In the town of Bilovodsk, a company director told employees voting was compulsory and anyone refusing to take part would be fired and their names given to security services, he added.

Calling the event "elections without elections," Gaidai said people were being forced to fill out "pieces of paper" without privacy in kitchens and yards, with towns sealed off.

"The mood of the Russians is panicky because they were not ready to carry out so quickly this so-called referendum, there is no support, there's not enough people," Kherson's Sobolevsky said on

Global leaders call for united voice for peace

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On September 18th, the 8th Anniversary of the September 18th HWPL World Peace Summit was held online with the theme of 'Peace as an Institution: A Foundation for Sustainable Development'.

This event held across the world in 146 countries (including Maldives, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan), with 5,000 participants aired online to reaffirm the importance of the sustainable development guaranteed by institutionalizing peace while the global community has yet to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and faces another threats caused by the Russian-Ukraine conflict.

Since September 18th in 2014 when the peace summit was held for the first time, Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), an international peace NGO under the UN ECOSOC, has called for solidarity for peacebuilding at the global level through collective actions with various actors including heads of state, ministers, law makers, religious leaders, educators, youth and women leadments in cooperation with governments.



Regarding the cause of peacebuilding at the global level, Chairman Man Hee Lee of HWPL said, "The global village has suffered from the unexpected COVID-19 that has hit every country. People are not alone in the midst of difficulties. We live in the same global village, and we are neighbors and families. Each one of us is the one who are obliged to make our world a better place to live. And shouldn't we pass on our good world to our descendants?"

Marinus Bee, the chairperson of the National Assembly of Suriname, expressed his willingness to establish peace at the legislative level by saying, "The role of parliaments in builders, and reporters. This annual summit ing peace and preventing conflict is shares peace activities and achieve- crucial." He added, "In collaboration with HWPL the National Assembly and civil society around the world every would like to establish a framework of cooperation in achieving cessation various events was held online and nalist.

of war and spread a culture of peace through activities to raise awareness of peace and encourage policies and programs regarding peace education."

Octavia Alfred, Octavia Alfred, Minister for Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and Nation Excellence of Dominica, said that HWPL's peace education was introduced to the national school curriculum in Dominica as it was "integrated into Social Studies, and also as a stand-alone." For the reason to develop the educational source into the civics curriculum in the country, she said that the HWPL peace curriculum is helpful "in addressing the challenges of ... not just students, but even what they take home to their friends and their parents, and also out teachers"

offline by Western Busan & Gyeongnam Branch. On September 18, the Youth Empowerment Peace Workshop (YEPW) will be held at the office of YPSA (Young Power Social In Action) in Chittagong. Through this workshop, the issues and development plans of the basic educational welfare rights of Bangladeshi youth discussed.

On September 20, a "Peace-Drawing Activity" was held offline at Mukhtar School in Bactra, Afghanistan. Mursal Sattari, who is hosting the event there, is working as a peace teacher after completing the training of HWPL, and Principal Mohammad Nadir Azedpana was appointed as a goodwill ambassador for HWPL on the same day. Teacher Mursal Satari said, "We appreciate HWPL's support for Afghanistan, and we are very happy that the entire school has become a member of HWPL through this event." Meanwhile, in October, the "Peace-Eco Flogging Activity" will be held with the Maldives Maamendhoo School

On the same day, journalists from the Maldives and Pakistan gather online to hold a meeting under the theme of "Peace Journalism I Want to Achieve." It was announce the current state of the media in the two countries and share In celebration of this ceremony, the vision of a peaceful media as a jour-

Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow holds Khuli Kachehri

MOSCOW: The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow held a Khuli Kachehri today, on 23 September 2022, in an online format. The meeting was conducted by Deputy Head of Mission Rana Summar Javed.

During the meeting, Mr. Rana Summar Javed informed the participants about special arrangements made by the Embassy in order to deliver passports to the Pakistani citizens in Russia. Passports of pakistani citizens are being extended by the mission as per rules without challenges. In addition, the the applicants. despite the current logistical



delays on a case to case basis matter has been taken up with IMPASS to further facilitate ated the Mission's effort and

The participants appreci-

put forward various sugges tions on how to expedite and smoothen the passport deliv-

ery process. The Deputy Head of Mission also underscored the importance of abiding by the laws and rules of the host country, including inadmissibility to participate in the unauthorized rallies or gath-

In addition, it was noted that maximum attention is given to the Pakistani nationals, whenever they visit the Embassy, and the staff of the Mission are committed to provide maximum facilita-

IIOJK authorities again disallow Mirwaiz to offer Juma prayers

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, has condemned the continued house detention of its chief and senior APHC leader. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The Anjuman in a statement said that once again, today, the Mirwaiz was not allowed to leave his residence for delivering the Friday sermon to the faithful at the historic mosque.

It said that like the previous several Fridays, additional Indian police and paramilitary personnel were deployed outside the Nigeen residence of the

Global protests demand climate change compensation ahead of COP27

BRUSSELS: Young activists rallied for climate action on Friday, staging protests from New Zealand and Japan to Germany and the Democratic Republic of Congo to demand that rich countries pay for the damage that global warming is inflicting upon the poor.

The protests take place six weeks before this year's UN climate summit, known as COP27, where vulnerable countries plan to push for compensation for climate-related destruction to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Demonstrations planned in around 450 locations worldwide by youth movement Fridays for Future. They are timed to coincide with global leaders meeting in New York City at the UN General Assembly.



were house that gets flooded," said 15-year-old Park Chae-yun, one of around 200 protesting

One day, it could be my measures rather than going to school."

A protester who gave their name as Meta had the same in Seoul, South Korea. "I'm worry in Indonesia: "If Jakarliving with a sense of crisis, so tais flooded, everyone who has I think it is more important money can leave. Where do I to deliver my concerns to the go? I will drown here in Jakargovernment to take preventive ta."

Around 400 young activists gathered in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital Kinshasa, chanting slogans such as "Act for Africa, protect our planet" and carrying cardboard signs reading "Climate Justice" and "Climate SOS" while walking on the shoulder of a busy thoroughfare.

Escalating and irreparable damage caused by climate change has heightened developing country demands for "Loss & Damage" compensation to be addressed at COP27 in Egypt in November.

Leaders from these countries note the world is already facing climate-fuelled disasters, including deadly floods engulfing large parts of Pakistan, wildfires ravaging Morocco and Canada, and record-breaking heatwaves in Britain and India.

"The Least Developed Countries are bearing the brunt of the devastating consequences of climate change," Senegal's environment minister Abdou Karim Sall told a meeting in Dakar last week, "The fundamental priority is to ensure new and additional funding to deal with it," he said.

The United States and 27-country European Union have historically resisted steps that could potentially assign liability for causing climate change, by requiring rich nations to pay compensation.

The COP27 meeting in Sharm El Sheikh is not expected to yield a landmark deal like the one struck at the COP26 summit last November in Glasgow, which asked countries to do much more to curb planet-warming carbon emissions.

US aircraft carrier arrives in South Korea for joint drills

BUSAN: The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan arrived in the South Korean port of Busan on Friday ahead of the two countries' joint military exercise that aims to show their strength against growing North Korean threats.

The joint drills will be the first involving a U.S. aircraft carrier in the region since 2017, when the U.S. sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The allies this year have revived their large-scale military drills that were downsized or shelved in previous years to support diplomacy with Pyongyang or because of COVID-19, responding to North Korea's resumption of major weapons testing and increasing threats of nuclear conflicts with Seoul and Washington.

The South Korean navy said its combined training with the Reagan battle group is meant to boost the allies' military readiness and to show "the firm resolve by the Korea-U.S. alliance for the sake of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

The Reagan's arrival in South Korea comes after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told Pyongyang's rubber-stamp parliament this month he would never abandon his nuclear weapons and missiles he needs to counter what he perceives as U.S. hostility.

North Korea also passed a new law that enshrined its status as a nuclear power and authorized the preemptive use of nuclear weapons over a broad range of scenarios where the country or its leadership comes under threat.

Sung Kim, the Biden administration's special representative for North Korea, met with South Korean counterpart Kim Gunn in Seoul on Thursday where they expressed "serious concern" over the North's escalating nuclear doctrine spelled out in the new law, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

The diplomats reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend South Korea in the event of a nuclear war with the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear. The allies also maintained their months-old assessment that North Korea is gearing up to conduct its first nuclear test since 2017 and discussed "stern" countermeasures to such an action, the ministry said.

Israel has no rightful claim or sovereignty over Jerusalem: Palestine

Spokesman Report

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine reaffirms that respecting the special status of Jerusalem is an integral part of the universally recognized rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, in their Capital.

The international community's position on Jerusalem is clear: Israel has no rightful claim or sovereignty over Jerusalem, including occupied East Jerusalem, its Old City and its holy sites; Israel, the occupying Power, has no authority to engage in diplomatic relations or invite States to open diplomatic offices in any part of the City.

Since 1947, the UN Security Council and General Assembly have conclusively and authoritatively determined the international legal status of Jerusalem, the obligations of States to uphold this status, and the illegality of relocating embassies and diplomatic offices to

For its part, the ICJ reaffirmed in its advisory opinion on the Wall that Israel's presence in Jerusalem is that of an occupying Power;

Israel's presence as an occupying Power is an established and unassailable legal fact that infers legal, political, and moral obligations on all States, especially Permanent Members of the Security Council;

Accordingly, opening an embassy in Jerusalem, or establishing a mission on the basis of diplomatic relations with Israel, in any part of Jerusalem, is a de facto and de jure recognition of Israel's ongoing

Likewise, opening an embassy in Jerusalem amounts to complicity in Israel's illegal annexation of the City and relentless attempts to assert sovereignty, including through war crimes of forcible displacements, demolitions, and control over holy sites;

In this connection, the State of Palestine affirms that it will pursue all available legal, diplomatic, and political measures to ensure that $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ Jerusalem and its status are protected.

Indian SC agrees to list pleas against Article 370 abrogation

NEW DELHI: The Indian Supreme Court on Friday said it will take up after the vacation of Hindu festival Dussehra in October the petitions challenging the BJP-led Hindutva government's illegal and unilateral move to abrogate provisions of Article 370, which had given special status to Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices Indira Banerjee and S. Ravindra Bhat took note of the submissions of a counsel that the pleas were assured to be listed after the summer vacation but they could not be listed.

We will certainly list that," the CJI told the counsel who submitted that it is an important constitutional matter and has been pending for a long time. The bench said it will be taken up when the court reopens after the Dussehra recess. The apex court will be on Dussehra break from October 3 and will reopen on October 10. On April 25 this year, a bench headed by the then CJI N.V.Ramana, now retired, had agreed to consider listing after the summer vacation the pleas challenging New Delhi's decision to abrogate Article 370.

The pleas were then mentioned by interveners Radha Kumar, Indian academic and author and Kapil Kak, retired officer of the Indian

The hearing into several petitions challenging the Indian government's action of repealing Article 370 and invoking the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split IIOJK into two Union Territories commenced before the 5-judge bench in December 2019, almost 4 months after the notifications issued by New Delhi in August 2019. The petitions have contended that the August 5 Order and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 were arbitrary. The petitions have not been listed after March 2, 2020.

Over 30 migrants dead, dozen rescued in Syrian waters

BEIRUT: Syrian authorities have found 34 bodies and rescued more than a dozen migrants off the coast of the northern port city of Tartus on Thursday suspected of having left north Lebanon bound towards Europe earlier this week.

Samer Qubrusli, the Syrian director-general of ports, told Reuters that authorities had found 34 bodies and rescued 14 people in Syrian waters by Thursday evening. The Syrian transport ministry cited survivors as saying the boat left from Lebanon's northern Minyeh region on Tuesday with between 120 and 150 people onboard.

Lebanese transport minister Ali Hamiye said he had been informed by Syrian Transport Minister Zuhair Khuzaim that 33 bodies had been recovered and 16 people rescued. Lebanon has seen a spike in migration driven by one of the world's deepest economic crises since the 1850s.

In addition to Lebanese, many of those leaving aboard migrant boats are themselves already refugees from Syria and Palestine. Dozens of people in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli held a protest earlier on Thursday to alert authorities that they had lost contact with a migrant boat with dozens on board that was headed towards Italy. The majority of victims and survivors were found near

Arwad, the ministry said. Rescue operations had stopped overnight due to weather conditions, including high waves. The Lebanese army on Wednesday said it had rescued 55 people on board one malfunctioning boat in the country's territorial waters that it towed back to shore.



'``' Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
40,620.21	40,927.95		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
41,128.83	40,514.33		
Index Value	Change		
5,986,669,638	-307.74		
Percentage	Time		
-0.75%	23 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,018.60	-140.92		
Percentage	Time		
-1.97%	23 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
29,500.58	-576.10		
Percentage	Time		
-1.92%	23 Sept, 12:02 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
27,153.83	-159.30		

Open Market Forex Rates

Time

22 Sept, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Percentage

-0.58%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	158.5	159.75
Bahrain Dinar	633.37	637.87
Canadian Dollar	177.7	179.12
China Yuan	34	34.25
Danish Krone	32.07	32.42
Euro	237	239.5
Hong Kong Dollar	30.34	30.69
Indian Rupee	3.01	3.09
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	770.03	775.03
Malaysian Ringgit	52.84	53.29
NewZealand \$	140.09	141.29
Norwegians Krone	23.35	23.65
Omani Riyal	618.56	623.06
Qatari Riyal	65.85	66.35
Saudi Riyal	64	64.6
Singapore Dollar	168.28	169.58
Swedish Korona	22.16	22.46
Swiss Franc	246.68	248.43
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	65.5	66.15
UK Pound Sterling	271.3	274
US Dollar	241.5	244

Falling economy makes it difficult to provide relief to masses: PEW



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said it has become impossible to provide relief to the flood victims due to debt repayments, strict IMF conditions, rising inflation and a declining economy.

Electricity and oil are getting expensive, and many imports are being stopped but the rupee is depreciating due to a lack of confidence in the market, it said.

Despite grim economic conditions, the political fever is not giving the government time to plan for the rehabilitation of the flood victims and take the right economic decisions, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that foreign loans have exceeded one hundred and thirty billion dollars, while local loans are even more; the IMF loan stabilized the rupee for a few days in the month of August but now it is falling rapidly again.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the politicians who are claiming to improve the economy by putting the country's interest above all else for power, have forgotten that they have taken record loans in the history of the country without showing any progress. He said that dependence on loans and grants has not allowed the economy to flourish on a sustainable basis and wastage of resources for non-productive activities is still rampant.

Wrong decisions and mismanagement will soon result in the 24th IMF bailout package as rulers have developed a habit of surviving on loans and grants, he said.

The rulers need to understand that the time to take advantage of the superpowers' constraints is over and the economic model will have to be completely changed or the country will remain in need of loans.

Pakistani investors invited to explore UAE for investment

The UAE Ambassador says it is right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan said that United Arab Emirates (UAE) was emerging as a hub of trade and investment activities and was striving to attract USD 150 billion of inward investment by 2030, therefore, it was the right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE for business and investment activities.

He said that this year, UAE and Pakistan were celebrating 50 years of their unique brotherly relations, which should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations. He said that the UAE was connected to over 250 cities around the world and investing in UAE would enable Pakistan investors to promote exports to many parts of the world. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest at Explore UAE event organized at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with UAE Embassy.

Ahmed Mohammad Aljneibi, Economic



Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Inter- & construction, agriculture, industrial manunational Cooperation of UAE gave a detailed presentation to the business community on Invest Emirates. He said that UAE was an ideal destination for investment as it has a low-tax environment and offered new opportunities for investment across both mainland and free zones. He highlighted transportation, storage

facturing, renewable energy, hospitality, information & communication, professional, scientific & technical activities, administrative & support services, educational activities, healthcare and arts & entertainment as potential areas of investment in UAE.

Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that UAE has emerged as one of the major trading partners of Pakistan and we would like to further strengthen trade ties with it. He said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and UAE in 2021-22 had crossed the USD 10 billion mark, which could be further enhanced with strong efforts from both sides. He said that Pakistani exports to UAE included garments, food items, meat, cereals, agricultural products, fruits & vegetables and there was great potential for exports of many other Pakistani products to UAE including financial and software-related products, mangoes, oranges, kinos & rice etc.

He stressed that the UAE should take advantage of these products by importing them from Pakistan. He said that many UAE companies were already doing successful business in Pakistan and more should come to capitalize on the investment opportunities available in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He also thanked the UAE government for providing generous Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad support to Pakistan for the flood affectees.

Floods losses reach \$30b; external debt needs restructuring: FPCCI

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that all bilateral & multilateral external debts of Pakistan need immediate restructuring on soft terms as the total economic cost of unprecedented floods in Pakistan has surpassed \$30 billion. He reiterated his stance that despite having a population of 220 million and contribution of less than 1 percent in global carbon emissions, Pakistan has paid the highest price for the global warming. Now, it is the utmost responsibility of international community to swing into action and join the relief efforts without any further ado.

around 2.8 million people out of total relief & rebuilding activities. He also 33 million flood-affectees and internally displaced people (IDPs) are seriously ill due to various pandemics that have broken out - including, dengue, malaria, cholera, typhoid, serious skin infections and other water-borne & contagious

The world as a whole will be responsible as Pakistan is facing the brunt of the global misdeeds vis-à-vis climate change; if they do not listen to the cries of the dying, he added.

FPCCI Chief has proposed that the government should negotiate the restructuring of external debts with IMF, World Bank, ADB, IDB, Paris Club and friendly Irfan Iqbal Sheikh highlighted that countries to create fiscal space for flood

extended his advisory services from the platform of FPCCI in formulating the strategies to successfully negotiate with various lenders.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has called for adopting austerity measures at every governmental level and redirecting all non-developmental budgets to the relief & rehabilitation - be it provincial & federal. He also expressed his optimism that the world would be ready to provide aid and debt relief, provided we devise a robust, diligent and pragmatic plan for the relief & rehabilitation; and, ensure efficient, fair& transparent disbursement of relief resources. We must send out the right optics to the world, he added.

Empowering Employees

MMBL announces major policy

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited has announced the conversion of all of its Bank Contract Employees to Full-Time Employees (FTEs). Under the policy change, contractual employees will be habilitated to permanent employees in phases, subsequently getting medical insurance for them as well as their families. The FTE policy revisions reflect MMBL's commitment to providing competitive compensation to its hardworking employees and its dedication to their financial well-being.

contract employees will be converted to FTEs in different phases. Along with flex-

well. As a reliable employer, MMBL understands its responsibility to help the employee's family meet their financial obligations.

Therefore, the Bank will continue to pay the employee's family a monthly stipend for three (3) years in case of natural or accidental death.

Moreover, employees at different cadres will also receive an improved monthly medical OPD allowance starting January 2023. The medical OPD allowance will enable employees to increase their monthly payout and manage the ever-rising medical costs, Under this initiative, over 500 bank particularly in the current economic situ-

All employees, who are not receiving

ible insurance plans, contractual employ- fuel/ transport/car allowance and have a a pay continuation plan as monthly salary of less than PKR 50.000 will also receive an increment as part of the recent changes. All of these revisions are an industry-first, setting benchmarks for promoting employee well-being and financial stability.

Sharing his thoughts, Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO, MMBL said: "Changes in the FTE policy come at the right time as the rising inflation has restricted everyone's buying power. The Bank is cognizant of the difficulties faced by its employees and strives to enable them to manage their expenses without affecting their savings. This initiative ensures MMBL's commitment to employees' financial inclusion alongside its customers and communities."

Declining current account deficit is govt success: Salman Aslam

Sour Correspondent

KARACHI: President Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam welcomed the decrease in the current account deficit to 700 million dollars last month. He said that the current account deficit decreased by 19 percent in August compared to July, which is a major achievement of the government.

Salman Aslam said that this deficit was 1.52 billion dollars in August 2021, which has now been reduced to half.

President KATI stressed that the exporters are exports, production costs, and LC problems includexports are not increasing stable economy



significantly.

Salman Aslam further said that the government has eased the ban on imports, after which there is a fear that the deficit may increase again. In such a situation, the government should formulate a policy still facing difficulties in in consultation with the exporters and stakeholders so that the country's exports ing shortage and increased can be increased, which not prices of electricity, petrol, only further decreases the gas and water are also current account deficit, but adding to the problems the income of the country due to which the country's increases resulting in a

OGDCL announces financial results

Net sales revenue clocked at Rs335.463b translating to profit after tax of Rs133.783b

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in its meeting held here on Thursday announced the financial results for the year ended June, 30, 2022 of fiscal year 2021-22. Net sales revenue clocked at Rs.335.463 billion translating to profit after tax of Rs. 133.783 billion, showing an increase of 56 percent compared to a profit of Rs. 91.534 billion in the same period of last year and earnings per share of the company clocked at Rs. 31.11 from Rs. 21.28.

The Board of Directors announced final cash dividend for the year 2021-2022 on the basis of accounts for the period ended June 30, 2022 @ 2.50 per share i.e. 25 percent. This is an addition to interim dividends already paid @ Rs.4.75 per share i.e. 47.50 percent to its shareholders. The dividend will be paid to the shareholders whose names will appear in the Register of Members on Monday, October 17, 2022.

The share transfer books of the company will be closed from Tuesday, October 18, 2022 to Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

SECP allows listed firms to issue convertible debt

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified the regulatory framework for issuance of Convertible Debt Securities (CDS) through right offer. This new framework will allow listed companies to achieve their growth objectives by raising finance in a timely and cost-effective manner.

This regulatory framework introduces a new product and way for raising capital. It also provides detailed mechanics for the same.

Presently, convertible debt is issued either by public offering or by private placement mode. Under the said Regulations, now the listed companies can also raise funds by issuing convertible debt to existing shareholders by way of Right offer.

It would provide an additional investment avenue for the shareholders and allow them to earn interest/profit, while also retaining the option to convert debt instrument into share capital.

Rights of CDS can also be renounced through Securities Exchange trading platform and can also be traded in the same manner as Letter of Right (LOR) of shares are presently traded.

Industry Digitalization

Huawei launches innovative infrastructure solutions

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: On the second day of HUAWEI CONNECT 2022 Bangkok, Huawei launched a range of innovative infrastructure solutions to drive industry digitalization by finding the right technology for the right scenario. Industry stakeholders gathered and held discussions around the theme "Innovative Infrastructure to Unleash Digital", exploring the future directions and opportunities for industry digitalization.

They analyzed the challenges of different industries striving to go digital, and Huawei introduced solutions supported by its technical strengths to help address these challenges.

Ryan Ding, President of Huawei Enterprise BG, said in his keynote speech "Empowering Industry, Creat-



ing Value" that "Deeper digital transformation will help companies better adapt to an ever-changing world." Bob Chen, Vice President of

speech themed "Innovative Digital Infrastructure Accelerates Digital Transformation", said, "Data is at the core of digital transformation, Huawei Enterprise BG, in his keynote and data ingestion, transmission,

storage, and analysis are key steps. es better evaluate, design, and build "Huawei provides full-stack products and product portfolios to support end-to-end data processing, accelerating customers' digital transformation," he added.

At the event, Huawei launched the Huawei Empower Program, a global partner development plan, which is intended to help develop a thriving digital ecosystem for global partners. This program will help Huawei's partners build three types of capabilities to better serve customers: digital transformation consulting and planning, product and portfolio expertise, and solution development. During the event, Huawei also officially released its white paper, Data Storage Power - The Digital Cornerstone of High-Quality Development. It aims to help governments and enterpris-

data storage capabilities. Gu Xuejun, Vice President of

Huawei IT Product Line, said, "The data storage capability is currently measured by capacity. However, with the rapid development of the industry and the emergence of new, diversified data services such as AI and big data, capacity alone is not enough to measure the future development and construction of storage systems." The three-day conference in Bangkok is the first stop on HUAWEI CONNECT's global tour in 2022. For the first time in the Middle East, Huawei will introduce its Huawei CONNECT global event to Dubai. The 2nd stop of Huawei Connect 2022 will be running in parallel with GITEX GLOBAL 2022 on October 11th and 12th at Madinat Jumeirah.

England storm to victory in third T20I

England lead the series 2-1

KARACHI: The fireworks from Harry Brook and Ben Duckett helped England crush Pakistan as Moeen XI won by 63 runs in the third T20I at Karachi's National Stadium of seven-match series to make it 2-1 on Friday.

Considering the triumph in the previous game, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam sent England to bat after winning the toss. England's top-order was belligerent from the way go. Young batter Brook played a blistering knock of 81 (35) and was well supported by Ben Duckett on the other hand, who scored 70 (42). Both the batters put Pakistan bowlers under tremendous pressure and were unbeaten.

Earlier, Will Jacks, the debutant also contributed to the massive total of 222, by playing a handy knock of 40 off just 22 deliveries.

Pakistan openers were not looking comfortable on the wicket, maybe of the mounting pressure due to the massive total. Though, Khushdil Shah and Shan Masood showed resistance. Masood



remained unbeaten for his 66 (40). Mark Wood (3-25) on his return to England side used his experience and

Sam Curran took a scalp each.

On the other hand, there is nothing pace to bag three wickets. Adil Rashid special to talk about Pakistan bowlers,

grabbed two wickets. Recce Topley and with the exception of Usman Qadir who took wickets but gave away 48 runs. Mohammad Hasnain also bagged a wicket by conceding 36 runs.

Ireland book Women's T20 World Cup 2023 spot with thrilling win

booked their place in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023 with a dramatic win over Zimbabwe in the first semi-final of the qualifiers in Abu Dhabi.

Put in to bat first in the 1st semi-final, and the key clash of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2022, Ireland managed to post 137/6, with valuable contributions from the middle-order.

Star opener Gaby Lewis was dismissed in the Powerplay, but Orla Prendergast, fresh from her impressive knock last game, carried Ireland with a 25-ball 28 Mayers held the innings required run rate got steeper before she was dismissed in the 12th over.

from Rebecca Stokell, whose was dismissed. 12-ball 26 gave Ireland a

together for Zimbabwe with a 36-ball 39. Skipper Mary-Laura Delany and Eime- Ann Musonda gave her good ar Richardson got starts, company with a 29-ball 31, but couldn't quite give the the pair stringing together a their qualification to the ICC innings a push. That came fifty-run stand before Mayers Women's T20 World Cup in

Arlene Nora

once the skipper too was sent back. They eventually fell short by four runs as Ireland made it to the finals, ensuring South Africa next year.

Scotland produce

fifth place playoff match in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier on Friday. Half-centuries from Ailsa Lister and Kathryn Bryce had helped Scotland post a huge total

In response, UAE lost half the side by the time they made

Cameron Smith heads to Thailand as LIV Golf's reigning champion

BANGKOK: LIV Golf Invitational Chicago champion Cameron Smith is eager to bring the tournament series to new international audiences as it prepares to host high-profile debuts in Thailand and Saudi Arabia next

The Australian emerged victorious at Rich Harvest Farms this past weekend, carding a three-under final round of 69 for a 13-under total score and a \$4 million prize as individual champion in only his second start since joining the circuit.

The 2022 Open Champion finished three shots ahead of Peter Uihlein and Dustin Johnson, the latter taking home the individual title on Sept. 2-4 at the LIV Golf Invitational Boston. Johnson, the current leader in LIV Golf's individual point standings, and his team, 4 Aces GC, have also won four consec $utive \, team \, trophies \, in \, LIV \, Golf \, \hbox{'s new team}$ format for this year's eight-event invitation-

LIV Golf's June debut in London was followed by four consecutive events in the US. The series will break new ground at the new Stonehill venue in the northern suburbs of Bangkok Oct. 7-9, before traveling to Jeddah a week later.

Reflecting on the opportunity ahead to play in back-to-back international tournaments, the 29-year-old Smith said: "I think it is fantastic. That's one of the reasons why I came over here, is to play golf around the

"I think my time when I was a young professional over in Asia are some of the best times of my life. Traveling with good friends and playing really good tournaments was something I will never forget, and I'm really looking forward and really excited for what this tour is going to bring to the golf world."

Smith, who finished just off the podium in his first LIV Golf event earlier this month, has been impressed with the "supercharged golf" and electric atmosphere delivered at LIV Golf tournaments. LIV Golf features a fan-friendly format in which events are played over three days and feature shotgun starts, a 48-man field battling for both team and individual titles, and on-course music adding to a lively environment for players and fans alike.

Fun spectator activations within the events, such as the opportunity to receive a Smithstyle mullet haircut to raise money for charity, are also bringing something different to the

"It's really cool. It's something that I've gotten used to over the last couple of weeks, and I can't wait to keep this going. It's unreal out here. I love the energy. Everyone is really engaged and everyone is really watching what you are doing. It's awesome," Smith said.



A Group pictures of 191st UCI Congress meeting held at Wollongong Australia Asian countries delegation eith ACC The President Osama Ali Shaffar, The ACC Secretary Moazzam Onkar Singh, Syed Azhar Ali Shah President PCF and President South Asia Cycling Federation, Permindar Singh President India Cycling Federation, Moazzam Khan Klair General Secretary PCF, Nisar Ahmed VP PCF, and Manidar Singh Secretary India Cy-

Raducanu surges into Korea Open semi-finals

SEOUL: Emma Raducanu surged into the Seoul semi-finals on Friday as she won three matches in a row at a tournament for the first time since her US Open triumph.

The 19-year-old Briton blew away third seed Magda Linette 6-2, 6-2 at the Korea Open and faces fellow former major champion Jelena Ostapenko in the last four.

Raducanu stunned the tennis world when she emerged from qualifying to win the US Open last year, but she has struggled to build on that and her Grand Slam defence ended in the first

Raducanu, who reached a career-high 10th in the world in July but is now 77th, showed flashes of her Flushing Meadows brilliance of 2021 in demolishing Poland's Linette in 77 minutes. Sixth-seeded Raducanu got off to a fast start, quickly winning the first four games and taking the first set 6-2.

She continued to dominate in the second set and her race to the finish line was only temporarily held up when her opponent required a lengthy medical timeout. The resurgent Raducanu is yet to drop a set in Seoul.

But she faces a tough test in the form of top seed Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion from Latvia. She thrashed 186th-ranked Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva 6-2, 6-1 in their quarter-final. The other semi-final is between Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova and Germany's Tatjana Maria.

Muhammad Mokaev joins strong line-up at UFČ 280 in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: Flyweight prospect Muhammad Mokaev has been officially added to the UFC 280: Oliveira vs Makhachev card in Abu Dhabi, where he will take on Canada's Malcolm Gordon on Oct. 22.

The 22-year-old Mokaev has been making headlines in the mixed martial arts world and boasts a perfect 8-0 record, including two wins in the Ultimate Fighting Championship since making his debut with the organisation in March.

The fighter was born in Dagestan, but arrived in the UK aged 12 as a refugee unable to speak any English. In the years since, he has become one of Britain's top MMA prospects and received phenomenal home-crowd support fighting twice in London earlier this year.

and will be looking to cement his billing as one-to-watch in the

His opponent, Malcolm Gordon (14-5) will be stepping into the octagon for the fifth time, and brings with him a two-fight win streak. He made his UFC debut in Abu Dhabi in 2020.

UFC 280 will be the latest event held in the UAE capital as part of the partnership between the UFC, and the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi which began in 2019.

Oct. 17-23 will also see the return of Abu Dhabi Showdown Week, anchored by UFC 280 and consisting of other sports and entertainment ancillary events, powered by Flash Entertainment.

Portugal visits Czechs needing win in Nations League

PRAGUE: Portugal play the Czech Republic in the Nations League on Saturday with Cristiano Ronaldo's team hoping to set up a showdown with Spain to decide who advance to the Final Four tournament.

Ronaldo, who will be looking to add to his international record of 117 goals, is one of seven Portugal players who are only one yellow card from a suspension that would rule them out of their final group game against Spain.

Spain lead Group A2 with eight points, one more than Portugal, with two games remaining. The Czechs are in third place with four points. Switzerland are last with three.

A victory in Prague would mean that Portugal — regardless of the Spain-Switzerland result on Saturday — have the chance to finish top when the Iberian neighbors meet in Braga on Tuesday.

But first Portugal must beat the Czechs for a second time after winning 2-0 in June. The Czechs have only one win in four group games.

strong push towards the end. Jane Maguire took two wick-complete performance to 68, and they fell well short, In the run chase, Sharne ets apiece and Zimbabwe's thrash UAE by x runs in the losing by 85 runs.

US thrash Puerto Rico 106-42

SYDNEY: Holders the United States hit the century mark against Puerto Rico on Friday to signal they mean business at the women's basketball World Cup while Serbia upset Olympic silver

medallists Japan. The three-time defending champions romped 106-42 in Sydney to make it 2-0 in Group A as they target an 11th title, after easing past a strong Belgium on the opening day of the 10-day championships. The Americans shot 54 percent from the field with ly good." Shakira Austin (19), Kahleah Copper (18), Brionna Jones (13), Jewell Loyd (12), Breanna Stewart (11) and Alyssa Thomas said the score Thomas (11) all in double

"Defensively, again, led by Alyssa with six steals, I think we were just really hard



Cheryl Reeve. "We also had a bench that was really, real-

It was their 24th consecutive win at the World Cup, stretching back to 2010. didn't properly reflect what they had achieved. "We were working on our team chemistry and we added a lot of new pieces," she said. "Games like

to play against," said coach this are helpful."

Puerto Rico won their first-ever World Cup game on Thursday when they crushed Bosnia and Herzegovina 82-58. But they were no match for the mighty Americans, who blunted the dangerous Arella Guirantes.

Guirantes scored an incredible 26 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in that Thursday win, but

was restricted to just seven points in her near-20-minute court time.

"Today we didn't show up. We were playing the best team in the world, but I think we didn't try," said Puerto Rico's disappointed coach Jerry Batista. "We must learn from this. We have to be more aggressive." Ominously, the Americans were again not even at full strength.

The Las Vegas Aces' Chelsea Gray, Kelsey Plum and A'ia Wilson arrived in Sydney iet-lagged early Friday after their team sealed the WNBA Finals last weekend, so they took no part. Asian champions Japan poured in 16 three-pointers in their 89-56thumping of Mali in Group B on Thursday, but managed just five from 22 against Serbia — and it cost them.

US build 4-1 lead over Internationals in Presidents Cup

CHARLOTTE: American red and Corey Conners. numbers filled the electronic scoreboards Thursday in the Presidents Cup, an outcome that surprised no one for these one-sided matches.

"Somebody came on the radio and said, 'Yeah, but we're 1 up in three matches and those can flip real quick," US captain Davis Love III said. When it was over, the International team was happy it wasn't shut out.

Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele set the tone with the shortest foursomes match in the Presidents Cup since 2011, dispatching Hideki Matsuyama and Adam Scott in 13 holes as the American duo improved to 5-0 in this alternate-shot format. Right behind them were Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas, coming up with big moments after bad shots in a 2-and-1 win over Sungiae Im they wound up winning the match

Another strong American team from top to bottom played at a high level on a hot day at Quail Hollow and walked off with a 4-1 lead after the first session.

"I told the guys last night we need to set the tone — us and J.T. and Jordan's match - and we did," Schauffele said. "Playing this format on a day like today and not making any bogeys, it's exactly what we need."

Max Homa and Tony Finau were all square with four holes to play when Homa's shot from a fairway bunker on the 15th hole typically the 18th at Quail Hollow was headed for the middle of the stream when it caromed off the rocks and into the rough. Finau pitched to 8 feet and Homa made the putt to halve the hole. "That tie felt like a win," Homa said, and

with a par on the 18th hole.

The lone bright spot for the International team was Cameron Davis and Si Woo Kim, who won the last four holes to take out Sam Burns and Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world.

"If we got whitewashed today, it would have been a tough pill to swallow," International captain Trevor Immelman said. "We've got our work cut out for us, but like I said, we'll keep going, man. We'll keep going until they ring the bell."

The International team, already an underdog in these matches, was hurt more than the Americans by players leaving the PGA Tour for Saudi-backed LIV Golf, including British Open champion Cameron Smith, Louis Oosthuizen and Joaquin Niemann.

"Nobody here expects us to win. We've got to have that belief match with against 20-year-old

deep down," Immelman said. "Go out there and fight. We're up against maybe the strongest American team ever assembled on paper." Two of the eight rookies for the International team, Taylor Pendrith and Mito Pereira, nearly picked up another point. They were all square going to the tough par-4 closing hole when Pereira hit a wild tee shot, Pendrith could only manage the right bunker and they made bogey. Finau and Homa walked away with a 1-up win and a point.

"We did what we were supposed to do," Finau said. The other US point came from Collin Morikawa and Cameron Young, the PGA Tour rookie of the year, who soaked up the environment before a full house at Quail Hollow and produced a winning moment of his own. They were in a tight



Tom Kim and K.H. Lee, all square to end the match. "That moment with six holes to play. At the time, the last three matches could have gone either way.

The Americans had a 1-up lead and appeared to be headed toward the 18th when Young slammed in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th

there is about all I can ask for," Young said. "Obviously, it's the first day, but every point we get is important. And that's a feeling I've been waiting to have for

Cantlay and Schauffele first

hooked up on the long flight over to Australia for the Presidents Cup in 2019, the first team matches for both. They have become fast friends off the course and are a tough team to beat inside the ropes, particularly in foursomes.

They got plenty of help from Scott and Matsuyama — the two most experienced players on the International team — who missed plenty of putts that could have won or halved holes along the way. Matsuyama missed from 4 feet on the third hole, and the Americans took the lead and ran

Thomas, who won the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow in 2017, had a wild day. He chunked a 9-iron so badly on the par-3 fourth that it came up 40 yards short of the green. He hit a shank from the bunker on the par-5 16th. He and Spieth didn't lose either hole.