



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے چند
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پھر انصار نے عرض کیا کہ ہمارے پاس
تو دوسرے برتن نہیں ہیں۔ نبی کریم
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ تو تیر پھر
اجازت ہے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5592)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**

President calls for talks between govt, opposition

President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need for stability in Pakistan to stop the downward slide caused by political polarization. He said his effort was to improve conditions in Pakistan. "Pakistan's economy recovered after Covid-19 and we were on the path of recovery then the issue of Ukraine erupted and floods ensued," he noted. He said Pakistan was facing political chaos due to a self-created crisis.



Mushaali lauds OIC's support for Kashmir cause

Mushaali Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, eulogized OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir for its support for the legitimate struggle of Kashmiris, urging world leaders participating in the UNGA to play their due role in solving Kashmir conflict to avoid a nuclear war in the region

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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 28, Sunday, September 25, 2022



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 172 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Pakistan awaits more than half of promised aid



ISLAMABAD: Contrary to expectations that the aid to flood-hit Pakistan would be disbursed quickly, the country has not even received half of the pledged amount after nearly a month.

The international community's response to the flash appeal made by the United Nations (UN) following catastrophic floods was agile. However, the community has not kept its word despite 25 days having passed. The non-organization of the global donors' conference due to non-compilation of the review report determining flood damages is adding insult to the injury.

Pakistan will conduct a briefing for UN member states on the flood devastation on October 4 in New York. Following this briefing, the UN will issue a fresh appeal for aid. The UN has not yet received a review report on flood damages which is a pre-requisite for global donors' conference. In response to the UN's flash appeal of \$160.3 million on August 31, the international community pledged \$150 million.

However, after 25 days, Pakistan has only received \$59.4 million. The neighboring India showed insensitivity to the catastrophic situation in Pakistan and did not contribute a single penny.

However, the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, Denmark, and Australia were the quickest to respond to the UN's flash appeal. Apart from these countries, Sweden, Germany, Japan, and Central Emergency Response Fund also contributed to the aid. Agencies

Showcasing defence products

A Pakistan Pavilion has been established at African Aerospace and Defence Exhibition in South Africa to showcase Defence related products of the country. The five-day exhibition will continue till Sunday. The Pavilion was established by Defence Export Promotion Organization and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. Pakistan High Commissioner Mazhar Javed visited the pavilion and a detailed briefing was given to him.



Flood-devastation in Pakistan

It's time to act on climate change: PM Shehbaz

Says initial estimate of losses to Pakistan's economy as result of 3-month flooding disaster \$30b

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated the call for galvanizing of the global efforts to save the future generations from the worsening climatic-induced consequences that led to flood-devastation in Pakistan.

In an interview with 'The Associated Press' (AP), the prime minister said that he came to the United Nations to tell the world that "tomorrow, this tragedy can fall on some other country."

The prime minister urged the world leaders gathered for their annual meeting at the General Assembly to stand together and

India should stop demographic changing in IIOJK: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that he stated Pakistan's position on issues critical to our foreign policy and made it clear to the world that Pakistan desires peaceful and good neighborly relations with India. In a tweet, for this, he said, India should reverse post-August 2019 actions and stop the process of demographic change in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

raise resources "to build resilient infrastructure, to build adaptation, so that our future generations are saved."

He said the initial estimate of losses to Pakistan's economy as a result of the three-month flooding disaster was \$30 billion, adding that he had requested UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to urgently hold a donors' conference. The prime minister further said

that the impact of climatic change on Pakistan was immense.

To a question, he said even before the floods began in mid-June, Pakistan was facing serious challenges from grain shortages and skyrocketing crude oil prices sparked mainly by Russian-Ukraine conflict.

The skyrocketing prices had put the import of oil beyond their

capacity and with the damage and destruction from the massive flooding — solutions have become 'extremely difficult,' he added.

The prime minister said Pakistan had a very robust, transparent mechanism already in place to ensure that all aid items were delivered to people in need. In addition, he said, "I will ensure third-party audit of every penny through international well-reputed companies."

He further informed that he met top officials from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and appealed for a moratorium on loan repayments and deferment of other conditions until the flood situation improves.

No one will be allowed to take law into his hands: Rana Sana

Says PML (N) leader Ishaq Dar will come to Pakistan within a week

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah says government will not allow anyone to take the law into his own hands.

Addressing a news conference in Lahore on Saturday, he said courts have already determined the specific places for protest and government will fully facilitate Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf if their leadership decides to hold peaceful protest at the prescribed places.

Rana Sanaullah said that heavy contingent of Police and Rangers is at disposal of the government but every effort will be made for careful use of force to minimize losses.

To a question, the Minister said PML (N) leader Ishaq Dar will come to Pakistan within a week and he will play a constructive role in the economic team of the government.

The minister further said that government took tough



decisions to steer the country out of the crisis due to which they failed to control rising inflation in the country.

The PML-N leader blamed Imran Khan for delay in resumption of IMF program and claimed that the coalition government sacrificed its policies for the sake of the country.

He added that narrative of Imran Khan holds no importance and that removing PTI government in Punjab is not a tough task and several options are available for achieving this.

Interior Minister further said that government economic team will be strengthened with return of Ishaq Dar.

He also claimed that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan before elections.

Efforts underway to improve economy: Fazal

MULTAN: Chief of Jamiat Ulema Islam-F, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman said on Saturday that the government was well aware of inflation and problem of the public and efforts were underway to resolve the issues.

There was immense pressure on the economy and it could not be improved within two days. He expressed these views while talking to media persons in Kot Addu.

The recent floods played havoc in the country and it worsened the country's economy further. The floods destroyed the agriculture sector. The government would have

to import vegetables to face the challenge of food crisis. Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman stated that hundreds of kilometers were under water in various affected areas.

He criticized Imran Khan and stated that he had ruined the country's economy. Responding to a question, he stated that the future of Imran Khan was dark.

To another question about transgender bill, he said that they had held discussion with Ulema and soon an amended bill would be presented.

On this occasion, local leadership of Jamiat Ulema Islam was also present. Agencies

Ishaq Dar is being brought under NRO deal: IK

Says PTI MNAs to return to parliament 'if US cipher is investigated'

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Saturday while reacting to Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's return to Pakistan, claimed that he is being brought under the NRO deal.

Addressing a public rally in Rahim Yar Khan, the former PM said Shehbaz Sharif was imposed upon the country not because he had any leadership qualities but because he would take dictation from all powers, including the IMF, adding that people were badly affected due to severe floods but Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation stayed in expensive hotels to ask for aid.

Imran Khan added that if the nation does not stand up for real freedom, then similar thieves will remain imposed, adding that 60% of the cabinet is on bail while, on the other hand, they are begging for help from the world.

"If we accept the theft of Rs11,000 billion and slavery of these 'imported rulers', then we have no future." Taking a jibe at the premier for seeking donations from the international community for flood victims, the PTI supremo said the country would have to compromise on national interest by receiving foreign aid as "there is no free lunch".

He went on to say that incumbent rulers were planning to disqualify him as they were scared of the people's power. "They are scared and want to disqualify me," he added.

"The corruption cases are being forgiven every day. Now Ishaq Dar is also being brought under the NRO deal. He testified against the Sharif family in the Hudaybiya Paper Mills case for money laundering, and he ran away," he added.

Imran Khan asked his supporters to prepare for the upcoming real independence march onto Islamabad and warned Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah that he

will enter the capital with "full preparations" this time around.

Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday said that his party MNAs will return to the National Assembly if the government decides to investigate the cipher from Pakistan's ambassador in Washington allegedly containing comments regarding the vote of no-confidence against him.

Khan's remarks came during a conversation with journalists in Islamabad. The cipher, based on then-envoy Asad Majeed's meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for Central and South Asia Donald Lu, is at the heart of PTI's allegations that his ouster from office was all part of a foreign conspiracy.

On March 27, the former prime minister at a public gathering accused the US of interfering in Pakistan's politics and plotting to oust his regime through a no-trust motion in the National Assembly. Agencies

Ishaq Dar likely to return to Pakistan



LONDON: Former finance minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ishaq Dar is likely to return to Pakistan along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

In London, PM Shehbaz met with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and Ishaq Dar, and the two leaders discussed the ongoing situation in the country and measures taken by the sitting coalition government, while Ishaq Dar informed the premier about his plan to return to Pakistan.

According to media reports, Ishaq Dar will return to the country next week and appear before the accountability court.

Dar will take oath as Senator, and after that he will also assume the charge of Finance Minister, sources added. Agencies

At UN, Pakistan hits back at India

Calling it terrorism's 'principal' perpetrator in South Asia

NEW YORK: A Pakistani diplomat has categorically rejected India's allegations about Pakistan's involvement in terrorist acts, citing instances of the Indian sponsorship of terrorism and aggression against all its neighbours that makes New Delhi the "principle perpetrator, sponsor, financier and abettor" of terrorism in South Asia.

"The myth of terrorism against Pakistan, created and propagated by India, cannot and will not hide the stark reality that people of Pakistan, the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and its own minorities are victims of its state-sponsored terrorism," Saima Saleem, counselor at the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations, told the UN General Assembly on Friday night.

Ms. Saleem was exercising her right of reply to Indian delegate Mijito Vinito's allegations about Pakistan sponsoring cross-border terrorism and accusing it of making "untenable territorial claims against neighbours" — an obvious reference to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian delegate made that statement in response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speech to the 193-member Assembly in which the Pakistani leader drew world community's attention to New Delhi's grave human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and called for resolving the UN-recognized dispute in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

In her remarks, the Pakistani delegate said that India has sponsored and perpetrated terrorism and aggression



against all its neighbours by creating terrorist groups, and destabilizing and blockading neighbours to do its strategic bidding.

In Pakistan, she said India was funding and supporting terrorist organizations like the TTP (Tehreek-i-Tliban and the BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army), whose attacks have resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent Pakistanis. "Since the Hindutva inspired RSS-BJP Government's unilateral and illegal actions on August 5, 2019 termed as 'Final Solution', India's 900,000 occupation forces in occupied Kashmir — the 'densest' occupation in history — have escalated their oppression of 8 million Kashmiri men, women and children in the world's largest 'open-air prison,' the Pakistani delegate said.

She accused India of extra-judicial killings in fake encounters; enforced disappearances of 15,000 young Kashmiri boys; incarceration of the entire Kashmiri leadership; bringing about demographic change by issuing millions of fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris; gerrymandering of electoral boundaries for reducing Muslim representation; curbing religious freedom and media and internet blackout.

Since 1989, Indian occupation forces had committed over one lakh extra-judicial killings, around 162,000 cases of arbitrary arrests and torture, over 25,000 pellet gun injuries, 11,250 cases of rape and gang rape, and 8652 unmarked mass graves, attesting to the genocide which is being committed in occupied Kashmir. APP

Pak-UAE partnership

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Abdul-lah Bin Zayed here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The two ministers met on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly session.



Photo: APP

Over 8.664m tons wheat available for domestic consumptions

ISLAMABAD: Strategic wheat stocks of the country are recorded at 8.644 million tons, which are sufficient to tackle with the domestic food requirements as well as maintaining smooth demand and supply in local markets during current food year.

The food year in the country starts from May 1 to April 30 every year and government has also allowed import of 3 million tons of wheat to bridge the gap, said Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Dr Imtiaz Ali Gopang.

Talking to APP, he said that traditionally government was releasing average 46,300 metric tons per-day, including 25,000 metric tons by Punjab, 10,000 metric tons by Sindh, 5,000 metric tons by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,000 metric tons by Balochistan and average release of 5,300 metric tons by Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Supply Corporation. Out of the total stocks, about 5.143 million metric tons was available with Punjab, whereas Sindh has wheat stocks comprising on 933,006 metric tons, he added. He further informed that the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have grains' reserves of 233,606 metric tons and 29,630 metric tons respectively, adding that over 2.498 metric tons of wheat were available with PASSCO.

Food Security Commissioner said that besides the public sector private sector had also procured over 3.172 million metric tons of wheat, out of which about 2.003 million metric tons have been grinded, adding that private sector reserves were so far recorded at 1.139 million metric tons. APP

FM calls for dialogue to resolve Ukrainian issue

Bilawal urges generous int'l support to help Pakistan cope with climate-induced floods

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with the Foreign Minister of Belarus Vladimir Makei, in New York on the side-lines of 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

Besides exchanging views on bilateral ties, the two Ministers discussed the situation in Ukraine. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated his invite to Belarusian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan and looked forward to welcoming him in Islamabad at an early date.

He said that Pakistan desires to take the relationship forward by broadening interaction in all spheres of cooperation. The Foreign Minister expressed concern at the situation in Ukraine emphasizing that conflict is not in anyone's interest and it particularly impacted the developing countries. Pakistan emphasized de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy to find a diplomatic solution.

He expressed the hope that talks

Pakistan, UAE agree to deepen investment coop

Pakistan and United Arab Emirates have agreed to deepen investment cooperation and stimulate economic partnership through active participation of the private sector from both sides. An understanding to this effect came during a meeting of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New York on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The two leaders discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries, and explored ways and means to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscored that Pakistan attached high importance to its political and economic relationship with the UAE.

between the Russian and Ukrainian representatives would lead to normalization of situation. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov on the side-lines of the 77th Session of UNGA in New York.

The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for its generous financial assistance for the flood affected people of Pakistan. This was manifes-

tation of deep brotherly ties between the two nations that always stood the test of time and in hour of need.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of high-level interactions and growing cooperation in multiple areas between the two countries. They discussed ways to further deepen bilateral ties and underscored the need to further boost trade and economic linkages.

NAB to probe corruption in Peshawar's BRT project

PESHAWAR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has kickstarted an investigation into alleged corruption in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Peshawar. The anti-graft body has asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the additional chief secretary of the Planning & Development Board to hand over the records of the project.

According to a letter, written to the additional chief secretary, NAB has sought the project's feasibility, donor agencies, selection of consultants and records of payments. It has also asked for the records of loans, project agreements and deals made with interna-

tional institutions by the provincial government.

The body has further asked for details of the funds received from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the BRT project. NAB has requested the KP government to submit all the interim payment certificates of all payments made.

The government has also been asked to submit records of maintenance, construction and repair of the buses, including the approval to purchase the buses. In addition, NAB asked for the records of the approved BRT loan disbursement procedure and procurement rules through the letter. Agencies

Pakistan seeks peace, good relations with its neighbours: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Saturday said that Pakistan was ready to dialogue on all issues with India, including Kashmir, and looking for good relations with all its neighbours.

Talking to PTV News, Pakistan Peoples Party senior leader said the illegal process of changing Kashmir's territorial status against the UN resolutions, and the wishes of Kashmiris were strongly protested by Pakistan, and all political parties and state institutions have the same stand on this issue. Talking to PTV News, the PPP's senior leader said Pakistan had strongly protested the India's illegal move of changing Kashmir's territorial status against the UN resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiris. "All the political parties in Pakistan and state institutions have the same stand on the issue," he added.

He said Pakistan never sought war, rather it was a peace-seeker, which never shied away from negotiating with India on any issue.

Kaira praised the speech of Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by saying that the PM skilfully drew the world's attention to the Kashmir issue. Likewise, he added, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also stressed on the peaceful resolution of the protracted Kashmir issue in his meetings and speeches at various international forums.

Answering to a question regarding climate change and its effects on Pakistan, he said the PM and the foreign minister had presented the position of Pakistan in a very comprehensive manner and made the whole world realize the devastating effects of climate change on Pakistan.

"Pakistan's survival is seriously threatened and the world has pledged to support Pakistan."

Unfortunately, Kaira said, some political opportunist were criticizing the PM's recent international visit, but in view of the prevailing situation, his visit was very necessary to make the international community aware of the flood disasters, and to help boost financial aid for flood relief." APP

Imran should present his demands before Parliament: Marri

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Saturday said Imran Khan should come to the Parliament and present his demands before the representatives of the people. Talking to a private news channel, she said Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has history of struggle and sacrifices for the democracy in Pakistan but Imran Khan left no stone unturned to crush our efforts. She added, after ousted from office, Imran Khan tried his best to slander the parliament and democracy, but failed. "If PTI has decided to return to the parliament, as a political worker, I honored this decision and welcome Imran Khan to the parliament," she added. Staff Reporter

PTI to abolish all anti-Islamic legislations: Asad Qaiser

Says ever increasing electricity bills, prices of food items have made life of common people unbearable

Staff Reporter

SWABI: Former Speaker of the National Assembly and KPK leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Asad Qaiser said that common people's lives have become worse and unbearable due to ever increasing illegal taxes on electricity bills as paying bill has become impossible for common People. He said that the prices of food items have gone beyond the reach of the people due to inflation. He

expressed these views while addressing a public protest against inflation, load shedding and inclusion of illegal taxes in electricity bills in Topi Swabi.

The former speaker of the National Assembly said that the economy was deliberately destroyed. Until the few months ago, the economy was stabilizing and international journals were also confirming it. He said that due to the poor strategy of the current government, the economy is on the verge of

collapse. He said that the current government cannot run away from the election for a long time.

He also asserted that there will be general elections in the country very soon. The people will hold accountable those who destroy the economy to account in the election. He said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman is fighting for power and not for Islam. The people of Pakistan will block Maulana Sahib's way in the upcoming elections.

Rule of law vital for country's uplift: CJP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial says the vision for a prosperous and progressive Pakistan is based on rule of law and supremacy of the constitution.

Addressing the concluding session of the 9th international judicial conference in Islamabad on Saturday, he said rule of law can be achieved, if courts are made equally accessible to people of Pakistan irrespective of their gender, religion, race or economic status.

He said legislature and the judiciary should develop ADR facilities for expeditious dispensation of justice. He said the judiciary should make extensive use of technology to streamline the litigation. He also urged stakeholders in criminal justice system to improve their coordination to secure a society with lesser crime.



He said the court is committed to playing its part in helping to build Pakistan, which is equal for all. However, it can only be accomplished if all the institutions and people have regard for the constitution.

The Chief Justice said that the court is also committed to protecting the marginalized groups of the society. He said the legislature and executive must also create the legal frame and implement the decisions of the court.

Highlighting the key recommendations made in the conference, he said Alternative Dispute Resolution can play

a crucial role in ensuring speedy dispensation of justice to the people. He said there is need to develop ADR facilities and courts and advocates should encourage litigants for using it.

The Chief Justice said superior court should adopt a pro-enforcement approach in relation to foreign arbitral awards to boost foreign investment in the country.

Talking about the role of technology, he said the court is extensively deciding matters via video link and over three thousand matters were decided through video link.

Qadir Patel says Pakistan will not recognize Israel

The Minister says we are with Palestine in all circumstances

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Minister of Health Abdul Qadir Patel affirmed that his country will not recognize Israel, whatever the composition of his country's government, and that Pakistan's leadership and people are with Palestine in all cases. He said this during his meeting with Assistant Minister for IR of Palestine Imad Al-Zuhairi and Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Pakistan Ahmad Jawad Rabei.

Assistant Minister for IR of Palestine Al-Zuhairi briefed Minister Patel on the mission of the State of Palestine team for urgent intervention and response in the Dera Ismail Khan area and the work of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency and its medical programs, and discussed with him the

possibilities of future cooperation to achieve the benefit of the two brotherly countries and peoples. The Pakistani Minister of Health welcomed all forms of cooperation between the two countries and the exchange of experiences. During the meeting, he announced the provision of 10 additional scholarships to study medicine in Pakistan for Palestinian students, and stressed that Pakistan would spare no effort in supporting the State of Palestine and its brotherly people in all fields.

The Palestinian Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Zuhairi and the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan also met at the headquarters of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jawad Ahmed Omrani, in the presence of the Director General of the Middle East Department,

and the official in charge of the Arab countries file in the ministry. They presented a summary of the activities of the Palestinian Intervention and Urgent Response Team, which is supervised by the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, which responded to the call and came to Pakistan to assist in relief efforts on the instructions of President Mahmoud Abbas as a gesture of loyalty and thanks from the Palestinian people to the brotherly state of Pakistan. Leadership and as a tribute to this country, which stood by the Palestinian people in the most difficult circumstances and the most delicate stages that our Palestinian people have gone through.

The First Undersecretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated his country's refusal to recognize Israel and their principled position that supports and supports the



rights of the Palestinian people, leading to freedom and independence, and their enjoyment of all their rights by establishing their independent, sovereign state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. As said by the Pakistan's founder Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of dispatching a team of Palestinian engineers specialized in post-crisis issues to be alongside their counterparts from the Pakistani Crisis Management Authority in their efforts to find solutions for infrastructure in the areas that were destroyed after the floods that hit the country and left catastrophic effects. Ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in specific development fields, the most important of which is the agricultural field.

Govt providing relief to people in flood-hit areas: CM Bizenjo

Says the provincial government would ensure restoration of canal system

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Saturday said that the incumbent provincial government was taking serious steps to provide relief and support to the flood victims on emergency basis to reduce their difficulties.

He expressed these views at an important meeting with the former provincial minister MPA Nawabzada Tariq Magsi at his residence. The two leaders had a detailed discussion on political issues, including flood situa-



tion, relief activities and rehabilitation of the victims.

Expressing regret over the damage caused by the floods in Jhal Magsi, the Chief Minister said that the government was taking measures to provide relief and assistance to the victims.

He said that the provincial government would also ensure the restoration of agricultural land and canal system for which an effective agricultural restoration plan had been set up under which a subsidy of more than Rs 15 billion would be given to farmers in Balochistan.

Nawabzada Tariq Magsi apprised the

Chief Minister about the flood water situation in Jhal Magsi and the damage caused to the canal system and agricultural land.

The Chief Minister assured that steps would be taken on emergency basis to fill the cracks in the canals and drain the flood water so that it could be made possible for the farmers to cultivate their rabi crops.

On this occasion, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi appreciated the Chief Minister for the agricultural rehabilitation plan.

Tent city for flood affectees

KARACHI: Workers are busy in preparing tent houses for flood effected people in Provincial Capital. First tent city for flood victims organized by Sindh government to accommodate thousands of flood victims.



Photo: Online

Provision of clean drinking water top priority: DG PFA

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has prepared an emergency action plan to ensure the provision of clean drinking water for people across the province.

In this connection, the authority will collect the water samples of Wasa filtration plants and other drinking water sources for laboratory tests from Lahore, Multan and other divisions of Punjab.

This was informed by newly appointed Director General of PFA Mudassar Riaz Malik, while chairing a meeting with PFA officials after taking over the charge of his office here on Saturday.

He vowed to make Punjab an adulteration-free province as per the vision of chief minister Punjab as well as to ensure the provision of safe and quality food. He said that the provincial food



regulatory body will also collect the gluten free edibles products to check is it gluten free or not, besides starting drinking water sampling campaign.

According to the international standards, PFA to develop a system to check the gluten free food items. Further, the authority will prepare a plan on emergency basis to check the special food for patients along with other food articles, he added.

He said the utmost priority is to bring improvement and innovation

in the food industry along with ensuring quality food supply to the masses. He said that PFA will make a comprehensive policy to eliminate the adulteration mafia and introduce laws following international standards.

Mudassar Riaz said that the PFA will bring the food industry and academia on the same page for better legislation by utilising all available resources. Moreover, the Provincial Food Regulatory Body will give special focus to aware the public about unhygienic food and adulteration.

Mudassar Malik belongs to 33th Common of Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS). Before his posting as a DG PFA, he has been posted on various key positions in Punjab including commissioner DG Khan, DG Social Welfare, deputy commissioner Lahore and Multan.

Punjab CM forms committee to resolve public grievances



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Saturday took stern notice regarding the increasing complaints of the people about the illegal housing schemes and constituted a special committee to review the matters in that regard. Principal Secretary to CM Punjab Muhammad Khan Bhatti had issued a notification about the constitution of a committee.

The CM would be the head of the committee and Adviser to CM Amir Saeed Rawn, Secretary Housing (Committee Secretary), Secretary Local Government, Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and the deputy commissioners concerned would be members of the committee.

The special committee will be authorised to include any officer in the committee.

The committee would categorically identify the total number of illegal housing societies and would also review the housing societies being made without the approval of competent authority with poor planning and having land issues. The committee after reviewing the present rules and regulations would submit its recommendations and proposals. The special committee would propose a comprehensive solution of the problems being faced by the residents of the unapproved and illegal housing societies.

Projects under ‘Nikhra Abbottabad’ to start soon

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Tariq Salam Marwat on Saturday said that a lot of work was being done on cleanliness, encroachment, beautification of the city, tree plantation and other small projects under the Nikhra Abbottabad campaign.

He expressed these views while responding to the complaints and issues received by the public on phone calls during live Khuli Kutchery at FM 92.4 Pakhtunkhwa Radio Abbottabad.

The DC said that due to

the development schemes in Abbottabad, no major damages had been done during the current flood as compared to other districts of the province due to Nikhra Abbottabad campaign. The district administration will start the drive again with a new spirit and all kinds of encroachments on waterways, roads and other places would be removed, he added.

The people of district have lodged their complaints in the Khuli Kutchery regarding Jab Pul, Sui Gas Office, encroachment issue, Nawab

Shahr ground, drugs menace in Dhodial, Thandiani Road, Bus terminal in Haveliyan, excavation for gas pipelines, graveyard, garbage removal, supply of subsidized wheat flour, encroachment in Duphatar, flood destruction in Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH), home ownership, encroachment on Nithiagali road, lumpy skin disease, Abbottabad Motorway Interchange etc.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would lay the foundation stone for the construction of Thandiani Road very soon.

Replying to a question regarding the supply of subsidized wheat flour, he said that according to the instructions of the provincial government, it is being provided in each village of the district.

Tariq Salam Marwat said that the problems of Khana Kasht and house ownership were not only in Abbottabad but also in other districts of the province. In this regard, there are decisions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Court and board of Revenue.

SAU approves new degree programmes

HYDERABAD: The Syndicate of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) has given approval for launching new degree programmes at its main campus, affiliated colleges, and sub-campus.

The 113th meeting of the syndicate was presided over by SAU Vice Chancellor Dr Fateh Marri, which discussed at length the varsity's financial, administrative and academic matters, the SAU spokesperson informed here on Saturday.

The syndicate gave the nod to

launch BS Poultry, BS Dairy Technology, BS Fisheries and Aquaculture, BS English, BS Software Engineering at the SAU main campus; BS Software Engineering and BS English at the SAU Tando Jam; BS Software Engineering and BS English at the Sub-campus Umerkot; and BS food Technology and BS Information Technology at the Khairpur College of Agricultural Engineering and Technologies.

It also approved the budget and expenditure for the financial year

2022-23 while financial matters for the financial year 2021-22 were also discussed.

Among others, the meeting was also attended by nominated members of the HEC, ex-VC Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur Dr Nelofar Shaikh, ex-VC Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro Dr. Abdul Rehman Memon, former Federal secretary and nominated member of Sindh HEC Imtiaz Qazi, Pro-VC Sindh University, Jamshoro Dr Sarfraz Solangi, Progressive Farm-

er Syed Mahmood Nawaz Shah, Pro-VC Sub Campus Umerkot Dr Jan Muhammad Marri, Additional Secretary Colleges Ahsanullah Leghari, Dean Dr Aijaz Ali Khoharo, Dean Dr Inayatullah Rajpar, Dr Muhammad Ibrahim Keerio, Dr Bachal Bhutto, Dr Zulfikar Ali Mahar, Registrar Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, Director Finance Aneel Kumar, and Sadiqa Salahuddin.

Earlier, prayers were offered for protection from natural calamities and prosperity of the country.

Meeting discusses development projects in Hunza



HUNZA: A meeting under the chairmanship of Senior Minister for Social Welfare and Population Department Gilgit-Baltistan to discuss the ongoing development schemes of District Hunza. Secretary Works Department GB briefed the projects. Chief Engineer Gilgit, Add. Secretary Works, SE Hunza/Nagar, XEN Hunza, SO (Dev) are also present in the meeting.

The meeting was ensured to complete the ongoing projects in time.

Police launch operation against dacoits



TANGWANI: SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui has launched an operation against dacoits to restore peace.

Police conducted an operation against dacoits in Tangwani area to arrest the dacoits wanted in the murder of martyred police constable Abdul Nabi Bajarani and to recover the hostages.

Under the leadership of SHO Ghulam Qadir Jatoi, action has been taken against the Tikhanas in Babin Cholyani. There was cross firing between the police and dacoits. While the police set fire to many post after demolishing them.

More than three hundred police personnel have participated in the police operation. While the police conducted a blockade search operation in the area, SSP Kashmir Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui has told that the police blockade in the area is continuing. The police have detained 5 suspects from whom the investigation has been started. They said that the police operation will continue until the arrest of the dacoits involved in the killing of the policeman.

AJK PM reviews arrangements for upcoming rally

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan on Saturday visited the University ground and Nedol Cricket stadium to review the preparations being made regarding the grand public procession scheduled to be held on 29 September in the capital city Muzaffarabad.

During his visit the PM was accompanied by the Government Ministers including Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Abdul Majid Khan, Member of Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary Javed Butt, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Anwar, former Assembly candidates Mir Atiqur Rehman, Haji Gul Khandan, Zeeshan Haider, Major Khurram Hameed, Sabeel Riaz, waris gillani and several others.

A large number of PTI officials including Imtiaz Shaheen, Razak Khan, Syed Waris Ali Geelani were present on the occasion. It may be recalled here that the PTI Azad Kashmir chapter had decided to hold a grand rally at Muzaffarabad on September 29, 2022, which would be addressed by the PTI chairman Imran Khan, as the chief guest.

The decision to this effect was taken during the party's parliamentary party meeting, which was chaired by the AJK premier Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan last week. Besides the PTI activists, the rally is likely to be attended by a large number of people hailing from all walks of life as the PTI chairman enjoys a huge fan following in Azad Kashmir.

38 people shifted to shelter home

FAISALABAD: The district administration shifted 38 shelter-less people from Samundri Road, Samanabad, Station Chowk, Jhang Road, Dhubi Ghat and Clock Tower Chowk to shelter homes in the city through a shuttle service during last 24 hours.

A spokesman for the local administration said here on Saturday that shelter-less people were not only provided shelter for a night but also served them with dinner.

Three vehicles of Faisalabad Urban Transport Society (FUTS) provided free pick and drop facilities to those people who spent their nights on footpaths, greenbelts or other open areas so that they could spend their night in shelter home with dignity and respect, he added.

15 drug peddlers, bootleggers held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers on Saturday arrested 15 accused besides recovering seven kg narcotics and 15 liters liquor from their possession.

A police spokesperson said that Sadiqabad police held Zahid Abbasi for having 1040 grams charras while Cantt police netted Usman Shehzad with 1520 grams charras. Naseerabad police rounded up Sohail with 1140 grams charras. Dhamial police arrested Gulfranz and recovered 1320 grams charras.

Rattaamral, Sadiqabad, Dhamial, Rawat, Kotli Sattian, City, and Race Course police held Bilal, Waqar, Safeer, Mansoor, Bilal, Zulfiqar, Irfan, Adnan, Rafiqat, Asif and a woman namely Irum Shehzad on recovery of over two kg charras and 15 liters liquor.

The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway.

Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations and drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders, he added.

All main rivers flow normal: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that Rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej are all currently running normal.

According to daily FFC report on Saturday, since August 28, Tarbela Reservoir is being maintained at its Maximum Conservation Level of 1550.00 feet while Mangla Reservoir is at 1191.70 feet against its Maximum Conservation Level (1242.00 feet).

Three main reservoirs (Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma) have a combined live storage capacity of 9.899 MAF (73.54% of total 13.461 MAF).

According to FFD, Lahore, yesterday's low pressure area over Northwestern Madhya Pradesh (India) lies over Northeastern parts of Rajasthan and adjoining areas. Yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over Northern parts of Afghanistan lies over Northeastern parts of Afghanistan whereas weak seasonal low continues to prevail over Western Balochistan.

Moderate moist currents both from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan upto 5,000 feet.



Islamabad

23° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:34 am
Zohr	12:00 pm
Asr	4:19 pm
Maghrib	6:02 pm
Isha	7:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

13 criminals held, drugs, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have apprehended 13 criminals including six drug peddlers involved in criminal activities and recovered drug and weapons from their possession.

According to police, Kohsar police team arrested an accused namely Shahzad and recovered 565 gram heroin from his possession. Tarnol police team arrested a drug peddler namely Zubair and recovered 1130 gram heroin from his possession.

Similarly, the Sangjani police team arrested two accused namely Waris and Hasnat and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. Shams Colony police arrested an accused Sulman and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Moreover, Khanna police arrested Arsalan and recovered one 9mm pistol along with ammunition from his possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed persons and further investigation is underway. During a special crackdown against outlaws, police team arrested seven accused from different areas of the city.

Mushaal lauds OIC's support for Kashmir cause

Urges world leaders to resolve Kashmir conflict to avoid nuclear war

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussean Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, eulogized OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir for its support for the legitimate struggle of Kashmiris, urging world leaders participating in the UNGA to play their due role in solving Kashmir conflict to avoid a nuclear war in the region.

Mushaal, wife of incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Saturday, said that the OIC Contact Group reiterated their stance that final settlement of Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and a UN-supervised plebiscite, was indispensable for durable peace and stability in South Asia.

The chairperson praised that the group also denounced India's illegal and unilateral actions and subsequent steps as well the sham trial and conviction of Yasin Malik on concocted charges. However, the hurriyat leader urged that the OIC should go step ahead of rhetoric and should take practical and tangible steps to press the



Indian government to ensure settlement of decades-old dispute, fearing that the conflict could lead to a nuclear conflict.

Mushaal lamented that India was always trying to mislead the world in UNGA from grave human rights violations and continued genocide of people of the valley.

Therefore, she appealed that the OIC and the leaders and representatives of the countries participating in the ongoing UNGA should take up the case of Kashmiris vociferously, as the fascist Indian government was trying to change demographic situation of the occupied valley.

Mushaal maintained that time was ripe to force the supremacist Indian government to find out resolution of Kashmir conflict as per the UNSC-agreed formula

and aspirations of Kashmiri people.

She feared that if the major world powers did not fulfill their responsibilities on the Kashmir issue in time, then Kashmir dispute could lead to a major nuclear conflict because it was not an internal matter of India, but a nuclear flashpoint in South Asia and a matter of political future of the 22 million Kashmiris.

Mushaal said that the fascist Narendra Modi-led government unleashed a wave of barbarism and state terrorism to silence the dissenting voices of Kashmir but all such brutal and inhuman tactics failed to work.

Chairperson urged the world to take cognizant of the grave situation in order to avoid the world worst human tragedy in the valley, as the brutal Indian forces failed to muzzle the dissenting voices; hence now they resorted to silence them permanently by resorting to genocide of Kashmiris.

She demanded that the United Nations should send a high-level fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations and Indian military aggression in IIOJK, besides ensuring permanent and lasting solution of the conflict.

Enjoying holiday

ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying along with their parents during Saturday holiday at Japanese Park, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Wani thanks PM, FM for raising Kashmir issue at global forums

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Altaf Hussain Wani has expressed his profound gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for raising the issue of Kashmir vociferously during his speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) forum.

In a statement received here, Wani termed the premier's landmark speech as a true reflection of Kashmiris' sentiments.

While lauding Pakistan's consistent support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle Wani said, "The people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) owe a debt of gratitude to the people as well as the government of



Pakistan for their continued support to their cause and raising global awareness on early resolution of Kashmir."

He said that "I would like to express my gratitude to Prime Minister Sharif for his

strongly worded statement on the Kashmir in the UN calling for an early resolution of the lingering dispute through peaceful means of dialogue and diplomacy."

He also thanked the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for raising the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir at the OIC and other relevant forums.

Referring to Kashmiris' indigenous struggle for and the urgent need to settle the lingering dispute in line with the UN resolutions, Wani said that it was high time that the world should not ignore the Kashmiris' decades long struggle and their sacrifices for right to self-determination.

Health Corner

New tool to create hearing cells lost in aging

ISLAMABAD: Hearing loss due to aging, noise and certain cancer therapy drugs and antibiotics has been irreversible because scientists have not been able to reprogram existing cells to develop into the outer and inner ear sensory cells — essential for hearing — once they die.

But Northwestern Medicine scientists have discovered a single master gene that programs ear hair cells into either outer or inner ones, overcoming a major hurdle that had prevented the development of these cells to restore hearing.

The study will be published in Nature May 4. "Our finding gives us the us the first clear cell switch to make one type versus the other," said lead study author Jaime Garcia-Anoveros, professor of anesthesia, neurology and neuroscience at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "It will provide a previously unavailable tool to make an inner or outer hair cell. We have overcome a major hurdle."

About 8.5 percent of adults aged 55 to 64 in the U.S. have disabling hearing loss. That increases to nearly 25 percent of those aged 65 to 74 and 50 percent of those who are 75 and older, reports the Centers for Disease Control.



Currently, scientists can produce an artificial hair cell, but it does not differentiate into an inner or outer cell, which provide different essential functions to produce hearing. The discovery is a major step towards developing these specific cells.

"It's like a ballet" as cells crouch and leap

The death of outer hair cells made by the cochlea are most often the cause of deafness and hearing loss. The cells develop in the embryo and do not reproduce. The outer hair cells expand and contract in response to the pressure of sound waves and amplify sound for the inner hair cells. The inner cells transmit those vibrations to the neurons to create the sounds we hear.

"It's like a ballet," Garcia-Anoveros says with awe as he describes the coordinated movement of the inner and outer cells. "The outers crouch and jump and lift the inners further into the ear.

"The ear is a beautiful organ. There is no other organ in a mammal where the cells are so precisely positioned. (I mean, with micrometric precision). Otherwise, hearing doesn't occur."

The master gene switch Northwestern scientists discovered that programs the ear hair cells is TBX2. When the gene is expressed, the cell becomes an inner hair cell. When the gene is blocked, the cell becomes an outer hair cell. The ability to produce one of these cells will require a gene cocktail, Garcia-Anoveros said. The ATOH1 and GF1 genes are needed to make a cochlear hair cell from a non-hair cell. Then the TBX2 would be turned on or off to produce the needed inner or outer cell.

The goal would be to reprogram supporting cells, which are latticed among the hair cells and provide them with structural support, into outer or inner hair cells.

"We can now figure out how to make specifically inner or outer hair cells and identify why the later are more prone to dying and cause deafness," Garcia-Anoveros said. He stressed this research is still in the experimental stage. Courtesy Science Daily

World Pharmacist Day celebrated at TDC



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An event was held at The Diabetes' Centre in connection with 'World Pharmacist Day' being celebrated around the Globe here in Islamabad on Saturday.

Asad Ansari, Honorary Consul of the Consulate of Finland in Islamabad was the Chief Guest. Speaking at event, Dr Asjad Hameed, Chairman, The Diabetes' Centre said that Pharmacist must do their job with utmost vigilance and with the spirit of patient safety.

Chief Guest, Asad Ansari said Pharmacist have a key role in health industry. He appreciated efforts being made by TDC in combating Diabetes'.

Pharmacists of TDC presented a detailed presented. A shield was presented to the Chief Guest by Chairman TDC who thanked him for coming over to the Hospital.



ISLAMABAD: At the Handicraft Association of Pakistan (HAP) Islamabad chapter ceremony, renowned businessman Zafar Bakhtawari is presenting flowers to former chairman HAP Khurshid Barlas. Coordinator Ayesha Farooqui, Former Chairman Fahad Barlas, Mohsin Malik and others are also present.

JKSM chief hails PM Shehbaz's stance on Kashmir at UNGA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a press release today has appreciated Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Shareef's stance on IIOJK in UNGA. Pakistan stands by Kashmiri people through thick and thin.

Chairman JKSM Bhat further added that Pakistan has supported Kashmir since 1947, while Kashmiris have been fighting for completion of Pakistan. "Its time Foreign Office of Pakistan and all other leaders should conform to the stance of PM Shehbaz Shareef, expose the heinous and brutal face of India all over the world" Chairman Bhat added.

Since Aug 5th 2019 Modi led BJP Govt of India has unleashed reign of terror upon besieged and oppressed people of Kashmir, leaving them without businesses, Education, Healthcare, target killings, and destruction of property.

While more than 4 million state subject certificates were issued in a bid to change demography of the disputed region and convert it to hindu majority. Bhat added.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that Indian aggression and denial has cost lives of hundreds of thousand sof people, jeopardized peace of South Asia.

It's high time UN and other world bodies must intervene and impress upon India to respect UN resolutions and intl law, demilitarize Kashmir and give right to self determination to Kashmiris as per UN resolutions.

WHO inaugurates EOC in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala inaugurated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for flood response in the premises of District Health Office.

The EOC was established with the support of WHO Pakistan in collaboration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department. On this occasion, Dr. Palitha Mahipala while talking to media said the WHO was fully aware about the devastation of recent floods in Pakistan which affected 33 million populations and over two million households.

After that 6.4 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, he added. He said the WHO had already set up 10 EOCs in different other parts of the country "We have come out with a strong plan to support people, government and health authorities to respond extremely well in flood affected areas. The first wave of disaster comes with very much devastation while the second wave will be the diseases like Malaria, dengue and others," he said.

He said the establishment of this center was aimed at coordinated efforts with all the partners and donors to respond to the flood situation in D I Khan more effectively. It would also

help district administration and health authorities in deliverance of needed services in more effective manner.

"Today we have donated a large quantity of medicines which are needed to patients in medical camps," Dr. Palitha Mahipala mentioned. He said "the WHO has undertaken to renovate 10 health facilities which are partially damaged partially besides taking four houses on rent to restore health facilities which are fully damaged."

He expressed the commitment that the WHO would support the district health authority in provision of all the necessary equipment, medicines and the human resource as well. He informed that a nutrition stabilization center is also being established which will start responding to the nutrition situation in the district within a week.

The WHO representative in Pakistan said a lot of efforts were underway and the organization was continuously there to support the people in D I Khan. He said the WHO will also extend its support for rehabilitation of health sector in Dera. Replying to a question, Dr. Palitha Mahipala said he will also visit Tank district to meet the district health authorities.

This center would also extend its services to Tank and South Waziristan. Dr. Palitha Mahipala appreciated the district health department for a

well-mannered response to flood situation and Malaria disease which is on rise. Speaking on this occasion, District Health Officer (DHO) Mehmood Jan thanked the WHO representatives for establishment of EOC and provision of other support to the district health department. He said the WHO representative fulfilled their all demands including restoration of four health facilities in rental buildings for six months which were not in functioning position after flood. The WHO team also promised to renovate 10 damaged health facilities besides solarization of these facilities where needed. The WHO team also committed to provide all the needed medicines. Replying to a question about the dengue virus, he said the dengue virus was also under control so far despite its high risk due to the recent floods. He informed that 90 cases of dengue were reported across the district during last year while this year only 28 cases were reported. This time only five dengue patients were admitted in Mufi Mehmood Hospital and none of them was in any serious condition. He said no death was reported due to dengue virus since last year.

Earlier, while briefing the WHO team, Dr Asad of district health department informed that 22 health facilities were partially damaged with the recent floods

while four health facilities including BHU Rasheed, BHU Garra Madda, CD Ratta Kulachi and CD Garra Rehman were completely damaged. About disease trends in flood medical camps, he said 9145 patients of Diarrheal were reported, 8937 patients of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), 9887 with skin related issues, 1519 patients of Eye diseases, 246 typhoid suspects, 905 malaria suspects, and 710 people with different injuries.

Describing the Dengue trends, Dr. Asad informed that 43 cases were reported in May, only one case in June, two in July, 13 in August and 27 in the current month. About Malaria, he said the malaria disease was on rise after floods as 2252 positive cases were reported when conducted 15285 tests during current month subsequently 1887 in August against 18800 test and 885 against 14667 test in July this year.

About the challenges of Health department, Dr Asad demanded of the WHO team that "we need emergency medicines, rental space and solarized pre fabricated structure for 06 areas where the buildings are not safe for service delivery, vehicles for medicines supply and field operations to areas with damaged roads access, provision of mental health services in flood affected areas, and rehabilitation of 22 flood affected health facilities along with solarization.

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Pakistan at UNGA

Pakistan has consistently been saying that all the outstanding issues need to be resolved through dialogue. But unfortunately, the present Indian government on 5th August, 2019 unilaterally abrogated Article 370 and 35-A which is against the international norms and UN resolutions as well. The Indian government is now settling the non-Kashmiris in the occupied valley to change its demography. The world needs to understand that without a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute there can be no sustainable peace and stability in the region.

India is always trying to malign Pakistan in order to defame it across the globe but the world is now well aware of Indian tactics. The international media has also started exposing Indian policies and atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India is a big trade market and the international community has its own national interests with India so hesitant to force Indians to stop committing human right violations in the occupied valley. The Indian face has been exposed as the Kashmir issue has been internationalized. Many civilized countries are condemning the Indian policies as far as the Kashmir issue is concerned

The Prime Minister in his address at the UN session effectively presented the narrative of Pakistan on certain issues, including the climate change and Kashmir dispute. The Prime Minister briefed the world about the effects of climate change in Pakistan as the climate crisis is linked with the economy of Pakistan. The devastation caused by recent floods in the country will definitely have negative impacts on the economy of Pakistan. Moreover, the Prime Minister also urged the world to fulfill its commitments and ensure the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions and give the Kashmiris their right of plebiscite. Both India and Pakistan need to discuss bilateral issues through dialogue. It is a fact that without resolving the Kashmir issue, regional peace and stability is not possible.

India is violating international norms and even UN resolutions and committing worst genocide in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and terms the freedom struggle of Kashmiris to get their right to self-determination as terrorism. But the fact is that the world capitals are holding India responsible for human rights violations in the Kashmir valley. The international media is also exposing the cruel Indian face to the world. India is also involved in promoting terrorism in Pakistan and the Indian agent Kulbhushan Yadhav himself admitted it. Indian 15-years information warfare to malign and isolate Pakistan has been debunked by the EU DisInfoLab. It is the need of the hour that the Kashmir issue must be resolved as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people and in accordance with UN resolutions according to which Kashmiris must be given the right to self-determination.

Our globalized world is not dying, but evolving

Afshin Molavi

Beware the shiny new global affairs narrative. There is one that has been taking hold over the past year — accelerated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine — that goes something like this: Globalization is dying, the hardening geopolitical battles lines between China and the US (along with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine) are forcing countries to choose sides, and a new cold war is taking shape in which alliances and blocs harden and nations are further divided.

There are many flaws with this narrative, but it ultimately comes down to this: The Cold War era is over and the new era of multipolarity that has been the norm over the past three decades or so is stronger and more resilient than one might think, while globalization’s raw numbers show no signs of abating despite what the pundits might say.

With the world’s leaders gathering at the UN for the annual General Assembly, there will inevitably be much cocktail chatter and seminar discussion about our “emerging world.” Where are we headed? Are we about to enter a new era of geopolitical protectionism and “friend-shoring” of supply chains and trade? It is never easy to see the forest amid the trees, especially when there are so many fires in front of you, but it remains vital that we not succumb to false narratives about our evolving world based on the headlines of the day.

To understand where we are going, it may be useful to remember where we came from over the past few decades. In the detritus of the fall of the Soviet Union, a new world dawned. It was messy and chaotic (but so

was the Cold War, just ask the so-called proxy states) and ultimately grew into a concert of nations with a discordant tune. Eventually, the many tunes arising from the rapid changes of the past half-century or so, starting with the post-1979 rise of China, grew into a less discordant but still raucous hum of globalization’s march.

Yes, today feels different from the mid-2000s, when all the talk was of BRICs — Brazil, Russia, India and China — as the next big markets and US presidents met regularly with their Chinese counterparts. Back then, Vladimir Putin’s Russia was still a member of the G8 and he would backslap and joke with President George W. Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel at international meetings.

But a curious thing happened on the way to our more globalized world. More and more countries developed geopolitical diversification strategies. They traded more with China, but did not see this as a reason to cut ties with Europe or the US. Smaller states courted investment from China, Russia, the EU, Turkey, the US, the Gulf Cooperation Council states and beyond. There were no longer just two blocs to play off each other. There were Turkish construction companies, GCC sovereign wealth funds, China Belt and Road Initiative investments, US and European energy majors, and new development banks from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to the Silk Road Fund. The menu of options just kept getting bigger.

A good example remains the GCC states, all of which trade more with China than the US while having much deeper security ties with Washington. In this era of choosing sides, the GCC states may be in a bind, but the reality is that the oil and gas that

has been vital to their development has also been vital to the development of Asia, from Japan to South Korea to Singapore and, yes, to China.

This brings us back to globalization. In so many ways, the rise of China has been a key component of the globalization of the past generation. Today, the Middle Kingdom is the world’s largest trading nation, though its recent actions, from its zero-COVID policies to a general shutting down of what we have come to know as “China Global” — its tourists spending worldwide and its companies investing globally — signal a slowing of the unleashing of China on the world stage. We should watch this space because China is not just a manufacturing engine, but also a demand engine of the global economy.

All told, however, the key flows that make up globalization — the cross-border flows of goods, people, services, data and ideas — remain robust or are recovering rapidly. For that to be so in the wake of a pandemic and a war in Europe is testament to globalization’s strength.

The great British economist John Maynard Keynes once wrote that “the difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones.” We must escape the old idea of conceptually dividing the world into Cold War-style blocs and understand that our new world is something more complex and fluid and evolving than that.

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

Lessons of unification and integration on Saudi National Day

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

On Sept. 23, Saudis will mark their National Day to commemorate the reunification of their country 90 years ago. From the liberation of Riyadh in 1902 until the unity proclamation in 1932, King Abdulaziz led a spirited army of desert warriors to consolidate his realm, turning about a dozen separate and warring principalities into one large country, more than six times the size of Germany and comprising about 70 percent of the Arabian Peninsula.

That rapid reunification was done with very limited means. Oil was not discovered in Saudi Arabia until 1938 and it did not contribute much to the public treasury until after the Second World War. In 1932, the country’s budget was a miniscule \$4 million. Compare that to this year’s budget of more than \$250 billion.

During the time since the retaking of Riyadh, but especially during the nine decades since unification, the country has been transformed from a politically unstable, impoverished backwater to an economic powerhouse, the largest economy in the region and the 18th-largest worldwide.

Its gross domestic product went up from about \$12 million in 1932 to more than \$1 trillion in 2022, or more than an 80,000-times increase during those 90 years.

Besides the enormous growth in the Kingdom’s economic fortunes, health

indicators have radically changed for the better. Life expectancy, for example, has risen from less than 40 years in 1932 to more than 75 today. The literacy rate has also increased dramatically, from single digits in 1932 to more than 97 percent. And so on with almost every other social indicator.

The internal security transformation of the Arabian heartland is one of the most enduring achievements of King Abdulaziz. Until he unified the country, it was difficult to travel or trade because of tribal wars and highwaymen in almost every region. Internecine fighting was the norm among the many fiefdoms and tribes that dominated the political and security landscape. His success in ending all of that infighting was one of his most notable legacies.

King Abdulaziz’s success was especially impressive in light of the strong opposition he faced from the Ottoman Empire and its local proxies.

The Ottomans controlled both the eastern and western parts of Saudi Arabia and kept significant garrisons in other parts of the country. In the heartland, they employed vassals armed and funded by the High Porte. The capital Riyadh was occupied by one of those proxies, which Abdulaziz had to dislodge.

Britain also eyed the reunification with suspicion, as it sought to immunize its areas of influence from the new spirit of unification. London had a notable footprint throughout the region, along the Gulf, southern Yemen and, after the First World War, in Iraq, Jordan and elsewhere.

King Abdulaziz skillfully avoided major direct confrontations with either Britain

or Turkey, focusing instead on his unification project. He was also driven by a desire to restore his family’s rule and honor. Ibn Saud’s forefathers established their emirate in 1727 in Diriyah, a small hamlet just north of Riyadh.

Within a few decades, they had extended their rule to cover most of the Arabian Peninsula, until the Ottomans sent expeditions to suppress the movement and destroy Diriyah in 1818 after many bloody battles.

The fall of the capital was followed by attempts to restore the Saud family’s rule, but that involved fighting the Ottomans’ persistent opposition to such efforts, especially as a local proxy succeeded in taking the new capital, Riyadh, in 1890, forcing Abdulaziz’s father into exile together with his family, including Abdulaziz, who witnessed the humiliation as a teenager and was no doubt affected by it.

The story of Abdulaziz’s victorious return to Riyadh 12 years later is the stuff of legend, as he and his few dozen men rid the city of its last Ottoman vassal and started the unification of the country, town by town, until the proclamation on Sept. 23, 1932, of his huge realm renamed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in recognition of his heroic efforts.

Saudi National Day is usually an opportunity for families to relive the events leading up to the unification of their country and celebrate what the Kingdom has achieved through the unification and integration of its diverse regions.

There are at least three important lessons that families teach their children when retelling that story. First, Abdulaziz

succeeded despite the fact that his opponents were more numerous and better-armed and funded.

He was driven by a strong ambition and determination, which made up for the difference. He lost numerous battles and was at times seriously wounded personally, but was able to regroup and fight the next battle until he succeeded.

Second, he did not rely on sheer power, but was a consensus builder and skilled diplomat who turned enemies into allies. He forgave his former opponents and enlisted them in his service whenever he could. In one famous case, he pardoned a tribal leader several times despite his repeated betrayals.

But surely the most important lesson is the fruits of unity and integration. Older people especially appreciate the security transformation of the country, with people and goods able to move freely and safely throughout the Kingdom after centuries of fear and lawlessness.

Younger people enjoy the growing wealth and status of their country, which has been transformed from a backwater territory nine decades ago, barely subsisting and without much material wealth, to one of the largest economies in the world. Of course, oil was part of the story, but just a part.

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Courtesy: Arab News



US Republicans challenge the foreign policy ‘blob’

Dr. John C. Hulsman

In my experience, the widely quoted adage about America’s capital — “You want a friend in Washington? Get a dog” — makes a fair point; imagine a city populated entirely by high school student council presidents. Nevertheless, in my glory days in D.C. I managed to buck the odds and acquire a number of great colleagues who I have remained close to over the 16 years I have run my political risk firm.

I’ve just checked in with them over a marathon week, with 16 intensive meetings in five days. This concentrated process is by far the best way to take a mental snapshot of what is really going on in what remains the most important country in the world.

There are two major political risk takeaways from the week. Point one is that the current Western unity over the Ukraine war is misleading. It was pointed out to me by many that there are three strands of Western thinking on Russia, and they do not strategically agree.

In Washington I met with every branch of foreign policy opinion formers for the GOP. They included the Heritage Foundation, the largest think tank in the world and the most important on the right in the US; the Congressional Research Service, Congress’s own in-house think tank; the over-arching and increasingly powerful Stand Together Alliance, which unites the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian wings of the GOP around a realist orientation; and two venerable establishment pillars, the Center for the National Interest and the Atlantic Council. I also had private meetings with senior foreign policy grandees. All the above testified to the fact that there is a revolt catching fire in the party to do away with its longstanding links to the foreign policy “blob,” the disastrous, overly interventionist elite that gave us the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

It is far less likely the Republican Party will remain linked to the discredited foreign policy establishment if it comes back to power in 2024, as it is embracing

a new, more skeptical and realist orientation, having under Trump jettisoned from positions of power in the party the fantasist, hyper-interventionist neo-conservatives who futilely and fatally wanted to impose democracy around the world — nation building at the point of a gun.

In essence, this new realist alliance between Jeffersonians (the Stand Together Alliance) and Jacksonians (Heritage) is fused around a more realist orientation, whereby the GOP is no longer content to serve as the junior interventionist member of the Washington foreign policy establishment, in lockstep with the liberal Wilsonian hawks who perpetually dominate the Democratic Party. Instead, they believe the US should focus its strategic engagement in regions where its primary interests are at stake, as in the Indo-Pacific, the source of most of the world’s coming economic growth and much of its political risk peril.

For them, Ukraine is a sideshow, and a terribly expensive one at that — obscuring America’s necessary pivot to Asia. It should be supported, but with clear limits to that support, as the US cannot care more about European security than Europeans do. At present America is responsible for about 70 percent of the military wherewithal heading to Kyiv, while Germany does as little as possible. While Biden is spending tens of billions of dollars on secondary-interest Ukraine, what should be the obvious, overriding focus on the Indo-Pacific is being lost. What I learned in my fascinating week in D.C. is that at last the karmic wheel is turning, as the Republican Party forsakes its disastrous adherence to the foreign policy blob and rediscovers its precious realist heritage.

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Courtesy: Arab News

Russia shells Ukrainian cities amid Kremlin-staged votes

World opinion shifts against Russia as Ukraine worries grow

KYIV: Russian forces launched new strikes on Ukrainian cities as Kremlin-orchestrated votes took place in occupied regions of Ukraine to create a pretext for their annexation by Moscow.

Ukraine’s presidential office said the latest Russian shelling killed at least three people and wounded 19. Oleksandr Starukh, the Ukrainian governor of Zaporizhzhia, one of the regions where Moscow-installed officials organized referendums on joining Russia, said a Russian missile hit an apartment building in the city of Zaporizhzhia, killing one person and injuring seven others.

In the five-day voting in the eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south that began Friday, election officials accompanied by police officers carried ballots to homes and set up mobile polling stations, citing safety reasons. The votes are set to wrap up Tuesday, when balloting will be held at polling stations.

Ukraine and its Western allies dismissed the referendums as a sham with no legal force. They alleged it was an illegitimate attempt by Moscow to slice away a large part of Ukraine, stretching from the Russian border to the Crimean Peninsula. A similar referendum took place in Crimea



in 2014 before Moscow annexed it, a move that most of the world considered illegal.

“Half of the population fled the Donetsk region because of Russian terror and constant shelling, voting against Russia with their feet, and the second half has been cheated and scared,” Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians in occu-

pied regions to undermine the referendums and to share information about the people conducting “this farce.” He also called on people to try to avoid the partial troop mobilization Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Wednesday or to sabotage and desert the Russian military if they ended up in the ranks.

“If you get into the Russian army, sabotage any activity of the enemy, hinder any Russian operations, provide

us with any important information about the occupiers – their bases, headquarters, warehouses with ammunition,” Zelenskyy said.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the voting “looked more like an opinion survey under the gun barrels,” adding that the Moscow-backed local authorities were sending sending armed escorts to accompany election officials and to note the names of individuals who voted against joining Russia.

In the Ukrainian capital, about 100 people from the Russia-occupied city of Mariupol, which is part of the Donetsk region, gathered to protest the referendum, covering themselves in Ukrainian flags and carrying posters “Mariupol is Ukraine.”

“They ruined the city, killed thousands of people, and now they are doing some kind of profanation over there,” said Vladyslav Kildishov who helped organize the rally.

Elina Sytkova, 21, a demonstrator who has many relatives left in Mariupol even though the city spent months under bombardment, said the vote was “like a joke, because it’s the same as it was in Crimea, meaning it’s fake and not real.” “It’s an illusion of choice when there isn’t any,” she added.

Open skies regime to be introduced at Samarkand International Airport



Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: In order to increase the country’s tourism potential, make full use of the opportunities of the newly created Samarkand International Airport and develop a competitive environment in the air transportation market, an “open skies” regime will be introduced at Samarkand International Airport from 1 October 2022.

The “open skies” regime means the removal of restrictions on flights and destinations for foreign airlines in accordance with international law, taking into account the technical capabilities of Samarkand International Airport.

From now on, foreign airlines will be able to carry out air transportation to Samarkand International Airport, regardless of the presence or absence of an intergovernmental agreement on air traffic.

Foreign aviation authorities have been notified of the introduction of a new order at Samarkand International Airport from 1 October in the prescribed manner.

Heavy rains, lightning kill at least 36 in northern India

LUCKNOW: Hazardous weather killed at least 36 people in northern India over the past 24 hours, including 12 who died after being struck by lightning, officials said as they warned of more heavy downpours in the coming days.

Across the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, some 24 people died after their homes collapsed amid unrelenting rains, Relief Commissioner Ranvir Prasad said.

Mohamed Usman, 15, was on his friend’s roof in the city of Prayagraj when lightning struck Friday evening, killing him instantly. His friend Aznan, who goes by one name, was injured and is being treated in a hospital.

“As soon as they set foot on the roof, they were hit by lightning and my son died,” said Mohammad Ayub, Usman’s father.

Officials said 39 people in the state have died from lightning in the last five days, prompting the state government to issue new guidelines for how people can protect themselves during a thunderstorm.

Lightning strikes are common during India’s monsoon season, which runs from June to September.

Col. Sanjay Srivastava, whose organization Lightning Resilient India Campaign works with the Indian Meteorological Department, said that deforestation, the depletion of bodies of water, and pollution all contribute to climate change, which leads to more lightning.

Mali PM lashes out at France, UN, regional bloc

UNITED NATIONS: Mali’s prime minister lashed out Saturday at everyone from former colonizer France to the U.N. secretary-general, saying that the tumultuous country had been “stabbed in the back” by the French military withdrawal. In the same remarks, Abdoulaye Maiga praised the “exemplary and fruitful cooperation between Mali and Russia.”

In his speech to the General Assembly, Maiga slammed what he called France’s “unilateral decision” to relocate its remaining troops to neighboring Niger amid deteriorating relations with Mali’s two-time coup leader, Col. Assimi Goita.

While it was Goita and his allies who overthrew a democratically elected president by military force two years ago, Mali’s prime minister repeatedly referred to a “French junta” throughout his speech Saturday.

“Move on from the colonial past and hear the anger, the frustration, the rejection that is coming up from the African cities and countryside, and understand that this movement is inexorable,” Maiga said. “Your intimidations and subversive actions have only swelled the ranks of Africans concerned with preserving their dignity.”

New leader Marcos Jr. wants to ‘reintroduce’ Philippines

NEW YORK: Looking to “reintroduce the Philippines” to the world, new President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ambitious plans for his nation on the international stage and at home — if, that is, the twin specters of pandemic and climate change can be overcome or at least managed.

And if he can surmount the legacies of two people: his predecessor, and his father. He also wants to strengthen ties with both the United States and China — a delicate balancing act for the Southeast Asian nation — and, like many of his fellow leaders at the United Nations this week, called on the countries that have caused global warming to help less wealthy nations counteract its effects.

Marcos, swept into office this spring, is already drawing distinctions both subtle and obvious between himself and his voluble predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who alienated many international partners with his violent approach to fighting drug trafficking and the coarse rhetoric he used to galvanize supporters.

Asked if Duterte went too far with his lethal drug crackdown, Marcos redirected the criticism toward those who carried out the plan.

Nobody is safe in IIOJK: Speakers

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Speakers at a seminar in Brussels emphasized that our global struggle against Indian atrocities will continue and we will constantly expose India’s ugly face to the world.

The seminar was organized by the Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) in its secretariat in Brussels, the European capital, in which representatives of Kashmiris, Pakistanis and other communities participated. The seminar was held a day before the Indian External Minister’s address to the United Nations General Assembly, in which India will resort to lies on the Kashmir issue and try to cover up its inhumane atrocities on Kashmiris.

Addressing the seminar, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed said that India has tried to settle a large number of non-Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by amending the domicile laws in the last few years with the aim of increasing the population of



non-Kashmiris in the occupied region. India wants to reduce the ratio of the Kashmiri population in the occupied land.

He said that people associated with important fields in Occupied Kashmir are also suffering from fear and harassment from the authorities, an example of which can be given of Dr. Owais Wani, a cardiologist in a hospital in Jammu, who tried to commit suicide after being harassed.

Apart from this, the lives of Kashmiri prisoners in the jails of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are also in danger. World-renowned human

restrictions on Kashmiris two years ago on the pretext of Covid-19 and created more problems and difficulties for them.

He said that we will continue our peaceful struggle till Jammu and Kashmir gets freedom from India.

Other speakers of seminar said that India has tried to erase the evidence of the Kashmir conflict by ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir three years ago. There is no justification for this Indian action, it is an attempt to destroy the identity of Kashmiris and the internationally recognized special status of the region of Kashmir, but the morale of Kashmiris is high and they will not back down from their right to self-determination.

They said that nobody is safe in Occupied Kashmir at this time and international human rights organizations have no access there, no one knows what is happening to Kashmiris there at this time. Even international human rights organizations and international journalists do not have access there.

NASA spaceship fast approaching target in key test

WASHINGTON: NASA on Monday will attempt a feat humanity has never before accomplished: deliberately smacking a spacecraft into an asteroid to slightly deflect its orbit, in a key test of our ability to stop cosmic objects from devastating life on Earth.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spaceship launched from California last November and is fast approaching its target, which it will strike at roughly 14,000 miles per hour (23,000 kph).

To be sure, neither the asteroid moonlet Dimorphos, nor the big brother it orbits, called Didymos, pose any threat as the pair loop the Sun, passing some seven million miles from Earth at nearest approach.

But the experiment is one NASA has deemed important to carry out before an actual need is discovered.

“This is an exciting time, not only for the agency, but in space history

and in the history of humankind quite frankly,” Lindley Johnson, a planetary defense officer for NASA told reporters in a briefing Thursday.

If all goes to plan, impact between the car-sized spacecraft, and the 530-foot (160 meters, or two Statues of Liberty) asteroid should take place at 7:14pm Eastern Time (2314 GMT), and can be followed on a NASA livestream.

By striking Dimorphos head on, NASA hopes to push it into a smaller orbit, shaving ten minutes off the time it takes to encircle Didymos, which is currently 11 hours and 55 minutes — a change that will be detected by ground telescopes in the days that follow.

The proof-of-concept experiment will make a reality what has before only been attempted in science fiction — notably films such as “Armageddon” and “Don’t Look Up.”

As the craft propels itself through

space, flying autonomously for the mission’s final phase like a self-guided missile, its main camera system, called DRACO, will start to beam down the very first pictures of Dimorphos.

“It’s going to start off as a little point of light and then eventually it’s going to zoom and fill the whole entire field of view,” said Nancy Chabot of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), which hosts mission control in a recent briefing.

“These images will continue until they don’t,” added the planetary scientist.

Minutes later, a toaster-sized satellite called LICIACube, which separated from DART a couple of weeks earlier, will make a close pass of the site to capture images of the collision and the ejecta — the pulverized rock thrown off by impact. Also watching the event: an array of telescopes, both on Earth and in space — including the recently oper-

ational James Webb — which might be able to see a brightening cloud of dust.

Finally, a full picture of what the system looks like will be revealed when a European Space Agency mission four years down the line called Hera arrives to survey Dimorphos’s surface and measure its mass, which scientists can only guess at currently.

Very few of the billions of asteroids and comets in our solar system are considered potentially hazardous to our planet, and none in the next hundred or so years. But “I guarantee to you that if you wait long enough, there will be an object,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA’s chief scientist.

We know that from the geological record — for example, the six-mile wide Chicxulub asteroid struck Earth 66 million years ago, plunging the world into a long winter that led to the mass extinction of the dinosaurs along with 75 percent of species.

Powerful storm Fiona hits Canada’s Nova Scotia

HALIFAX: Powerful storm Fiona slammed into eastern Canada on Saturday with hurricane-force winds, nearly a week after devastating parts of the Caribbean.

The US National Hurricane Center said the center of the storm, now called Post-Tropical Cyclone Fiona, was crossing eastern Nova Scotia, bringing high winds and heavy rains.

The storm had weakened somewhat as it traveled north. As of 5 a.m. (0900 GMT), the storm was about 160 miles (255 km) northeast of Halifax, carrying maximum winds of 90 miles per hour (150 kph) and barreling north at around 26 mph (43 kph), the NHC said.

Experts predicted high winds,

storm surges and heavy rainfall from Fiona. Although a gradual weakening was forecast during the next couple of days, Fiona was expected to maintain hurricane-force winds until Saturday afternoon, the NHC said.

Formerly designated a hurricane, the storm battered Caribbean islands earlier in the week, killing at least eight people and knocking out power for virtually all of Puerto Rico’s 3.3 million people during a sweltering heat wave. Nearly a million people remained without power five days later.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delayed Saturday’s departure for Japan, where he was to attend the funeral of

former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, to receive briefings and support the government’s emergency response, Press Secretary Cecely Roy said on Twitter.

A hurricane warning was in effect for much of central Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, home to more than 150,000 people, and parts of Newfoundland, the Miami-based NHC said.

Canadian Hurricane Center meteorologist Ian Hubbard said on Friday the effects of Fiona would be felt over a wide area.

“The center of it is one thing, but the weather that’s associated with it in terms of the rain and where all the strong winds are, it’s going to be over a much larger area,” he said.

“Many, many places away from the center of the storm are still going to be seriously impacted from this,” Hubbard told Reuters.

There will be rough and pounding surf, with waves as high as 10 meters (33 feet) expected to hit the eastern shore of Nova Scotia Friday night.

Canadian authorities sent emergency alerts in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, warning of severe flooding along shorelines and extremely dangerous waves. People in coastal areas were advised to evacuate.

“We’ve had a few before, but they say this is going to be the biggest of them all,” said Chris MacPhee, 53, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, who stocked up on groceries,



ies, batteries and candles. He said he was feeling “a little nervous, I guess.”

The storm could prove more

ferocious than the benchmarks of Hurricane Juan in 2003 and Hurricane Dorian in 2019, Canadian Hurricane Center meteorolo-

gist Bob Robichaud told a briefing.

The country’s two largest carriers, Air Canada and WestJet Airlines, suspended regional service starting Friday evening.

Trailing Fiona in the Caribbean is Tropical storm Ian, which is expected to become a hurricane on Sunday night. The NHC said that a hurricane watch is in effect for Cayman Islands.

The storms Ian’s projected path takes it just south of Jamaica, over western Cuba and into Florida early next week, the hurricane center said.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency on Friday, freeing up funding and emergency services in advance of the storm.

FPCCI asks women entrepreneurs to enhance IT skills

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Saturday called upon the women entrepreneurs to enhance their skills in the Information Technology and adopt innovative ways to further enhance and promote their business.

Addressing 'International Conference on Pakistan Export Potentials-Women Led Business', Vice Presidents of the Chambers Riffat Malik, and Amin Ullah Baig said that economic development was not possible without the financial empowerment and development of womenfolk.

They said that women entrepreneurs were facing various hurdles in establishing their business as well as its growth and development as compared to their male competitors.

They urged the need for providing level playing fields to women business to encourage them to develop and promote their own business as well as playing an active role in economic development and social prosperity of the country.

They said that social, economic and security challenges, lack of access to professional networks and poor access to capital remain were key obstacles in growth for women entrepreneurs in the country. Women-led businesses need to be supported to venture for export and flourishing domestic trade.

Speaking on the occasion, Riffat Malik Vice President FPCCI emphasized the women entrepreneurs for enhancing their skills in the IT and find ways and means to promote their business by adopting innovations and modern skills of management. "Women entrepreneurs can earn substantial income from their business pitches on social media sitting at home, so it is important for women entrepreneurs to come forward in the field of information technology", she added.

She further said that now it was the era of information technology and everything is moving online so without learning its proper use, development and progress was not possible anymore.

She said despite these challenges a large majority of women in the country were running businesses successfully. She said that she had devoted herself for promoting women entrepreneurship and resolving the problems of women-led businesses.

The FPCCI is the premier organization supporting entrepreneurs and professionals, she said adding that it would continue its work to ensure equal rights in every sector of the economy. APP

Gold prices decline by Rs.3750 per tola



ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.3750 on Saturday and was sold at Rs.150,100 against its sale at Rs. 153,850 the previous day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat also decreased by Rs.3216 and was sold at Rs.128,686 against Rs. 131,902 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs.117,973 against its sale at Rs. 120,910, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.1570 and Rs.1346.02 respectively.

The price of gold in international market decreased by \$2 and was sold at \$1643 against its sale at \$1645, the association reported. APP

WB Vice President visits Pakistan, assures support for flood relief

The Bank repurposing funds from existing World Bank-financed projects to support urgent needs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's new Vice President for the South Asia Region, Martin Raiser, today concluded his first official visit to Pakistan and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to support the people of Pakistan in the wake of catastrophic flooding.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives and livelihoods due to the devastating floods and we are working with the federal and provincial governments to provide immediate relief to those who are most affected," said Martin Raiser.

During his two-day visit, Raiser met with Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Economic Affairs Division; Miftah Ismail, Minister of Finance and Revenue, Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning and Development and Special Initiatives; and Khurram Dastagir, Minister of Energy. He also met with Jameel Ahmed, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, as well as representatives from think tanks and private sector. In these meetings, Raiser discussed in detail the impact of the floods in Pakistan and the World Bank's support.

"As immediate response, we are repurposing funds from existing World Bank-financed projects to support urgent needs in health, food, shelter, rehabilitation, and cash transfers. In addition to this, we are working with the federal and provincial authorities to prepare emergency operations to quickly start the reconstruction and rehabilitation to rebuild or repair infrastructure, housing and restore livelihoods, and to help strengthen Pakistan's resilience to climate-related risks. We are envisaging financing of about USD 2 billion to that effect," added Raiser.

Raiser highlighted that Pakistan is among the world's top ten countries most affected by climate change. He also encouraged the government to continue to focus on the successful



implementation of ongoing investments in areas such as girls' and boys' learning, health, reduced stunting, social protection, energy transition, and climate resilience to lay the foundation for a sustained recovery from this year's flood disaster.

Raiser also met Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister, Sindh. They discussed the impact of massive rains and recent floods and how the World Bank is supporting the government of Sindh with reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. During his visit to Sindh, he was given the opportunity to see first-hand the extent of damages and meet affected households at a relief camp in Daddu District. Raiser was joined in his meetings by the World Bank Country Director for Pakistan, Najy Benhassine, and the International Finance Corporation Country Manager, Zeeshan Ahmed Sheikh.

Flexible IMF conditions are welcome but insufficient

Atif Ikram Sheikh says achieving a two percent growth rate will be a miracle

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Saturday said the IMF has given an indication of easing its strict conditions which is a good development but this is insufficient. The international community is showing indifference towards Pakistan to help it respond effectively to the flood-related challenges, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the government has reduced the growth target from five percent to two percent, but even achieving this revised target will be a miracle as the economy is reeling from inflation, the payments crisis and the continued depreciation of the rupee.

In a statement issued here, the business leader said that heads of some important countries and international institutions are appealing for Pakistan's help, but the progress in this direction is unsatisfactory. Tens of millions of Pakistanis are forced to suffer the punishment for the crimes they never committed, he said, adding that diseases and epidemics have broken out in the camps established for the flood affected while the government does not have the resources to deal with the problem. If Pakistan does not get full support from the international community, it will be impossible to provide relief to the flood victims which



will be a doomsday scenario for millions, he warned.

He said that wheat sowing time has started in Sindh but the flood water will not recede before two months for which urgent measures are needed.

The country's conditions are constantly deteriorating, the industry is facing difficulties, agriculture has been completely destroyed and Pakistan is rapidly moving towards a wheat crisis.

The government is not importing wheat at the required pace and not allowing the private sector to import wheat which is a recipe for disaster. According to the government agencies, there is no shortage of wheat in the country and there is stock for the next six months. If this is true, why the price of flour is increasing continuously, he questioned. Apart from this, the prices of vegetables, pulses and rice have also gone up which hurts the poor, he said.

Punjab Industries dept to be improved further: Aslam

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal Saturday said that Department of Industries & Commerce (DI&C) Punjab directly related to a common man, therefore further improvement and reforms would be brought in this department.

He stated this, while inaugurating the renovation project of committee room of the DI&C where its Secretary Dr Ahmad Javed Qazi, heads and officers of the subsidiaries of the department were also present.

Senior Provincial Minister

said that he got the best team whose hard work of day and night brought reforms in the department.

It is not possible to achieve the objectives without the team work and almost 100 per cent utilisation of the development fund was ensured in the DI&C.

"Time is short and challenges are big, together we will complete this journey," he vowed. Mian Aslam Iqbal said that during the Covid-19 epidemic, the Industries department had played a key role.

Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi briefed the minister about the renovation project of the committee room.

No future if economy not prioritized over politics: Zahid

People shouldn't be deprived of cheap food for politics

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and former Provincial Minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said that the government should solve the problems of the people and speed up the import of food from neighbouring countries.

Imports from all four neighbouring countries should be allowed to address the food security issue, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that all the import taxes should be discontinued on food imports until the agricultural production situation in the country returns to normal.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the war between Russia and Ukraine caused a lot of damage to agriculture worldwide and the prices of all agricultural commodities started skyrocketing while the biggest impact was on the price of wheat.

During the war, floods devastated a large area of Pakistan and wiped out crops on millions of acres. In these circumstances, imports from Iran and Afghanistan were allowed, but soon the supply of foreign exchange to the importers was stopped, which increased their business costs, he said.



The business leader noted that India is the best source of quick and cheap food items from which imports are not being allowed because the opposition can take political advantage of it. For some political elements,

politics is more important than the public interest. Due to the lack of direct trade with India, Indian and Pakistani businessmen are forced to trade through the United Arab Emirates, the additional cost of which is being paid by the poor people of Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should give priority to the welfare of the people and give priority to the neighbouring countries instead of importing agricultural products from distant countries, moreover, instead of distributing 17 billion dollars or four thousand billion rupees to foreign farmers every year, it should promote local farmers.

If farmers can get interest-free loans, it can bring a revolution in the country's agricultural production; otherwise, by 2050, when Pakistan's population will reach 380 million and the situation will worsen. Apart from agriculture, other sectors of the economy also need attention, otherwise, the problems of energy, poverty, unemployment and food security will continue to increase.

Ahsan Bakhtawari elected as new President ICCI

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has been elected as the new President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2022-23. The election results were announced by Zahid Maqbool, Chief Election Commission during a ceremony at ICCI. Faad Waheed was elected as Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar as Vice President ICCI for 2022-23. All the candidates were elected unopposed and they will formally take charge of their portfolios on 1st October 2022.

Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the economy of Pakistan was passing through a very challenging time of its history and stressed that the government should provide maximum facilitation and incentives to the business community to promote country's trade and exports that would help to improve the health of the economy. He emphasized that the government should engage the private sector in consultation to devise a comprehensive strategy in order to overcome the economic challenges of the country.

He appreciated the efforts of current President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir and his team for taking many productive initiatives to address the issue of business community and resolved that he would take all possible measures to promote the interests of business community. He thanked the Chairman & members of Founder Group



and all members of ICCI for showing confidence in his abilities and assured that he would try to deliver up to their expectations.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder Group congratulated the newly new office bearers of ICCI for their unopposed election. He hoped that they would set new standards of good performance and play an effective role for resolving the key issues of the business community. Founder Group Election Campaign Co-Chairmen Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi and Sheikh Amir Waheed also congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and hoped that they would work hard to address the key issues of business community.

The newly elected Senior Vice President Faad Waheed and Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that facilitating the business community in business development would be the key focus on their efforts. They thanked the Founder Group and ICCI members for electing them unopposed and ensured that they would try to deliver best performance.

'No one is left behind' for inclusive economic growth: Speakers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Romina Khurshid Alam, SAPM and Convener Parliamentary Task force on SDGs, urged for strengthening implementation of laws along with behavioural changes to reinstate respect for law, social responsibility and social norms to ensure that development is inclusive and reaches under-developed and underprivileged communities.

Speaking at a roundtable discussion on 'Inclusive economic growth: An imperative for sustainable economic development', she said that bureaucratic operations must be simplified through one window operations so that the development agendas are delivered timely and efficiently. She stressed that developed countries which are major contributors of global carbon emissions must be called out and held responsible for their actions that developing countries are paying for. Climate finance is not aid rather legitimate right of climate vulnerable countries and responsibility of high carbon emitting countries.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director SDPI called for achieving sustainable economic development to overcome contemporary challenges. He said there is a dire need that the government opts for solution-oriented approach, forward-looking planning, and looking at the current floods as an opportunity to reset social protection backed by well thought out targeted economic policies rather than burdening future generation with loans. Frequent changes in tax, tariffs and reversals of economic policies have long term negative implications and discourage foreign direct investments. Pakistan needs to diversify foreign investments from multiple countries.

Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmad, Head Sustainability and Resilience Programme, said that economic inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised segments is critical to ensure that growth does not exacerbate existing inequalities in society. It is imperative for economists and policy makers to identify the issues of socio-economic inclusivity and rectify them to ensure sustainable economic development that benefits and empowers all strata of society. He called for strengthening state-citizens cordial relations.

Dr Sajid Amin, Deputy Executive Director SDPI, Pakistan is currently confronting 4 major challenges preventing it from achieving sustainable and inclusive economic development. These include balance of payment crisis, high and unsustainable economic growth, recurrent climate disasters and political and economic

uncertainty and instability. He said that it is crucial to shift focus of economic policies to SMEs and entrepreneurship which can create employment resulting in inclusive economic growth.

Ali Salman, ED PRIME Institute said that Pakistan's economic policies have been fairly inclusive bearing in mind the fiscal constraints. Despite different models, no government ever shielded away from development agenda. No strong commitment to develop industry and agriculture is the reason to low GDP share and employment ratio. Taxation and tariff regimes should be uniform across sectors to create a level playing field for investments and growth in each sector.

Dr Aasim Sajjad, said that economic development is impossible without recentring resources redistribution policies. He criticised that ignoring natural watershed management in

infrastructure development is a leading cause of flooding; and developments in the name of tourism cause environmental degradation, loss of habitats and biodiversity, but most importantly catalyse melting of glaciers in Northern areas. Moazzam S Bhatti, said that lack of quality data and access to think tanks, economists, and policy makers distorts analysis and leads to inefficient economic policies. He called for improving comprehensive coordination between federal and province governments and ensuring continuity of economic policies.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director, Institute of Strategic Studies, stressed taking a gender perspective in socio-economic policies as women are at the centre of economic crisis and climate disasters. Despite being almost half of population, there is low representation of women at high-rank-

ing positions of power which reflects in policies that are devised without envisioning through gender lens. Dr Abdul Jabbar, Assistant professor Economics, IIUI said that despite employing 40% of labour force, agriculture contributes to only 20% of GDP. He said development of agriculture sector and rural development are important as only 3% private sector capital is available to agriculture sector leading to low investments, human capital, and R&D. Iftikhar Ahmed, Assistant professor PIDE urged for a dialogue among politicians, policy makers and economic experts on economic policies that can support sustainable development. Dr. Abdul Jalil, Professor PIDE criticised governments for adopting short term cosmetic interventions and inconsistent economic policies which are root cause of current economic challenges.

PCB BoG approves increase in retainers, match fees in domestic contracts

Contracts will run from September 2022 to August 2023

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In line with its strategy and vision of incentivising high-performing domestic cricketers, encouraging them to embrace the game as a full-time professional sport and adding value to the local competitions, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced details of the 2022-23 domestic contracts, which were approved by the Board of Governor (BoG) at its 70th meeting on Saturday.

The contracts will run from September 2022 to August 2023 and the list of player names will be revealed in due course. After Mr Ramiz Raja had announced an increase of PKR100,000 in retainers across all five categories upon being elected as the 34th PCB Chairman last September, the cricket board has again topped up the domestic retainers.

However, the biggest improvement is in the match fees, which have been increased with the objective of attracting star cricketers and inspiring them to maintain high standards so that they can continue to stay in the domestic contract categories.

Match fee of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy has been increased from PKR60,000 to PKR100,000, while match fee of the Pakistan Cup and the National T20



has been raised from PKR40,000 to PKR60,000, respectively. The non-playing members of the red and white-ball matches will now receive PKR40,000 (up by PKR16,000) and PKR20,000 (up by PKR4,000).

Likewise, match fee of the non-first-class four-day Cricket Associations Championship has been increased from PKR25,000 to PKR40,000, whereas the white-ball Cricket Associations Challenge and CA T20 match fee has

been enhanced from PKR15,000 to PKR25,000. The non-playing members of the red and white-ball matches will receive PKR15,000 and PKR10,000, respectively.

The overall impact following these latest increases in retainers and match fees is that Category A+ and Category D players can now potentially earn between PKR4.3million and PKR6.1million respectively. However, to make these earnings, the players will have to maintain

the expected fitness levels and perform consistently so that they can feature in all league matches of the National T20, Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and Pakistan Cup.

These are projected numbers and have been calculated on the basis of 30 league matches being played across the three major PCB events and without adding the impact of any prize moneys. The total prize money of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy is PKR17million with the winner receiving PKR10million, the champion of Pakistan Cup will earn PKR5million from a total purse of PKR9.3million and the winner of the National T20 will get richer by PKR5million from a total pool of PKR8.7million.

Similarly, players participating in the second division CA Championship (four-day non-first-class), CA Challenge (50+over) and CA T20 will have an opportunity to earn around PKR1.14million through match fees and daily allowance payments. When the players' monthly retainers are added to these numbers, then it again becomes a substantial figure and should motivate them further to not only do better but also aspire to play in the three major events, which will not only enhance their earnings but also bring them one step closer selections in the national side.

Phelps finds new focus in mental health fight

PARIS: A self-confessed "shark" in the water Michael Phelps trained non-stop in pursuit of his all-consuming dream to become the greatest swimmer of all time.

But the 37-year-old disclosed that none of his 60 plus gold medals, including a record 23 in the Olympics, weigh more than his current career as a mental health advocate.

After years hiding his depression, Phelps told AFP in an interview at the "Démain le sport" (Sports Tomorrow) forum in Paris, his post-swimming career was even busier than his punishing schedule in the pool. "I'd rather have the opportunity to save a life than win another gold medal because this is way more important," said Phelps.

"We have lost way too many Olympic athletes to suicide. I don't want to lose any more of my Olympic family members," Phelps

depression first emerged in 2004, the year of his first Olympics in Athens when he won eight medals including six in gold. "Competing was one of my favourite things. I was a shark and smelt blood in the water and kept going," he said.

He feared opening up would be "a sign of weakness, giving competitors an edge," adding: "I went through a period where I didn't want to be alive." Phelps, who was involved in the making of a documentary 'The Weight of Gold', praised tennis star Naomi Osaka and gymnastics great Simone Biles for their openness. "I have to applaud Naomi," he told AFP. "She went on her social media platform and expressed what she was going through in her own words.

"That's not the easiest thing to do. "If you look at Simone Biles, she had that happen to her at the largest moment in her career. "It

shows you how unexpected a mental health illness is. It can pop up like that," he said clicking his fingers. "We need more and more people who are opening up to share to lower down these walls, these boundaries that people have built up."

Now the father of three boys aged six, four and three his life with wife Nicole is "non stop, busier than it was before, travelling all over the world, working with sponsors or doing motivational speeches. "(Nicole) can tell you there are days when I wake up and I feel great and the next day I can wake up and be a completely different human, so it's just trying to find that balance.

"This is going to be an ongoing journey that may never get solved. "Finding ways to be your authentic self. I swim, we've built a gym in our garage. I write a journal. "We have a handful of tools that I can reach and use, that's

just because of the work we've done to get to this point."

Phelps retired in 2016, after making a comeback for the Rio Olympics after a two-year hiatus from the sport. "It helped me to transition into that next chapter which is now mental health and to be able to find something that I'm passionate about and I struggle with.

"It's like a win-win." With no nostalgia for the punishing sport, Phelps said there was "zero chance" of following in the footsteps of his coach Bob Bowman.

"In general you find the greats in sport aren't the best in coaching, look at Wayne Gretzky, he tried to coach an NHL team and that did not go very well," he said. A role in USA Swimming or world governing body FINA are a possibility but, "not right now." "I definitely wouldn't say no, but a lot needs to happen, there needs to be a lot of changes to be honest."

Barca confirm injuries for defensive duo Araujo and Koude

BARCELONA: Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo suffered a thigh-muscle tear while on international duty, his club said Saturday, while confirming Jules Koude also had a thigh injury.

Araujo was taken off inside the first minute of Uruguay's 1-0 loss to Iran in a friendly on Friday night. Koude lasted just 23 minutes of France's 2-0 Nations League win over Austria on Thursday.

The central defenders will miss their countries' next match and are likely to be unavailable for Barcelona's first games when club football resumes.

With the Clásico approaching on October 16, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez may need to construct a new defense for upcoming fixtures, including a reprieve for Gerard Pique, who has been largely frozen out.

Since he was registered to play for the Catalan side, following his summer switch from Sevilla, Koude has become a key part of Barcelona's rear guard, often used at right-back. Spanish reports suggest he will be out for at least three weeks, although the club did not specify a recovery time.

The international break has been problematic for Barca. Memphis Depay suffered a hamstring injury with the Netherlands in their 2-0 win over Poland on Thursday.

Annual prize distribution ceremony held in Oldham

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Lancashire T20 Super League Chairman Saba Ghos Secretary Abid Riaz and Chaudhary Mohammad Shah Nawaz Qamar's 4th Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony was held at Oldham's Empire Hall Today's event specifically raised funds for flood victims in Pakistan Member of Parliament Yasmeen Qureshi Consul General Tariq Wazir Mayor Bolton Akhtar Zaman made a special appearance among the other participants including businessman and social personality Chaudhry Shah Nawaz Qamar alias Shani-Jaber Patel-Riyaz Lodhi-Naeem Chauhan-Junaid Ahmed PTI North West President Asif Butt General Secretary Chaudhry Bilal Gujjar Chaudhry Babar Akhlaq Ahmed Former cricketer Tariq Mehmood and other prominent personalities of the community participated. Famous British playback singer Shahr Yar Khan won the



hearts of the people by performing his art.

A special cup was presented to ASHTON WARRIORS who won the T30 and Blackburn Knightriders who won the T20 in the tournament. And special shields were given to the players. On this occasion, Pakistan People's Council General Tariq Wazir said that today's prize distri-

bution ceremony is a great initiative to raise funds for the flood victims in Pakistan.

Other people should also take such initiatives. Member Burta New Parliamentarian Yasmeen Qureshi said that Saba Ghos Abid Riaz and his team have done a proud job by raising funds to

help the flood victims in Pakistan today's program and I am also happy that people are participating in this program today.

Mayor Bolton Councilor Akhtar Zaman has brought his families along. The T20 Super League has encouraged Pakistani Kashmiri youth in healthy activities in Britain, especially today where the prizes are distributed. They also raised funds to help those who are in great need of Pakistan at this time. President of PTI North West Asif Rasheed Butt and Muhammad Javed said that the Lancashire Super League is a commendable initiative to keep the youth engaged in sports.

The 4th annual prize distribution is a great step to raise funds especially for flood affected people T20 Super League Super League Kutch organizers Chairman Saba Ghos Secretary Abid Riaz and Chaudhry Shah Nawaz Qamar aka Shani thanked all the guests for participating in the program.

Pakistan to take on England in 4th T20I

KARACHI: The fourth T-20 match between Pakistan and England will be played at National Stadium Karachi today.

The match will start at 7:30 pm Pakistan Standard Time. England lead the seven-match series 2-1.

In the third T20I, England had edged ahead in the seven-T20I series with a comprehensive 63-run win over Pakistan in front of a packed crowd at the National Stadium.

England recorded the highest T20I score at this stadium, posting an insurmountable 221 and it was a scorching undefeated 139-run partnership between youngsters Ben Duckett and Harry Brook that made it possible.

Meanwhile, England bowler Mark Wood said he is hopeful he can return to full fitness and hit his peak "at the right time" ahead of this year's T20 World Cup in Australia. Wood, who missed the entire English summer due to an elbow injury, marked his return to international cricket with three wickets in England's 63-run win over Pakistan in Karachi on Friday.

"My body feels OK," Wood told Sky Sports after the win. "I'll probably live on an ice machine now. "What's important for me is that I don't want to go too hard now and then I'm not ready for Australia. I've got to peak at the right time, and then when it comes to that World Cup, I'm fit and firing. "I'm just a little bit tired. It's my first game in a while but actually, I felt pretty good leading into it. I've done loads of time in the gym, lots of running, but nothing is the same as playing a game."

Defence Raya Golf Course to host President DHA Golf Tournament

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd President DHA Golf Tournament will be contested from today at the pristine par 72 Defence Raya Golf Course that offers an opportunity to over 170 yearning golf players of substance and skills to attain acceptance as the worthy ones.

Out of these eligible ones quite a few feel increasingly charmed about their prospect of success as their command and control over accurate shot making is meritorious. And rightly this feeling has cropped up as an outcome of the extensive practice sessions on the driving range involving powerful hitting, removing apprehensions about the dreaded short game and the cardinal one, upgrading the putting feel.

Format of this 3rd President DHA Golf Tournament is stroke play and contenders will tee off from the blue tees which enhances the competitive element setting forth a need for the ambitious ones to bring into play rhythm, balance and timing to their playing effort.

The numbers of golfing athletes seeking illustriousness are 170 and all of them have as a goal a fulfilling time in terms of golfing scores over the two engaging golf rounds plus a triumphant end. Surely a countless lot of these aspirants who play to a single digit handicap possess skills that are praiseworthy but on the day of the battle, achievement becomes possible if nerves are kept in check and application of playing skills are remarkably demonstrated.

The competitive race on Saturday is bound to be dominated by a friction loaded clash and players like Azfar Hassan, Daniyal Lashari, Mekayl Majid, Usman Sahi, Hafiz M. Awais, Zain Ibrahim, Isfandyar Khan, Saif Hassan, Adam Khan, Ahmed Ibrahim and Haris Naseer who always captivate through their control and command just might enjoy a standing of prominence at the end of the first 18 holes. However one should not rule out the chances of many formidable ones who can prevail over these established torch bearers and such daunting ones are Imran Ahmed, Adyan Lone, Amir Chaudry and Saim Tahir, ones and come with an upsetting bolt.

Expectations are that two ladies out to stamp their authority are Rimsha Ijaz and Parkha Ijaz and they could intensify golfing excellence through outstanding play.

Based on their hard work and skills application ability, at least 50 competing players seem geared up for amazing displays of quality golf. Hopefully the competitive luster will be visible as the flow of the championship progresses.

The Organizing team, with Haroon Shafiq in the forefront along with golf course maintenance have set up the 18 holes, par 72 Defence Raya Golf Course fittingly for the occasion and the competing golfers will certainly commend the playing conditions.

Tchouaméni looking to impress again as France plays Denmark

PARIS: Amid mounting injuries and off-field problems, at least France coach Didier Deschamps has one less thing to worry about heading into the World Cup.

Aurélien Tchouaméni looks a very good option to start in midfield. Tchouaméni is 22 with only 13 caps but is already playing with the maturity of a seasoned international and, with Paul Pogba's place in Qatar looking in doubt, his form is most welcome for Deschamps.

Tchouaméni was excellent as France, missing nine regulars including goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, striker Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante and Pogba, beat Austria 2-0 in the Nations League on Thursday night.

The young midfielder gets another chance to push his claim for a permanent starting place when Les Bleus travel to play Denmark in Copenhagen on Sunday for the last group game in the Nations League — the last match for both sides before the World Cup.

It should be a competitive game, too, with the Danes still in contention for first place in Group 1 and a place in next year's Final Four.

Tearful Federer bows out of tennis with defeat

LONDON: Roger Federer described his tennis career as a "perfect journey" despite being denied a fairytale ending with a doubles defeat at the Laver Cup early on Saturday alongside Rafael Nadal.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion has not played since the 2021 Wimbledon quarter-finals because of a knee injury and last week announced his retirement aged 41.

The Swiss showed glimpses of his old silky self in the match against Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock at London's O2 arena despite his long period of enforced inaction.

Playing with long-time friend and rival Nadal, the two former world number ones won the first set to the delight of a feverish, partisan crowd, but the Americans rallied to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/2),

11-9.

The result meant Team Europe were locked at 2-2 with Team World at the end of the opening day of the Ryder Cup-style event.

"We'll get through this somehow, will we? Right?" Federer said with a cracked voice during an emotional post-match farewell on court. "I'm happy, I'm not sad. It feels great to be here and I enjoyed tying my shoes one more time. Everything was the last time. The match was great, I couldn't be happier. It's been wonderful."

Federer has enjoyed a storied rivalry with Spain's Nadal, 36, over nearly two decades — together they have won 42 Grand Slam singles titles in a golden era for the men's game. But in a match that started late Friday they were on the same side of the net in a fitting farewell for Federer, who

turned professional nearly a quarter of a century ago.

There was a huge roar and standing ovation as the Swiss great and Nadal came onto the black court, dressed in blue shirts and white shorts, both wearing white headbands.

Both doubles pairings held serve fairly comfortably at the start of the match, with cries of "Let's go Roger, let's go" breaking out at 3-3.

Federer and Nadal seized on their first break point in the 10th game, winning the first set when Sock netted with a backhand to huge cheers. The Americans levelled the match by taking the second set tie-break with ease.

In a nerve-shredding match tie-break, Federer was unable to serve out for the match at 9-8, with Tiafoe and Sock winning the next three points to emerge

victorious. The Swiss was overcome with emotion afterwards, hugging teammate Nadal and waving to the crowd.

"Playing with Rafa on the same team, and having the guys, everybody here, all the legends... thank you," said Federer, who was joined by his parents, wife Mirka and their four children. "It does feel like a celebration to me," he added. "I wanted to feel like this at the end and it is exactly what I hoped for, so thank you. It has been a perfect journey and I would do it all over again."

Nadal, who was also visibly emotional, said it had been difficult to handle the intensity of the occasion. "For me, it has been a huge honour to be a part of this amazing moment of the history of our sport, and at the same time a lot of years sharing a lot of things together," said the



Spaniard. "When Roger leaves the tour an important part of my life is leaving too."

The six-strong Team Europe also includes Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — the other two members of the so-called "Big Four" who have dominated the men's game for so many years. Italy's Matteo Berrettini will take Federer's place over the weekend

as an alternate, with the Swiss great opting not to play singles matches.

Europe have won all four previous editions of the Laver Cup and took a 2-0 lead after the opening session in London, courtesy of wins for Norway's Casper Ruud and Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Tsitsipas shrugged off a dramatic on-court protest by a

demonstrator who set his own arm ablaze to protest the use of private jets to beat Argentina's Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-1. In the evening session Murray lost a gruelling encounter to Alex de Minaur 5-7, 6-3, 10-7 before all eyes turned to Federer.

The Swiss is leaving the stage 19 years after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003.

He retires with a men's record of eight Wimbledon crowns, 103 titles overall and more than \$130 million in prize money, all won with a game defined by a rare elegance and precision. Nadal (22) and Djokovic (21) have both surpassed Federer's tally of Grand Slam titles but Team World captain John McEnroe said Federer's retirement would leave "a void that will never be filled".