



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



RAWALPINDI

فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جو لوگ نیکہ ہوتے ہیں انہیں نیکیوں کی عمل کی توفیق حاصل ہوتی ہے اور جو برے ہوتے ہیں انہیں برائی ہی جیسے عمل کرنے کی توفیق ہوتی ہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4948)

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UN chief for eliminating nuclear weapons for future generations

On the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, UN Secretary General António Guterres has rejected the claim that nuclear disarmament is some impossible utopian dream. Eliminating these devices of death is not only possible, it is necessary. At a moment of rising geopolitical division, mistrust and outright aggression, we are in danger of forgetting the terrible lessons of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Cold War, and inciting a humanitarian Armageddon.



AJK PM avows to boost tourism, improve road-infrastructure

Prime Minister Azam Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan during his visit to Kotla Valley on Sunday announced to provide employment to 600 local people by establishing a state-of-the-art one-kilometre-long tourist strip on both sides of the river at Patika.

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Hina highlights Pakistan's role in UN peacekeeping

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar while participating in the High-Level meeting on 'Ensuring the success of Transitions in UN Peace Operations', highlighted Pakistan's key role in the most successful United Nations peacekeeping transitions, such as in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, and Timor-Leste.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly session in New York.

The Foreign Minister of Ireland hosted the event which was co-sponsored by Pakistan, Brazil, Ghana, Japan and Switzerland. Several other high-level dignitaries also participated.

The challenges associated with transitions were discussed in an interactive panel comprising Under Secretary General for Peace Operations Jean Pierre Lacroix, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire Ms. Kandia Camara, and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO Bintou Keita.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State called for coordinated system-wide responses during transitions of peacekeeping operations to mitigate potential negative consequences and to help the host authorities further their peacebuilding objectives.

Supporting flood victims

Group photo of representatives of Chinese people association for friendship with foreign countries and officers from Embassy of Pakistan at a donation ceremony for relief and rehabilitation assistance worth 125 million rmb for flood affectees in Pakistan on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Supporting Flood Victims

UN chief to arrange donors' conference soon: PM

Says Pakistan to come out of flood crisis with international community's support

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres had assured that they would be soon arranging a donors' conference for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people of Pakistan.

The prime minister chaired a meeting via videolink to review relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood hit areas of the country. The meeting was attended by federal ministers and the relevant authorities.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that he had held important meetings with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and other world leaders in which he apprised them of

Efforts made at UN, SCO to present Pakistan as credible partner: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said he and his team, during meetings with a wide array of global leaders during SCO and United Nations General Assembly sessions, made an effort to present Pakistan as a credible partner of the international community. In tweets on social media platform Twitter, he said, "In our meetings with a wide array of global leaders & other stakeholders during SCO & UNGA, my team and I made an earnest effort to present Pakistan as a credible partner ready to do business with the world. The damage inflicted on our foreign policy needed a healing touch." "Presenting Pakistan's case at both the international forums was the result of excellent team work. I particularly appreciate Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb & Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman for their hard work & assistance," he added. APP

the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and the government's efforts at provision of relief and rehabilitation of the flood affectees.

He also mentioned his telephonic conversation with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin

Abdulaziz al Saud.

The prime minister said that he also apprised the world leadership of Pakistan's viewpoint over the climatic changes and the destruction it brought upon the country. They had expressed their deep

sympathies and offered condolences over the losses in Pakistan and assured that they would fully support the country with sincerity, he added.

He said that during his meeting with Bill Gates, Chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, they discussed seeking of help from World Food Programme for the supply of infants and children's food in the flood affected areas.

The prime minister expressed the confidence that with the international community's help and with the efforts of the national institutions, they would soon be out of the difficulties.

Relevant authorities of the National Flood Response Coordination Center gave a briefing to the prime minister about the relief and rehabilitation work in the flood affected areas.

Flood relief assistance

CPAFFC donates RMB 125m

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) donated relief and rehabilitation assistance worth RMB 125 million for the flood victims of Pakistan at a special ceremony held here.

Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, President of CPAFFC, Lin Songtian said that in the wake of devastating floods, the government and people of China have made a substantive contribution to Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts. He said that Chinese assistance to Pakistan was demonstrative of its unique friendship with Pakistan and strong people-to-people ties between our two countries.

President Lin highlighted that besides ongoing assistance, China would also play its role for post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development in the affected areas.

Speaking at the occasion,

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin Ul Haque lauded timely assistance by the CPAFFC and China's local governments and enterprises for reinforcing Pakistan's ongoing relief efforts for the flood victims.

Recalling that the two countries have always stood together in difficult times, he said that today's ceremony is yet another demonstration of China's solidarity and sympathy with the people of Pakistan.

Ambassador Moin also requested the Chinese government to play a pro-active role for Pakistan's economic recovery in post-flood phase and reiterated Pakistan's strong desire to deepening cooperation with China in areas of green development, climate resilience and disaster management.

Ambassador Sha Zukang, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association and Li Xikui, Chairman of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development attended the ceremony.

Info Minister strongly criticizes Imran

PTI chief in pain as nothing illegal in leaked audio, says Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that nothing illegal was in the (purported) leaked audio from the Prime Minister's Office which made Imran Khan angry and caused him pain.

"Imran Khan has gone mad as he finds nothing illegal in the leaked audio," she said, adding his speech at a public gathering in Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was akin to a "shameless act".

Reacting to Imran Khan's speech, she said the purported audio was "a proof that no illegal act was done nor was any undue benefit given to anyone."

She said the power plant

was imported from India in accordance with law and the policy approved by the Imran-led government. Imran Khan should better go through from the decision given by Multan Bench of the High Court on July 18, 2020 about installation of a grid station for a housing society.

Marriyum said Imran Khan, who traded off the country's freedom, independence and economy against the foreign funding, was now raging with pain and anger as nothing illegal found in the audio leak. The person who received funding from Romita Shetty and Inder Dosanjh, was now crying out of the pain caused by uselessness of the audio leak. APP

Sheikh Sultan donates \$2.5m in Army Relief Fund: ISPR

Chairman Dubai Port World lauds relief efforts of Pakistan Army in flood-hit areas



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Dubai Port World (one of the largest port operators globally) Sheikh Ahmed Sultan Bin Sulayem on Sunday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

During the meeting, relief efforts in the wake of the devastating floods and all that can be done on the road to recovery for Pakistan was discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Sheikh Sultan, who had earlier visited flood affected areas in Sindh, made a donation of US\$ 2.5 million for the Army Relief Fund.

He commended the relief efforts of Pakistan Army in the flood affected areas and said that UAE and its leadership stood with the people of Pakistan in this time of distress.

The dignitary committed to raise the issue of climate justice for Pakistan at the world forum.

The COAS thanked Sheikh

Sultan for his valuable and timely support to Pakistan and discussed matters of economic development in Pakistan. Sheikh Sultan apprised the Army Chief of Dubai Port World's interest in investing further in Pakistan. Sheikh Sultan offered to bring other donors for Flood Relief efforts in the days ahead. Sheikh Sultan also thanked Fakhre-e-Alam, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, for arranging this visit and creating awareness in UAE about the need for help in Pakistan.

Miftah steps down; Dar to replace him

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Sunday tendered his resignation to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a party meeting held in London.

Senior PML-N leader Ishaq Dar would replace Miftah as new finance minister. Ishaq's nomination was put forth by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a meeting, held under the chair of PML-N supremo.

The meeting threadbare discussed overall political and economic situation of the country. It was of the opinion that the incumbent government had to steer the country out of the economic crisis caused by the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Miftah Ismail thanked Nawaz Sharif for reposing confidence on him. He said he served the country in last four months with best of his abilities.

Nawaz Sharif appreciated the efforts of Miftah for carrying out the responsibilities under the most difficult conditions. APP

'Audio leak'

PML-N to do anything to protect their finances: IK

Our Correspondent

KARAK: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has said that Maryam Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif's audio leak proves that they can ignore Kashmiri's struggle and illegally import machinery from India for their gains.

Addressing the public gathering in Karak, the PTI Chief said that America carried out 400 drone attacks in our country and killed innocent people. But the rulers did not usher a word against them because their properties are in foreign countries, he added.

Imran Khan said that he would soon give a call to his supporters to steer the country out of the quagmire.

Imran Khan reiterated that the country will be stuck in a quagmire if the "imported government's" tenure is prolonged further. He further said that both parties PPP and PML-N had given themselves an NRO and closed down corruption cases worth Rs1,100 billion.

Talking about Maryam Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif's alleged audio leak Imran Khan said that, Maryam wanted to illegally import machinery from India for his son-in-law's factory.

He added that Pakistan cut off all trade ties with India after they abolished Kashmiri's right to self-determination and violated the UN charter. But, this government is trying to restore ties with India, they are ready to neglect the struggle of



Kashmiri people for their gains, he added.

Imran Khan said that the audio leak proves that their only purpose is to hoard money and nothing else. 60% of the cabinet is facing corruption charges, they have derailed the process of accountability by amending the NAB laws, he added.

He said that Rana Sanaullah used massive teargas shells against PTI women and children on May 25 as we were not fully prepared. He added that the minister will not find a place to hide

this time around.

He added that it is a disgrace to our people that our Prime Minister goes around the world begging for aid. No country can progress by begging for loans and not expanding its production and exports, he added.

He added that India and even Bangladesh have outperformed Pakistan in economic performance. These two families have destroyed Pakistan in their 30-year rule, he added.

Pak-Saudi coop

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.



Photo: APP

 IED Explosion

2 soldiers martyred in N Waziristan



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: As many as two soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom due to an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in general area Esham of North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday in a news release said an improvised explosive device exploded in general area Esham, North Waziristan District on September 24.

The martyred soldiers were identified as Naib Subedar Javed Iqbal (42), resident of Attock and Naik Hussain Ahmed (38), resident of Okara who embraced shahadat (martyrdom).

The ISPR said that clearance of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists in the area.

Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi expressed his deep grief and sorrow over shahadat of Naib Subedar Javid Iqbal and Naik Hussain Ahmed, who lost their lives in a bomb blast in North Waziristan.

The president prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude.

He further observed that shuhada, who laid down their lives for the protection of motherland, had been the benefactors of the nation.

Pak-Saudi FM's share views on bilateral ties

Saudi FM assures FM Bilawal of the Kingdom's full support in regard to flood relief, rehabilitation efforts



Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as the regional situation and global issues.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Saudi Foreign Minister offered condolences over the loss of precious lives. He also expressed concern over the damage to infrastructure. He assured the Foreign Minister of Pakistan of the Kingdom's full support in regard to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari conveyed greetings and best wishes for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. He also appreciated the vision and efforts of the Saudi leadership for

progress and development of the Kingdom and regional peace.

The Foreign Minister also briefed His Highness about the ongoing flood situation and the challenges faced by Pakistan in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. He thanked the leadership and people of the Kingdom for their generous support for Pakistan in the wake of the recent floods.

Both Foreign Ministers emphasized the vital importance of Pakistan – Saudi

Arabia relations and agreed further to deepen mutual cooperation in all fields including economy, trade, energy and investment.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also held bilateral meeting with his Algerian counterpart, Ramtane Lamamra, on the margins of ongoing UNGA Session in New York. The interaction comes within the established framework for cooperation and exchanges characterized by mutual trust and friendship.

President stresses need for political stability

Dr Arif Alvi appeals to nation, NGOs for extending assistance to flood victims

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has once again appealed to the nation, non-governmental organizations and philanthropists to extend assistance to the flood affectees.

In an interview with a private television channel, he said the government is making tireless efforts to help the flood affectees. However, there is still a lot to do for providing them relief and for their rehabilitation.

The President underlined the need for political stability in the country saying that it is vital for economic uplift.

Dr Arif Alvi said he is making efforts to improve conditions in Pakistan as the country is facing political polarization.

He suggested that talks



Audio leak issue from PM House ‘sensitive matter’: Fazal

MULTAN: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) supremo and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman on Sunday said that the issue of the audio leak from the Prime Minister's House is a 'sensitive matter'.

Talking to the media, Maulana Fazalur Rehman said that he will ask Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to take strict action on the issue of the audio leak. Talking about PML-N leader Ishaq Dar's return to Pakistan, Fazal said, "No one contacted me about Dar's return". Fazal said that the government should take advantage from of Ishaq Dar's experience.

Taking a swipe at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, Maulana Fazal said that it has been proven that he



[Imran] received funding from India and Israel while Imran turned out to be a 'liar' in every matter. Maulana Fazal asked Imran to tell that who is XYZ. The JUIF chief added, when we oust-

ed Imran's government, his [Imran's] agenda was not completed.

Continuing to lambast former prime minister Imran Khan, Fazl said that his [Imran's] entire politics is based on the narrative of corruption, adding that he [PTI chairman] wasted money and used institutions. Alleging that his [Imran's] government was involved in giving confidential information about CPEC to the US, Fazl said that the PTI's government had stopped working on CPEC as a result of which China went on to be displeased with Pakistan as the CPEC project was one of the biggest 'investments' of China.

Maulana took a dig at former finance minister Shaukat Tarin, saying he [Tarin] wants Pakistan to default. Agencies

Dubai port operator to set up industrial park in Pakistan

The UAE government and people are committed to help Pakistani people



disaster, so I have personally come to see with my own eyes. We want to show it to the world," he said.

ISLAMABAD: Dubai-based global logistics and port terminal operator DP World working at Karachi port, is planning to set up an industrial park in Pakistan to attract global investors.

Sheikh Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman of the port terminal operator, said he was interested in setting up industrial parks in Pakistan, where there was no dearth of human resource.

Sheikh Sultan arrived in Pakistan on Friday to assess the scale of a climate disaster that hit the South Asian country after the onset of monsoon rains in mid-June. The subsequent floods have killed more than 1,600 people, affected 33 million and inundated a third of Pakistan, including 4 million acres of standing crops.

The chief of DP World, which already operates a container terminal at the Karachi port,

said Pakistan had a huge investment potential and availability of human resource.

"The vision I have is to open industrial parks in Pakistan which will be equipped with modern infrastructure," he said.

"Human resource is no problem in Pakistan as the country has many highly educated engineers, who will work in these industrial parks," Arab News reported.

Sheikh Sultan said many companies in the Far East were looking to move out due to increasing cost of production for which Pakistan was an "ideal place" as the Pakistani economy had "very strong fundamentals."

The DP World chairman said he planned to pour in multi-million dollar in aid to assist Pakistan in the wake of devastating floods.

"Pakistan is facing unbelievable disaster and the media is unable to show the scale of the

"The news about natural disaster is a wake-

up call for everybody and we are committed to reduce the carbon footprint in our area."

Sheikh Sultan said his organization would provide food, medicines, tents and anything that was required for the flood-affected people in Pakistan.

"The UAE government and people are committed to help Pakistani people," he said, promising, "the issue of climate change will be raised at every forum."

Pakistan and the UAE have close fraternal relations and bilateral cooperation in a range of fields. The UAE is also Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and home to more than 1.6 million Pakistani nationals.

On August 28, the UAE's Ministry of Defense started operating an air bridge to transport humanitarian aid to Pakistan and has since sent more than 40 relief flights. APP

News about early polls to be announced soon: Khattak

Says "no one in the world is ready to trust the coalition government"

JEHANGIRA: Former Defense Minister and PTI leader Pervez Khattak said Sunday that he is involved in all the matters related to his party and assured workers and supporters that news related to early elections will be revealed in two to three days.

Khattak, while speaking during a rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Jehangira town, warned that he will demonstrate how to overthrow the throne once he reaches Islamabad.

"No one in the world is ready to trust the coalition government and they will be taught a lesson on how to be removed from power," he said. "These people will not be able to leave Islamabad [about their future] will be made on the ground."

"They will either have to resign and

dissolve the assemblies or come face to face with us", he added.

On Thursday, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal told the PTI leadership that if it was interested in holding early elections, then chairman Imran Khan should dissolve the assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"If he does so, he will go one step closer to his demand", Ahsan said, adding that he doesn't want to part ways with the governments.

He further said that Khan could not recover from the setback of losing power, therefore, he was waging a war against the country to avenge his defeat. That too at a time when the country was undergoing unprecedented devastation because of the floods. Agencies

WB repurposes \$2b for Pakistan's flood-affected areas

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In order to provide immediate relief to the flood victims, the World Bank has announced repurposing \$2 billion — meant for multi-sectoral projects in Pakistan — for the deluge-hit areas in the country.

World Bank's new vice president for the South Asia region, Martin Raiser, concluded his first visit to Pakistan and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to supporting 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," he said.

Steps taken to revive damaged economy: Ahsan Iqbal

Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says the incumbent government is taking effective steps to revive the economy damaged by the previous PTI government.

Addressing a ceremony in Narowal on Sunday, he said the PTI Chief Imran Khan during his tenure, subjected his opponents to political vendetta and made false cases against them.

Ahsan Iqbal said his acquittal in the Narowal Sports City case is evidence of his honesty.

He said today the entire world wants to help Pakistan but Imran Khan and his team are creating obstacles in its way.

Pak Army, FC continuing relief activities in Balochistan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps are engaged in rehabilitation and relief activities for the flood victims in respective areas of Balochistan. In the flood-affected areas, Pakistan Army and FC Jawans are working day and night in the rehabilitation and relief activities of the victims along with the civil administration.

According to press release, about fourteen relief camps are working in the flood affected areas of Kohlu, Sibi, Dera Murad Jamali, Jafarabad, Naseerabad, Sahabatpur and Jhal Magsi where cooked food and significant items were provided to 12,344 flood victims along with other facilities. Food packs were also distributed among flood affectees.

AJK PM vows to boost tourism, improve road-infrastructure

Says tourism sector will provide massive employment opportunities to people

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan during his visit to Kotla Valley on Sunday announced to provide employment to 600 local people by establishing a state-of-the-art one-kilometre-long tourist strip on both sides of the river at Patika.

While addressing Tourism Gala ceremony, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that steps would be taken to boost tourism activities in the area by providing better roads for access to tourist destinations in the Kotla valley. He said that besides improving road-infrastructure arrangements would be made to boost water sports in the area.

"A one kilo-meter area on the banks of River Neelum at Patika is being earmarked for promotion of water sports activities and traditional food",



he said. The PM said that he was well aware of the potential of tourism in Azad Kashmir. "Promoting tourism sector will not only help to increase the income of the state but also provide massive employment opportunities to the people", he added. The Prime Minister announced the formation of a committee headed by PTI Azad Kashmir Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Anwar to promote tourism activities in the Valley at government level. Khan also announced to give 6 crore

rupees for the promotion of tourism and employment in Kotla Valley.

The Prime Minister also directed the concerned departments to construct washrooms for the tourist spots in and around Patika Bazar and Kotla Valley and sought repair of half a kilometer broken road in Patika Bazar on urgent basis. The Prime Minister also announced the construction of a museum in Muzaffarabad. Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan congratulated Kotla Valley Tourism Gala chief

organizer and PTI senior leader Khurshheed Ahmad Abbasi for organizing this excellent event and said that the event would go a long way to generate economic activities in the area.

Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Assembly Javed Butt, PTI Azad Kashmir Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Anwar and others were present on the occasion. Earlier, on his arrival at the Tourism Gala, the Prime Minister was given a rousing reception by the people of the area.

Promoting tourism

PATIKKA: A woman arrives with her daughters to attend Tourism Gala ceremony in the city.



Photo: Online

Governor Punjab lauds IUB's relief activities for flood affectees

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab and Chancellor, Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman has praised the flood relief efforts by the faculty, employees and students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur at Governor House, Lahore.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor presented a cheque of Rs. 5.8 million to the Chancellor from the faculty and staff of the University for the flood relief fund. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob,



Vice Chancellor apprised the Governor about flood relief activities by the flood relief cell of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur under a focal person Prof. Dr. Asif Naveed Ranjha, Chairman, Social

Work Department.

The University has provided flood relief goods worth Rs. 20 million including ration bags, medicines and veterinary services for the people of flood hit areas of the Southern

Punjab including Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rahim Yar Khan districts. Prof. Dr. Abubakar, Treasurer, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur was also present on this occasion. The Vice Chancellor also briefed the Governor about academic and development activities at the University and progress to set-up new campuses at Ahmed Pur East and Liaquatpur. He also invited Engr.

Muhammad Balighur Rahman to preside the 17th convocation of the University and meeting of the University Senate in mid October. The Governor shared his consent to preside the convocation as well as other University events during his upcoming visit to Bahawalpur.

Saudi Arabia's KSrelief distributes relief goods in flood-hit areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) continued its relief activities in Pakistan and distributed relief goods in the flood-hit areas of Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Deadly floods, triggered by unusually high monsoon rains, have killed at least 1,606 people and affected 33 million in the country since mid-June.

The deluges have destroyed around one million homes, damaged another one million houses and washed away livestock, over 370 bridges and standing crops on four million acres of land across the South Asian country.

To help the affected people cope with the devastation, Saudi Arabia's KSrelief has been busy in providing relief assistance in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

"About 2,130 food baskets, 37 tents and 260 mosquito nets were distributed in Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and Mianwali districts in Punjab and Larkana in Sindh province, benefiting 14,910 individuals," the SPA reported.

These efforts come within the work of the Saudi relief land bridge, which was directed by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to support the brotherly Pakistani people after the wave of torrential rains that swept a number of cities and the areas there."

Saudi Arabia earlier this month established an air-bridge to deliver relief goods to Pakistan as well as launched the Sahem portal in the kingdom to receive donations from the general public for the flood victims.

At least five planes carrying Saudi humanitarian aid have arrived in Pakistan so far as the South Asian nation reels from the flood devastation. The Kingdom also sent in August 100 trucks carrying more than 950 tons of food and other relief items to Pakistan.

Computer labs inaugurated



Spokesman Report

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan Liaqat Ali Chatha, MPA PP 289 Hanif Khan Patafi, Director Education Worker Welfare Board Khalid Ameer and Director Labour Welfare DG Khan visited Workers Welfare Girls And Boys Schools on invitation of Principal Muhammad Sharif And Principal Ms. Rifat Shaheen.

They also inaugurated the newly established Computer Labs in both schools. During their visit they interacted with students through Question Answer session and expressed satisfaction about educational activities. They tested students typing skills on Computer and they were satisfied with the performance of Students.

ACPK organizes event for deserving people

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Pakistan Disabled Foundation jointly organized a program for disabled and deserving people at "Gul Rang Hall" in which Chairman of Pakistan Disabled Foundation Shahid Ahmed Memon, Program Manager of Arts Council Shahida Khurshid, Former Member Governing Body Shahid Mohiuddin, Shakeela and Shabana and other guests from interior Sindh were participated Pakistan Disabled Foundation distributes items to the deserving and disabled according to every difficult time and occasion. The third phase of relief to the victims has been organized with the support of the Arts Council, in which representatives from various cities of Sindh and Balochistan have distributed relief items worth about 13 lac, including wheelchairs, tricycles, mosquito nets, Ration and blankets etc.



The flood victims informed about their problems and emphasized that the distribution of aid should be under the supervision of the Pakistan Army so that it can reach everyone. The public representatives are unable to distribute the aid correctly, that several feet of water collected in their areas should be removed so that they can move from the road-sides to their homes.

The flood victims thanked Pakistan Disabled Foundation Chairman Shahid Ahmed Memon for the assistance. Arts Council Program Manager Shahida Khurshid and former member of Arts Council Governing Body Shahid Mohiuddin also encouraged the victims by appreciating the relief efforts made by Pakistan Disabled Foundation. Chairman Shahid Ahmed Memon assured all possible help to the victims to solve their problems.



GUJRAT: Karim Aziz Malik CEO Barkat Rice Mills and former Vice President FPCCI holds meeting with Ch. Pervaiz Elahi Chief Minister Punjab at CM House Gujrat. They discuss issues related to Gujrat city and new industrial estate development.

ANF seizes 132kg hashish

PESHAWAR: The Anti-Narcotic Force (ANF) seized a huge quantity of drugs in a big operation in Peshawar by recovering 132kg hashish and 43kg and 200 grams of opium were recovered from the trunk of the car here on Sunday.

During the operation, the suspect, a resident of Swabi, was arrested while more drugs were recovered in 2 different operations in Rawalpindi, the ANF release issued here said. In another operation, 1kg 200 grams of hashish and 1 kg of ice recovered from residents of Mardan and Islamabad on Islamabad Expressway.

The second action was taken at Faizabad bus stop wherein 1 kg 200 grams of hashish and 300 grams of ice were recovered from the accused, a resident of Peshawar and a resident of Attock.

The cases were registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation was started.

Solution of Kashmir key to peace, stability in S Asia: Barrister Sultan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: While terming Kashmir as the oldest unresolved issue still pending on the UN agenda, the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the key to peace in South Asia lies in the solution of the Kashmir problem.

The AJK president said this while addressing a protest demonstration held outside the UN headquarter here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the president while referring to UNHRC's 2018 and 2019 report on human rights situation in Kashmir said that these reports were sufficient enough to stir the conscience of those who chose to stay silent despite knowing the New Delhi dodgy and

destructive role in the region.

He said that it was high time that the international community should come forward in a big way help-stop the ongoing Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir and play its proactive role to resolve the dispute once and for all. "We have gathered here today in this demonstration to show solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir and we assure them our Kashmiri brethren that they are not alone in their struggle", he said adding that Kashmiris living all over the world will continue to raise their voice for their right to self-determination. The president voiced his grave concern over the massive troops' concentration in the region. He said that the political and human rights situation in Kashmir had deteriorated to an alarming level after the

Indian government took the unilateral decision to revoke the article 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution that had guaranteed special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Denouncing the Indian government's abominable act of changing the demographic character of the region, the president said that under the guise of this unconstitutional move Modi government had issued fake domiciles to two million non-state subjects with a malicious intent to alter the region's demography.

He said that the people of Occupied Kashmir were fighting against the 900,000 Indian army. Despite its ruthless policy of oppression and suppression, he said that India could not break the political will of the Kashmiris. "The sacrifices of the martyrs in

Occupied Kashmir will pay off soon and God willing, Kashmir will be free from Indian rule soon", he said.

Barrister Sultan appealed to the UN and OIC to take serious note of these reprehensible activities and take measures so that these actions are halted. Barrister Sultan warned that if the Kashmir problem was left unattended it can have dangerous consequences. He also assured the protesters that he would continue his efforts to bring world attention to this issue and will travel to every nook and corner of the world to accomplish his goal. He appealed to diaspora community to redouble their efforts and become a voice of their voiceless brethren in the occupied Kashmir to help them realize their cherished goal of freedom from the Indian occupation.

21 jobless hired on orders of Ombudsman Punjab

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: On the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (R) Azam Suleman Khan, 21 applicants from different districts have been provided with regular jobs in government departments under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1974.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the spokesman explained that Shan Haq of Lahore, Muhammad Talha Sadiq of Sahiwal, Muhammad Saad Usman of Gujranwala, Haris Waseem Khan and Ahmad Bilal Khan of Mianwali have been recruited as junior clerks in the education department in grade-II after the involvement of the ombudsman office.

Similarly, the spokesman added that Abdul Aleem of Nankana Sahib and Fayal Hanif of Jhang have been appointed to the livestock department. Muhammad Ali Raza of Multan secured a regular job in Punjab Workers Welfare Board while Abdul Rehman of Faisalabad has been hired by the metro-

politan corporation. Meanwhile, the irrigation department has given employment to Uzma Zia of Lahore while Naeem Insaaf Khan of Bhakkar has been posted in the higher education department, the spokesman noted. The spokesman stated that applicants namely Saleh Muhammad of Mianwali and Abdul Aziz of Dera Ghazi Khan have been recruited as a watchman and naib qasid in the education department and Sajjad Hussain of Bhakkar has been posted as a cattle attendant in the livestock department. Alongside this, the irrigation department has appointed Zainur Rehman of Gujranwala as a helper and Rizwan Ahmad of Mianwali as a signaller.

The spokesman further said that one Shahzad Ali of Sheikhupura is recruited as a baildar in the irrigation department; Shahzad Qaiser of Sahiwal a tube well operator in grade three, and Muhammad Irfan Ashraf of Faisalabad and Shahzad Abbas of Chiniot have been given jobs of naib qasid in the education department and the municipal committee respectively.

A flag bearer of responsible journalism

Daily The Spokesman, a hub of information, educating the readers about national ideology

Kishwer Ali Sarfraz & Amjad Mehmood

Uplifting of journalistic values, safeguarding the fundamental right of freedom of expression, depiction of complete truth, highlighting socio-economic issues in the country, providing a platform to the voiceless communities, strengthening the diplomatic relationship with friendly states by giving them prime coverage, promoting the cultural, social, and religious values of our society, and last but not least promotion of Pakistan's ideology; are the core objectives of Daily The Spokesman.

Daily The Spokesman was launched in 2019 initially online and today is the 2nd anniversary of its printed version started in the year 2021. Historically, the paper was first launched some years ago by the former Information Secretary and senior bureaucrat Mr. Ishfaq Gondal but it could not be published regularly due to

some unavoidable circumstances. Alhamdulillah, now Daily The Spokesman has about one million subscribers and the paper is being published simultaneously in Islamabad and Lahore. The printed Editions are available across Pakistan and its e-version is available on the website and on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

"Daily The Spokesman has earned name & fame in very short span"

The paper was re-launched in 2020 under the supervision and editorship of Senior Journalist Mr. Naveed Ahmed Khan who is a foreign qualified and completed his diploma in journalism from the ICS Singapore with credit. He is also a recipient of various journalist awards including APNS and others. Besides this, he also attended more than three hundred national and international conferences held on various themes including media, economics, Tourism, International and



Diplomatic relations, and other core issues in Pakistan and abroad, and achieved approximately 16 international awards including Oil and Gas award in the conference held in Turkmenistan and Tourism conference in Bali, etc.

The Daily Spokesman has achieved a leading position in the diplomatic community. It also enjoys the sincere cooperation of the trade and business organizations of the

country. It is a media partner for every event of some international organizations which include the World Wind Energy Association, Berlin Travel Mart, Arabian Travel Mart Dubai, and Malaysia Palm Oil Association. Besides this, all activities of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry are also published prominently on the Daily Spokesman pages.

Binding to the core objectives of the paper, significant space is always given to Pakistan's ideology, social, religious, and cultural values. Daily The Spokesman team makes all-out efforts to uncover the hidden facts in every sphere of life and to promote a culture of positive criticism regarding the policies of the government in the country. Following the journalistic principles of impartiality, Daily The Spokesman has adopted the policy to stand with truth and facts only. Besides this, Daily Spokesman never showed any biasness through the news reports or editorials to harm any segment of the society.

Daily Spokesman publishes thoughtful, well-researched, and critical editorials covering the social, cultural, religious, and economic aspects of our life and society. National and International issues are also highlighted in the editorials and the attention of concerned authorities is drawn towards national and local issues like scarcity of water, environmental pollution, poor sanitation, and cleanliness in the cities through editorial notes. Articles and columns that promote the image of the country and promote our national ideology are given a significant place on the editorial page while any write-up received by our editorial team that does not match the policy to remain impartial and positive is not published. Similarly, those news items which are against Pakistan, Islam, and state institutions are not published and in this

regard, even huge monetary benefits are not given importance.

"Daily The Spokesman follows journalistic ethics & values and always remains impartial"

Daily The Spokesman does not compromise on national interest, national ideology, and integrity of the nation. At times, despite the huge financial losses, Daily Spokesman sacrificed everything to promote the national cause rather than opting for timely benefits. It always promotes those writings, columns, and articles that portray the positive image of the country before the global communities and create a good impression about our homeland, state institutions, and national heroes. Daily The Spokesman has firm determination to stand with such principles in the future too.

Daily The Spokesman has always given a high degree of respect to the women segment of our society and portrayed them as role models. The newspaper has not only highlighted their problems and issues and drawn the attention of authorities concerned towards them but also highlighted their vital achievements in various sectors of national life including health, education, sports, fashion, showbiz, and social welfare while keeping in view the social, religious and cultural values of the country. To curtail the vulgarity element in society, Daily Spokesman does not publish any picture which shows a woman as an 'object' for marketing and is comprised of nudity.

Daily The Spokesman's next milestone is to build the image of Pakistan in a sophisticated and civilized manner before the global communities. The positive developments in any sector would be given special coverage by providing real-time details and facts. Our team would also initiate a research drive to highlight the developing sectors, so the readers



particularly from the corporate sector would remain mindful while deciding about investments. The newspaper would remain bound to its resolve to not publish any news item, article, column, or piece of writing which causes a negative impression of our beloved homeland before the international communities. The newspaper will continue to promote and support every state institution including

Pakistan's armed forces who are defenders of our ideological and territorial frontiers.

"Daily Spokesman would continue to serve the Pakistan & Nation by all means"

Daily The Spokesman aimed always to protect state institutions and would strongly respond to any propaganda and other rumors being spread by our enemies at national or international levels with the force of our



Arranged by:
Saleem Zaman Khan,
Bureau Chief Karachi

faith and special assistance of Allah Almighty. (Ameen).

Pakistan Zinda-Abad



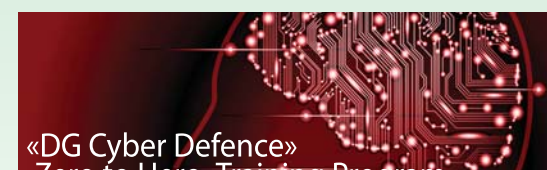
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2nd Anniversary

We extend our Heartiest Congratulations to

Daily The Spokesman

on completion of 2nd years of success of its publication



With best wishes & Compliment

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Chief Coordinator

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Chairman (SZ)

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a very happy anniversary from founder President Mr. Faraz ur Rehman, VP Mr. Nasir Shaikh, GS Ali Arsh Khan and core committee members Waheed Punjwani, Tarana Saleem, Abdul Wahab Edhi, Mohammad Sajid, Fawad Sheikh, Khurram Anis, Shoaib Anna, Saadi Khalid, Ashraf Ghouri, Imran Khan, M. Natiq Ubaid, Arshad Dumba and Ayaz Saeed.

2nd Anniversary

On this auspicious occasion
Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan
wishes

Daily The Spokesman

continued success
and prosperity

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Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan.
(mszk786@gmail.com)

Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Pakistan stands with Kashmiris

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

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

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

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

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

IS My Words My Talk....

National Day of Newspapers and People Friendly Initiatives of Pervaiz Elahi



I was interested in newspapers from the third grade, my father Qader Shaidi was a writer, poet and journalist, so the newspaper was the only facility in our house, which the whole neighborhood used. The art of reading and writing Urdu was taught to me by my father. I had reached primary school and I had learned how to read and write an application. That was the reason why when I entered the Muslim model school in the sixth grade, the Urdu subject seemed to have become easier for me, the interpretation of the poems and the main idea of the whole story. I used to write on time and never failed in Urdu subject but when my supply came in Iqbaliyat paper during MA Urdu exam, for the first time I felt that maybe something was missing but I passed this exam at the first opportunity. I completed this deficiency by passing, but till today I expressed my regret that

despite being a member of literature lover, Arbab e Zouk circle, I could not clear the Iqbaliyat paper. Newspapers create public opinion with authentic news and editorials related to daily life so that the government has a view on the problems and they play their role to eliminate these problems so that the public opinion can also be respected. Governance in Punjab province of Pakistan. How it should be has always been an interesting topic which has always required the pages of newspapers. Accordingly, those who ruled here in the last two decades are recognized by their models. There was a Shehbaz Sharif model in which He always seemed to be working and was in the news for his style of governance. Former Chief Minister of Punjab Usman Buzdar was also the ruler of Punjab for three and a half years and the news that was frequently adorned in the media during his government was that the bureaucracy was not working and former Prime Minister Imran Khan also said this many times on record. Similarly, Pervaiz Elahi has announced to increase the salaries and benefits of police officers and jawans and has announced a special allowance for the officers conducting operations against dacoits in the slum areas, after

which the importance of this model is becoming more and more evident. And in public opinion, the current model in the context of Pakistan is effective because when you give power to government officials to exercise authority and at the same time give them privileges and also privileges to middle and lower level officers and officials, it certainly leads to bureaucratic functioning and Does not feel shy in teamwork. When he became the Chief Minister in 2002, he had only one goal to break the impression of Shehbaz Sharif and then it happened. Look at the rescue 1122. Look at the infrastructure. These projects are still going on today. As soon as Pervaiz Elahi took over the government, he focused only on work. What and in this first strengthened its relations with the bureaucracy and the police. And this is the key that Buzdar did not have, while Shehbaz Sharif uses the same key in his own style, his whole focus is still on his political survival. Which was announced yesterday by the Chief Minister during a meeting in Pasarur, he announced that one lakh jobs will be given in the province and said that jobs will be given in police, local government and other departments. Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi announced the

increase in stipend for girls going to schools in 14 districts of South Punjab and said that the amount of stipend has been increased for girls going to school and announcing free education up to BA throughout Punjab. He said that books up to BA will also be given free in the entire province and teaching of the Holy Quran with translation up to FA has been made mandatory from school to university. On this occasion, he said that our government has doubled the allowances of traffic wardens and patrolling police. This is the rescue 1122 which has done the most work after the army in the flood. Now our government will give more vehicles to the rescue 1122 and expand the scope of their services and they are also expanding the scope of the rescue motorbike service. The Chief Minister of Punjab is determined to make the lives of the common man easier, because of which the poor man is the focus of all his policies, and therefore he has made medicines and injections free in the emergency wards of all hospitals, which are under his control. There is a need for compassion with the people of Punjab in this age of poverty, which should continue forever. Mudassar Qadeer can be reached at mudassarqadeer579@gmail.com

SDGs: The possible solutions for Global issues



The term Sustainable development is defined as an approach to developing or growing by using resources in a way that allows for them to renew or continue existing for others. The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to the development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, political, social and economic limitations we face as a society.

In simple terms, through sustainable development, we can recognize that what we do today to make our lives better should not have a negative consequence for our children or their children/future generation. Sustainable development is a common

agenda for global concern, which everybody agrees upon. It also highlights today world issue such as global warming, climate change, Overpopulation, Poverty, Racial discrimination, Global pandemic etc. It is generally the balance between economic growth, care for the environment and social well-being. After the industrial revolution, people-focused towards the technological advancement and development and due to the industrialization, the world started fear from the changes across the world. Air pollution, climate change as well as forest degradation play a key role in the world to think about the destruction of the earth as a planet. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states. The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, are a call from the United Nations to all countries around the world to address the great challenges that humanity faces and to ensure that all people have the same opportunities to live a better life without compromising our planet. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has 17 goals with 169 targets

that all 191 UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2030. Each of the 17 SDGs has specific targets to be achieved by 2030. The goals and targets are universal, means that they apply to all countries around the world, not just poor countries but developing countries have to follow. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts either it can be governments, businesses, civil society, non-governmental organization (NGOs), IGOs and people everywhere around the globe. Let's discuss the 17th SDGs goals according to the United Nations. The first goal of SDGs is No Poverty. This goal-focused to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Next is Zero Hunger which emphasized to End hunger, achieves food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture. Good Health and Well-being is the third goal of SDGs which concentrate to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Quality Education, the fourth SDG goal stress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Next is Gender Equality which points out

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

Life below Water and Life on Land are also the major goals of SDGs which focused on Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Next is Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions which Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The last goal of SDGs is Partnerships for the Goals in which Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. As the SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. The goals provide the gateway to the state for their development. Now, this is the prior responsibility of the state to achieve goals before the year 2030.

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



Why Italy's election could undermine the war in Ukraine

Andrew Hammond

The general election in Italy on Sunday is primarily being viewed through the lens of domestic politics and economics but it could have a profound effect on Europe's stance on the war in Ukraine. It is not widely appreciated that Italy, a member of the G7 and G20, is a key outlier, in terms of public opinion about the conflict, in western Europe and virtually all of the EU. A recent study by the European Council on Foreign Relations found that on the question of whether the conflict should be resolved quickly through a peace agreement, even if that requires Ukraine to make concessions, or whether the main goal is to punish Russia and restore Ukraine's territorial integrity, Italy has one of the largest percentages of people in favor of a peace deal: 52 percent of the population compared with only 16 percent in Poland and 22 percent in the UK. Meanwhile only 39 percent of Italians perceive Moscow as being the key obstacle to a peace agreement, while a surprisingly large 35 percent blame Ukraine. This is very different to other countries in Europe, such as the UK, where the comparable figures are 76 percent and 8 percent respectively. These public opinion trends in Italy have been camouflaged under the strongly pro-Ukraine prime ministership of Mario Draghi. However, a new right-wing government — which polls suggest might well be in the pipeline in Sunday's election — could be much more responsive to these popular sentiments, causing headaches for the current European unity against Moscow. To be sure, the League claims it will not break with Western allies if they continue to impose sanctions on Moscow. Salvini said: "If we get into government, will we change alliances? No. We remain deeply, proudly and firmly rooted in a free, democratic West that opposes aggression." The reason why many observers are nevertheless skeptical about the Italian right's new, lukewarm

support for Ukraine is that a similar, recent softening of views on other key international issues has been evident. Take, for example, the EU. Many believe that Meloni's recent, more moderate statements about the union are based on a political bet that her party will be better off electorally if there is a perception that it has shifted from the nationalist, euroskeptic far right. A key early test of this might come with her wish to renegotiate the terms of Italy's €200 billion EU COVID recovery plan funding, to help the country tackle high inflation and the energy crisis. Brussels could well resist this, at least in part, because the previous terms were agreed by the Draghi government. In 2019, Meloni accused Brussels of engineering an "anti-democratic drift" and said its "nihilistic global elites are driven by international finance." While some of her views have mellowed since then, she still seeks a "different Italian stance" toward Brussels from that of the Draghi government. She added: "That does not mean that we want to destroy Europe, that we want to leave Europe, that we want to do crazy things." Yet she also remains president of the controversial, far-right pan-European Conservatives and Reformist Party, allied with Spain's Vox and Poland's Law and Justice parties. Even more disturbing are the views of her allies, including Salvini, who called the EU a "den of snakes and jackals." Yet, despite such statements, and his previous call for Rome to leave the EU, the League claims that it is the EU that has changed its views on Italy and not vice versa. All of this taken together is why Ukraine and key countries in the Western alliance are concerned by the rhetoric of Italy's right-wing parties. While key leaders such as Meloni and Salvini have moderated some of their views, there is a significant possibility that they will eventually shift the nation's policy stance on key issues such as Ukraine. Andrew Hammond is an associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy: Arab News

Moscow pledges ‘full protection’ to any areas annexed by Russia

Two sides trade blame for rocket strikes, shelling

MOSCOW/KYIV: Russia has sought to defend its seven-month old war, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov telling the United Nations that regions of Ukraine where widely-criticised referendums are being held would get Russia’s “full protection” if annexed by Moscow.

The votes in four eastern Ukrainian regions, aimed at annexing territory Russia has taken by force since its invasion in February, were staged for a third day on Sunday. The Russian parliament could move to formalise the annexation within days.

By incorporating the four areas of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia into Russia, Moscow could portray attacks to retake them as an attack on Russia itself, a warning to Kyiv and its Western allies. The Russian annexations raise the risk of a direct military confrontation between Russia and the NATO military alliance as Western arms are being used by Ukrainian troops.

British Prime Minister Liz Truss said Britain and its allies should not heed threats from Russian President Vladimir Putin who had made what she called a strategic mistake.



“I think he didn’t anticipate the strength of reaction from the free world,” she told CNN. “We should not be listening to his sabre-rattling and his bogus threats. Instead, what we need to do is continue to put sanctions on Russia and continue to support the Ukrainians,” Truss said in the interview broadcast on Sunday.

Ukraine and its allies have dismissed the referendums as a sham designed to justify an escalation of the war and

a mobilisation drive by Moscow after recent battlefield losses.

Putin on Wednesday ordered Russia’s first military mobilisation since World War Two. The move triggered protests across Russia and sent many men of military age fleeing.

Two of Russia’s most senior lawmakers on Sunday addressed a string of complaints about the mobilisation, ordering regional officials to get a handle on the situation and swiftly solve the

“excesses” that have stoked public anger.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly and the world’s media in New York on Saturday, Lavrov sought to justify Russia’s invasion of its neighbour, repeating Moscow’s false claims that the elected government in Kyiv was illegitimately installed and filled with neo-Nazis.

He cast opposition to what Russia calls a “special operation” as limited to the United States and countries under its sway. Nearly three-quarters of states in the assembly voted to reprimand Russia and demand it withdraw its troops.

Lavrov told a news conference after his speech that the regions where votes are underway would be under Moscow’s “full protection” if they are annexed by Russia.

Asked if Russia would have grounds for using nuclear weapons to defend the annexed regions, Lavrov said Russian territory, including territory “further enshrined” in Russia’s constitution in the future, “is under the full protection of the state”. Ukraine’s foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, said Russia’s mentions of the possible use of nuclear weapons were “absolutely unacceptable” and Kyiv would not give in to them.

MMU resolution censures attempts to weaken Muslim identity of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir – the representative amalgam of religious social and educational organisations today held a meeting at Jama Masjid Srinagar in the wake of unfortunate attempts being made to undermine the Muslim identity of Kashmir by asking Muslim students in schools and educational institutions to sing Hindu religious songs and do Surya Namaskar.

These diktats hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims and create anguish in them. MMU wants to make clear certain points in this regard in a resolution adopted unanimously which reads as follows:

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir expresses deep and serious concern over attempts being made to weaken the Muslim identity of this ‘Valley of Saints’ and strongly regrets activities being implemented through schools and educational institutions aimed at furthering the Hindutva agenda in Kashmir.

This meeting expresses serious resentment against imposing acts in



the name of yoga and morning prayers in educational institutions wherein Muslim students are made to chant Bhajans and at times asked to perform Surya Namaskar. This is against the fundamentals of our religious practices.

The meeting notifies the Government, Education Department and concerned agencies that such activities will not be tolerated by the Muslims in Kashmir as it is a direct challenge to

their religious and Islamic beliefs.

As such MMU appeals to the Government and concerned authorities to immediately withdraw its orders and stop these practices in schools and educational institutions, which deeply hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims and cause them grief.

This meeting urges the parents that if their children are forced to participate in un-Islamic activities in government schools, they should withdraw their

children from these schools and enroll them in private schools. This meeting urges Muslim teachers to avoid promoting such un-Islamic activities and give preference to their faith and Imaan.

MMU expresses satisfaction that Friday prayers and Five daily prayers are now being allowed by the authorities at central Jama Masjid Srinagar and people are not being stopped from assembling at the mosque as such it appeals to authorities to now release its Patron and Mirwaiz Kashmir Molvi Umar Farooq and end his illegal house arrest since Aug 2019 , in wake of the coming holy month of Rabiul Awwal so that the Mirwaiz can pursue his religious obligations and duties.

This meeting also raises its voice in strong protest against tarnishing the reputation of Islamic centres and Muslim institutions in Jammu and Kashmir by arbitrary arrests of Islamic scholars, preachers and imams and booking them under PSA and sending them to outside Jails. It condemns this act and calls for their immediate release.

Suicide attack kills 7 in Somalia

MOGADISHU: A suicide attack claimed by the Somali extremist militant group Al-Shabab killed at least seven people and injured nine others in Mogadishu on Sunday, the army and eyewitnesses told AFP.

A “desperate terrorist” blew himself up on Sunday morning near a line of new recruits who were enrolling at the Nacnac military base in the south of the Somali capital, local military commander Abdullahi Adan told AFP.

“Seven people were killed and nine others injured,” he said. “I was close to the site of the explosion, it was huge and I could see dead and injured people,” eyewitness Ahme Gobe told AFP.

Another eyewitness, Asha Omar, spoke of seeing at least 10 people taken away by ambulance. Al-Shabab, an extremist group linked to Al-Qaeda that has been waging an insurgency against the Somali state for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Its fighters killed at least 19 civilians in central Somalia earlier this month. The group carried out a major attack



on a Mogadishu hotel in August, leaving 21 people dead and 117 injured following a 30-hour siege. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has faced a resurgent Al-Shabab since his election in May and vowed to wage an “all-out war” against the insurgents.

Mohamud also has to grapple with a looming famine caused by the Horn of Africa nation’s worst drought in 40 years. Al-Shabab has been driven out of Somalia’s urban centers, including Mogadishu

in 2011, but remains entrenched in vast swathes of the countryside. The US army on Wednesday said it had killed 27 Al-Shabab militiamen in an air strike in central Somalia in support of the country’s regular forces.

President Joe Biden decided to restore a US military presence in Somalia in May to fight the militants, approving a request from the Pentagon, which deemed his predecessor Donald Trump’s rotation system too risky and ineffective.

Iran denounces U.S. support for ‘rioters’



DUBAI: U.S. support for “rioters” is contrary to Washington’s diplomatic stance towards Iran, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency on Sunday.

“Peaceful protest is the right of every nation. However, the U.S. involvement in Iran’s affairs and support to ‘rioters’ in implementing their destabilisation project is in clear conflict with Washington’s diplomatic messages to Iran regarding the necessity of a nuclear deal and establishing stability in the region,” Amirabdollahian said.

Far-right eyes historic victory as Italy votes

ROME: Italians vote Sunday in an election expected to usher in the country’s first government led by the far-right since World War II, bringing euroskeptical populists to the heart of Europe.

The Brothers of Italy party, led by one-time Mussolini supporter Giorgia Meloni, is leading polls and looks set to take office in a coalition with the far-right League and Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia parties.

Meloni, 45, who has campaigned on a motto of “God, country and family,” is hoping to become Italy’s first female prime minister.

Polls open at 0500 GMT and close at 2100 GMT. Many voters are expected to pick Meloni, “the novelty, the only leader the Italians have not yet tried,” Wolfgang Piccoli of the Teneo consultancy told AFP.

Brussels and the markets are watching closely, amid concern that Italy — a founding member of the European Union — may be the latest member to veer hard right less than two weeks after the far-right outperformed in elections in Sweden.

If she wins, Meloni will face challenges from rampant inflation to an energy crisis as winter approaches, linked to the conflict in Ukraine.

The Italian economy, the third largest in the eurozone, rebounded after the pandemic but is saddled with a whopping debt worth 150 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Meloni has dedicated her campaign to trying to prove she is ready despite her party never before being in power.

Brothers of Italy, which has roots in the post-fascist move-

ment founded by supporters of dictator Benito Mussolini, pocketed just four percent of the vote during the last elections in 2018.

Meloni has moderated her views over the years, notably abandoning her calls for Italy to leave the EU’s single currency.

However, she insists her country must stand up for its national interests, backing Hungary in its rule of law battles with Brussels.

Her coalition wants to renegotiate the EU’s post-pandemic recovery fund, arguing that the almost 200 billion euros Italy is set to receive should take into account the energy crisis aggravated by the Ukraine war. But “Italy cannot afford to be deprived of these sums,” political sociologist Marc Lazar told AFP, which means Meloni actually has “very limited room for maneuver.”

The funds are tied to a series of

reforms only just begun by outgoing Prime Minister Mario Draghi, who called snap elections in July after his national unity coalition collapsed.

Despite her euroskepticism, Meloni strongly supports the EU’s sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, although her allies are another matter.

Berlusconi, the billionaire former premier who has long been friends with Vladimir Putin, faced an outcry this week after suggesting the Russian president was “pushed” into war by his entourage. A straight-speaking Roman raised by a single mum in a working-class neighborhood, Meloni rails against what she calls “LGBT lobbies,” “woke ideology” and “the violence of Islam.”

She has vowed to stop the tens of thousands of migrants who arrive on Italy’s shores each year,



a position she shares with Salvini, who is currently on trial for blocking charity rescue ships when he was interior minister in 2019.

The center-left Democratic Party, led by former prime minister Enrico Letta, says Meloni is a danger to democracy.

ing social spending, regardless of the cost. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, they want the EU’s rules on public spending amended.

The last opinion polls two weeks before election day suggested one in four voters were backing Meloni.

However, around 20 percent of voters remain undecided, and there are signs she may end up with a smaller majority in parliament than expected. In particular, support appears to be growing for the populist Five Star Movement in the poor south.

The next government is unlikely to take office before the second half of October, and despite pledges from Meloni and Salvini to serve five years, history suggests they may struggle.

Italian politics are notoriously unstable. The country has had 67 governments since 1946.

Rwanda genocide ‘financier’ trial to open in The Hague

THE HAGUE: Alleged Rwandan genocide financier Felicien Kabuga will go on trial in The Hague on Thursday, one of the last key suspects in the 1994 ethnic slaughter that devastated the small central African nation.

Kabuga’s trial will open at 0800 GMT before a UN tribunal, where he has been charged with genocide and crimes against humanity for his role in the massacres 28 years ago of some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Prosecutors and the defense are expected to make their opening statements on Thursday and Friday, with evidence in the case to start the following Wednesday.

Kabuga’s lawyers entered a not guilty plea to the charges at a first appearance in 2020.

Once one of Rwanda’s richest men, prosecutors say the octogenarian allegedly helped set up hate media that urged ethnic Hutus to “kill Tutsi cockroaches” and funded militia groups in 1994.

Now in his mid-80s, Kabuga was arrested in France in May 2020 after evading police in several countries for the last quarter of a century.

He was then transferred to the UN’s International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in The Hague, set up to complete the work of the now defunct Rwanda war crimes tribunal.

Said to be in fragile health, Kabuga in August appeared before the judges in a wheelchair — and it was not known whether he’ll be in court on Thursday as judges are permitting him to attend the hearings via a video link.

Kabuga was originally scheduled to appear in court in Arusha, where the other arm of the IRMCT — also referred to as the MICT — resides, but judges had ruled he would remain in The Hague “until otherwise decided.” In June, the judges denied a defense objection, ruling Kabuga was indeed fit to stand trial.

The UN says 800,000 people were murdered in Rwanda in 1994 in a 100-day rampage that shocked the world. An ally of Rwanda’s then-ruling party, Kabuga allegedly helped create the Interahamwe Hutu militia group and the Radio-Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLTM), whose broadcasts incited people to murder.

Philippines evacuates coasts as Super Typhoon Noru threatens

MANILA: Philippine authorities started evacuating people from coastal areas on Sunday and hundreds were unable to travel by sea as the main island Luzon, including Manila, braces for a category 3 typhoon that continues to strengthen, officials said.

Typhoon Noru, locally named Karding, became a super typhoon “after a period of explosive intensification,” with sustained winds increasing to 185 km (115 miles) per hour from 120 kph on Saturday evening, the disaster agency said in an advisory.

It will continue intensifying and may make landfall on Sunday afternoon or evening with 185 to 205 kph (115 to 127 mph) of sustained winds, it said. “I asked our mayors to comply with strict preemptive evacuations,” Helen Tan, governor of Quezon province, told DZRH radio station. Fishermen in coastal communities were barred from heading to sea, she said.

Noru, the 11th tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines this year, will bring heavy to torrential rains over the capital region and nearby provinces on Sunday afternoon.

“Hopefully, this typhoon moves fast, although it brings strong winds,” said disaster agency spokesperson Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro. Authorities are on alert for landslides, flooding and destructive winds, he said. The Philippine Coast Guard said more than 1,200 passengers and 28 vessels were stranded in ports south of the capital.

Noru was moving westward and likely to emerge over the South China Sea by late Sunday or early Monday. The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, sees an average of 20 tropical storms a year.

South Korea says North Korea test-fired missile toward sea

SEOUL: North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile Sunday toward its eastern seas, extending a provocative streak in weapons testing as a U.S. aircraft carrier visits South Korea for joint military exercises in response to the North’s growing nuclear threat.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile launched from the western inland town of Taechon flew 600 kilometers (370 miles) cross-country on a maximum altitude of 60 kilometers (37 miles) before landing in waters off North Korea’s eastern coast.

South Korea’s presidential office said National Security Director Kim Sung-han called an emergency National Security Council meeting where members denounced the launch as a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and accused the North of raising tensions in the region.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the launch did not pose an “immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory, or to our allies,” but still highlighted the destabilizing impact of North Korea’s illicit nuclear weapons and missile programs.

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said its nuclear envoy Kim Gunn held telephone calls with Sung Kim, U.S. President Joe Biden’s special representative for North Korea, and Funakoshi Takehiro, director-general for Asian and Oceanian affairs at Japan’s Foreign Ministry, to discuss trilateral cooperation in face of North Korean threats.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement Tokyo is “doing its utmost” to gather information on North Korea’s launch and confirm the safety of ships and aircraft, although there were no immediate reports of damages.

The North Korean threat is also expected to be a key agenda when U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visits South Korea next week after attending the state funeral in Tokyo of slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

North Korea has dialed up its testing activities to a record pace in 2022, testing more than 30 ballistic weapons, including its first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017. North Korea is exploiting a divide in the United Nations Security Council that deepened over Russia’s war on Ukraine to speed up arms development.

FBR to extend full cooperation to Qatari businessmen



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Faisal Al-Thani called on Chairman FBR Mr. Asim Ahmad at FBR Headquarters.

Matters of mutual concern pertaining to cooperation in customs, trade facilitation and taxation were discussed in the meeting. Chairman FBR assured that maximum facilitation will be extended to the Qatari businessmen investing in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan greatly values the cooperation and support of Qatar in various fields especially in education and health sectors.

During the meeting, it was agreed that relevant departments of both countries would further enhance cooperation in the field of customs and tax to benefit from best practices of each other to further boost bilateral trade between the two brotherly countries.

Chairman FBR also briefed the Qatari Ambassador about the recent policy and administrative measures taken by FBR for further mobilization of revenue and facilitation of taxpayers. Qatari Ambassador appreciated the performance of FBR in the last year as well as during the first two months of the current financial year.

Finance ministry refutes news on fiscal deficit

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Sunday refuted an article published in a segment of local press, in which the author claimed that the fiscal deficit of the country during current fiscal year will reach to Rs 6 trillion.

A press release issued by the ministry said that the author used selected data of various economic indicators to fit his views and opinions.

The article titled “Financial emergency”, by Dr Farrukh Saleem exaggerates the economic challenges facing the country while downplaying its economic strengths, it added.

The author has made use of selected data of various economic indicators to fit his views and opinions, it said adding that in particular, the article presents a less-informed, lopsided and over exaggerated picture of external sector challenges, while ignoring that many emerging market economies are also facing similar challenges.

Globally, increase in commodity prices and a strengthened US Dollar has increased pressures on external sector, which the author has not alluded to in his opinion, it added.

It further said that the author has conveniently used a mix of latest and slightly old data to make his points. For instance, the latest SBP’s foreign exchange reserve numbers \$8.3 billionare mentioned followed by mentioning of import numbers in a causal manner.

The deceleration in imports in the recent months has been completely disregarded, it said adding that similarly, current account deficit number of \$17 billion for fiscal year 2022 is used to highlight the need for financial flows without mentioning that the same for fiscal year 2023 is projected at around \$9-10 billion by both domestic analysts as well as IFIs, something which would reduce gross financial requirement by over \$7 billion.

The article also presents only the outflow side of the external accounts (import payments and debt obligations, while conveniently ignoring altogether, the upbeat exports growth, strong remittance inflows, foreign investments, and inflows anticipated in fiscal year 2023. Agencies

BOP partners with NIC, LUMS to setup Innovation Center

Aims to turn challenges into opportunities facing digital ecosystems

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The President of The Bank of Punjab (BOP) and the Vice Chancellor of LUMS entered into an arrangement to create a roadmap for digital innovation and customer experience.

The Innovation Center aims to turn challenges into opportunities facing digital ecosystems in various sectors including payments, lending, Agri, Insurance & Education.

President & CEO – The Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masud said, “I strongly believe in customer centricity; digital space is a powerful way to help serve our customers by giving them access to our products and services anytime anywhere. We embarked on a digital journey over one and a half years ago, setting up a digital challenger bank, unveiling the digital brand “digiBOP” and launching state of the art digital platform. Partnering with LUMS and incubation centers will act as a catalyst in achieving our digital innovation drive and there couldn’t be a better collaboration possible.”

VC LUMS Dr. Arshad Ahmad, spoke highly of BOP’s inspirational journey in several domains and sectors and congratulated his senior team to take personal interest in this vital collaboration with LUMS. He added, “This partnership has the potential to usher digital transformation and platform learning on campus and beyond, for



students to become familiar with FinTech solutions, leverage their entrepreneurial dreams and make a contribution in the growing IT and ed-tech sector in Pakistan.”

Expressing his thoughts, Project Director at the National Incubation Center Lahore Nauman Zaffar said, “NICL’s partnership with BOP to establish this FinTech Digital Experience and Innovation Center allows a unique co-creation opportunity where industry knowledge of BOP combined with the energy, capability and drive of NICL startups, and expert advice from LUMS

faculty in deep-tech and digitization to allow quick conversion of new ideas to market-ready products.”

The Digital Experience and Innovation Center will provide access to develop new ideas, concepts, and designs based on innovation and technology along with innovative solutions for existing and upcoming challenges in the industry to support growth and productivity. The Center will also provide networking opportunities to startups and investors while being a platform for mentorship and coaching for the startups.

BOP aspires to be top five commercial bank in

Pakistan while keeping its core values of empathy and giving back to society at the forefront. The Bank has rapidly expanded its footprint specially in the unbanked and rural areas. Digital Transformation has been at the top of the BOP’s priorities, therefore setting forth a digital strategy to realize a fast paced catch up with the market and leapfrog to endeavor digital innovation and collaboration in the financial technology space.

LUMS, a not-for-profit University, has established an undisputed reputation for academic and research excellence and stands out as a prestigious institution in the region and around the world, contributing thousands of brilliant and innovative minds every year. LUMS aspires to achieve excellence and national and international leadership through unparalleled teaching and research, collaboration with industry & corporates and civic engagement to serve the critical needs of the society.

National Incubation Center Lahore at LUMS, aims to facilitate a new generation of Pakistani problem solvers to develop high-impact, tech-enabled, and financially inclusive solutions for the country across a number of sectors including health, education agriculture, environment, and finance. NICL is changing the landscape of digital and social entrepreneurship as a leading incubator, accelerator, and innovation hub in the nation.

PIDE issues report on 23rd IMF Program for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a staff report on the seventh and eighth reviews of the extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) on September 1, 2022.

As per the review report, the authorities of Pakistan are allowed to draw USD 1.1 billion, keeping in view the measures taken by authorities to address fiscal and external challenges. The IMF board has also approved the extension of the EFF till June 2023 along with extra Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of 720 million, bringing the total access under the EFF to about USD 6.5 billion.

This was stated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Durre Nayab Pro Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), during a meeting with a group of senior journalists here in Islamabad. They said that the review report has also identified some priority measures to be considered by the Pakistani authorities, such as the implementation of an approved budget, market-determined exchange rate policy, proactive and prudent monetary policy, the expansion of the social

safety net, and structural reforms related to the performance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and governance.

The set of measures that have been identified contains both short-term and medium-term measures to promote long-term growth. In this regard, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has also been working extensively to identify the measures that are necessary to remove the bottlenecks in the economy to improve productivity and increase growth. Therefore, the objective of the PIDE Report is twofold, i.e., a commentary on the measures suggested by the review report and what other measures should be part of the program.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque said that the PIDE reform agenda (RAPID) noted that Pakistan needs a sustainable growth rate of around 8 percent over a long period, given the population pressure. However, the review report showed that the economy of Pakistan started overheating at a growth rate of around 6 percent. PIDE noted that this is primarily due to the economy’s low investment rate and a worsening long-term trend of investment as a percentage of GDP. Additionally, there are substantial regulatory and productivity constraints in the economy that the

program should be addressing.

He said the review report also suggested that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will continue a tight monetary policy per the standard prescription to restrain higher inflation expectations. According to the review, the SBP and the IMF staff agreed to a tight monetary policy to achieve a positive real interest rate.

PIDE suggested that unless all companies are made responsible and accountable for all their decisions and finances, it would not be possible to bring efficiency to the power sector. These companies need independent boards with zero influence from bureaucracy.

The billing system has to be decentralized and carefully targeted with technology-based pre-paid smart meters. Pre-paid smart meters will also bring transparency to billing, effective demand management, and commercial efficiency to distribution companies.

Furthermore, social protection has become a political instrument. The expenditures on social protection observe an increasing trend and stand at around Rs. 316 billion in the review report. While well-meaning, the program is seeking further expansion along with indexation

Waqar Bakhtawari elected as President CCCI



Spokesman Report

CHAKWAL: In Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry annual elections for 2022-23, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari was elected president unopposed, Umar Sami senior vice president and Ahmad Farooqui vice president.

Nomination papers have not been filed against the elected officials, on the success of the election, the newly elected president of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari said that by using his skills, he will increase the honor and dignity of businessmen and make them role models in the society.

He said that there are

unlimited tourism opportunities in Chakwal which need to be developed. Inspite of the most important geographical location, industrial estate has not yet been established, the water of the dam constructed in Chakwal needs to be utilized and many new dams can be created to create an agricultural revolution, Chakwal.

Former presidents of Qazi Muhammad Akbar, Khawaja Arif, Khurram Kamran, Shahzad Saadat, Haji Nazir Sultan, Malik Ghulam Murtaza, Noor Sultan Hafeez Anjum, Aamir Najeeb Bhutta congratulated the newly elected officials and hoped that they would promote industrial and commercial activities in Chakwal.

Magnum Technology Centre opens production facility in UAE

DUBAI: US’s Magnum Technology Centre (MTC), a world leader in the design and manufacture of entire equipment packages for well testing and production, has opened a new 345,000 sq ft production facility in the Hamriyah Free Zone.

The new factory, MTC’s second plant in the UAE, is set to increase its production capacity by 10% from its current 1,000 metric tonnes per year.

The facility was opened by Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, HFZA Director and Sajeev John, Vice President of MTC, in the presence of senior officials from HFZA and General Manager Shibu David of MTC HFZA.

Soon after cutting the ribbon, Al Mazrouei, accompanied by a number of HFZA officials, toured the new facility, which is powered by 121 highly experienced staff and has a sound engineering and manufacturing capability to cater to the oil and gas industry. He was briefed on the latest techniques and solutions provided in the fields of well testing and production, underbalanced drilling, and managed pressure drilling and Modular buildings.

Thanks to its state-of-the-art infrastruc-

ture and advanced logistical capabilities, the Hamriyah Free Zone Authority has grabbed the attention of many prestigious businesses operating in the oil and gas sector from all over the world, especially those looking to expand their operations in promising markets rife with growth opportunities in the energy sector.

The UAE is the world’s seventh-biggest oil producer, and had produced more than 4 million tons in 2020. The UAE is also the world’s tenth largest gas producer. Therefore, the Sharjah-based free zone (HFZA) is committed to providing a unique investment environment that will push all businesses to new, unprecedented heights of growth and excellence through forward-looking policies and initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Mazrouei emphasised that HFZA has grown into a significant hub for oil and gas industries. This would not have been possible had it not been for the wise vision of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, who seeks to strengthen Sharjah’s position as a top investment destination, offering value-added services

es to all investors.

“Driven by Dr Sheikh Sultan’s vision, HFZA has made it a priority to make it easier for investors to access all basic needs, particularly in the energy industry. Accordingly, we have developed a comprehensive system of logistical services and cutting-edge infrastructure to stimulate the growth of businesses including those operating in the oil and gas sector,” Al Mazrouei said.

“MTC’s new plant in HFZA will surely be a great addition to other oil and gas enterprises operating in the free zone, in particular, and the UAE in general, simply because of its unique specialty and innovative services,” he added.

Al Mazrouei went on to say that the existence of Hamriyah Port, which offers export and import services for oil, gas, and petrochemical raw materials, along with the fact that HFZA is strategically located in the middle of the most significant energy markets in the world, has resulted in more than 1,500 businesses specialised in the petrochemical industry, oil and gas storage, and bunkering, basing their operations in the free zone.

One week remains in excise rebate offer

MULTAN: The Excise taxpayers were urged to avail the rebate offer given by the Punjab government as offer would end by September 30, said an excise official.

Excise and Taxation Officer Admin/property wing, Khalid Hussain Qasoori said that the three months rebate offer has been entered into last week and urged the big taxpayers including traders to get maximum benefit from the opportunity. ETO further said that the awareness drive about the offer was also underway.

He said that they had recovered over Rs 300 million out of Rs 560 million property tax target set for three months rebate offer. Mr Qasoori said that the submission of taxes through E-pay was in full

swing now a days as 10 percent rebate on property tax and 15 percent on payment of token taxes was being offered.

He said that payments of taxes through E-pay was easy way as taxpayers could submit taxes by sitting at their homes. Excise officer further said that 100 percent property challans had been distributed among 1,75,000 property taxpayers across the district and added that Rs 800 million property tax target was set for Multan district during ongoing fiscal year 2022-23.

He said that the taxes with actual amount would be recovered after end of rebate offer and crackdown against chronic and dead defaulters would also be launched for recovery of pending dues soon.

‘Lessons from Covid should be replicated to recover from flood losses’

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Lessons on the recovery of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 should be replicated and modified to strengthen response and recovery from large-scale loss incurred during current floods, said Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

He was speaking at the launch of a study on titled: “Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises amid Disaster: Lessons from Pakistan’s Experience”. The research conducted jointly by SDPI and International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is based on 750 firms across the country with special focus on women-owned and women-led firms. Among other factors, the study high-

lighted the impacts of supply chain and transmission disruption, resilience to bounce back, and efficacy of government interventions.

Dr Vaqar said that the study revealed that at the initial stages of crisis, there was a decrease in import-export, production and short-term consumption patterns along with liquidity squeeze and decline in capital and investment, which has left MSMEs struggling for survival. He said that tax reforms and subsidies did not have much positive impact and majority SMEs could not avail public financial facilities due to lack of awareness, doubts, cumbersome transaction costs and process whereas informal borrowings remained highly preferred. Dr Arjan De Haan, Senior Program Specialist, Sustainable Inclusive Economics, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) stressed the need to realize that

governments and other stakeholders need well-researched data and policy recommendations to recover and develop resilience to COVID-19. He said that the research analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs and utilizes gender perspective to further understand the impact on different stakeholders and women-led firms.

Faheem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist, Prime Minister’s Office said that it is crucial to identify hidden disasters and crisis and solution to these issues. He informed the participants that the processing and clearance time in cross-border trade has been brought down to 24 hours after one-window operation was introduced. He further said that MSMEs must abide by “evolve or die” when it comes to e-commerce which has simplified and sped up interaction between seller and buyer. While

there is tremendous growth in e-commerce, it is crucial to remember that it creates space for cyber-crimes, which is more than worth US\$3 trillion per annum.

Ms Nadia J. Seth, General Manager, Policy and Planning Division, SMEDA said that 70% of SMEs are informal and unregistered which hinders their access to government facilities. Till March 2021, the State Bank of Pakistan has provided Rs 435 billion to SMEs through various COVID-19 relief and recovery initiatives, she said, adding that such initiatives are based on learnings from post-2010 flood initiatives. So far, nearly half of the SMEs are still unaware of these initiatives mainly due to poor communication strategy, weak linkages between SMEs and government due to low registration and formalization.

Ms Kiran Afzal, Private Sector Devel-

opment Specialist, World Bank, said that tourism and heritage sites across the country have been extensively damaged. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone, an estimated \$80,000-90,000 is required for post-flood conservation and restoration. She suggested that private sector needs to increase financial and technical capacity, and emergency response services to support SMEs to recover from major shocks. She stressed the need for climate resilient infrastructure development in the long-term plan with emphasis on environment impact assessment and implementation of construction by-laws.

Dr Aadil Nakhuda, Assistant Professor of Economics, Institute of Business Administration and co-author of the study briefed the audience that the survey targeted SMEs across Pakistan; younger than 10 years as they lack the experience to maneuver through major

shocks like COVID-19 and climate disasters. He said that the study identified that nearly 50% of SMEs were informal and not registered mainly due to procedural difficulties and high cost. He further highlighted various other factors which left SMEs vulnerable and how these impacts varied across the country, based on size and gender.

Ms Izzah Shahbaz, Principal of Credit, Karandaaz Capitals, said that private financial markets are highly collateralized and the necessary condition of guarantee hinders SMEs from accessing financial assistance. She further said that research conducted by Karandaaz revealed that stringent corporate governance discourages SMEs from entering formal sector and registration, which also disables them from accessing formal public financing initiatives leaving them vulnerable to external shocks.

Pakistan win by 3 runs against England in seesaw thriller

Pakistan level the T20I series 2-2

KARACHI: Pakistan won by three runs in a final over thriller that saw the teams' fortunes seesaw until Haris Rauf took two back-to-back wickets in the penultimate over that set up the Greenshirts' victory in the fourth Twenty20 against England at the National Stadium in Karachi.

Pakistan had handed over a 167-run target to England after the first innings. The English side could only manage 163 runs in 19.3 overs as Mohammad Nawaz and Haris Rauf toppled the opponent's batting line-up by taking three wickets each. Meanwhile, Mohammad Hसनain claimed two wickets.

Pakistan scored 166 runs at the loss of four wickets at the end of the first innings. Opener Mohammad Rizwan and Captain Babar Azam scored 88 and 96 runs, respectively. Meanwhile, England's Reece Topley bagged two wickets against 37 runs.

England captain Moeen Ali had won the toss and had sent Pakistan in to bat first.

Sunday's match was Pakistan's 200th T20, the first team to reach the milestone.

England made three changes from the



last game. Alex Hales and David Willey came into the side while Olly Stone was handed his international T20 debut.

They replaced Dawid Malan, Sam Curran and Mark Wood. Pakistan left out Haider Ali (unfit) and Shahnawaz Dahani

to bring Asif Ali and Naseem Shah.

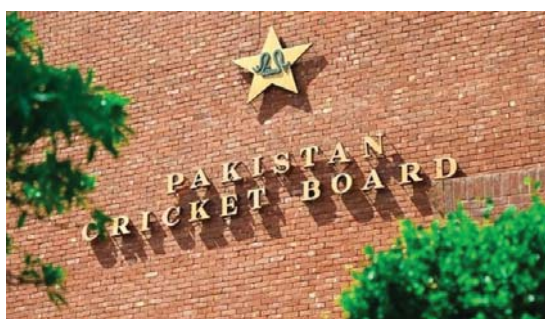
The remaining matches are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

PCB introduces retainers for supplementary panel match officials

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed it, for the first time, has introduced retainers for its Supplementary Panel match officials. As such, all 23 match officials, including 15 umpires and eight match referees, in the panel will receive a monthly retainer of PKR25,000 during the 2022-23 season.

Previously, only match officials on the international and elite panel were on retainers, but the latest decision ensures all 43 match officials on the PCB panel are now being looked after by the game's governing body in Pakistan. The retainers of the match officials on the international and elite panels are PKR132,250 and



PKR69,575, respectively.

Apart from the retainers, the PCB also provides other benefits to its match officials during the cricket season, including match fees (PKR10,000 per day), daily allowances (PKR2,500 per day), four or five-star accommodation (whatever is available) as well as air and ground travel.

As such, a match official

can earn up to PKR52,000 from a four-day match, including match day minus one daily allowance, while his earning from a limited overs match will be PKR15,000, including match day minus one daily allowance.

Furthermore, the scorers are also looked after by the PCB. For a domestic match, a scorer receives a match fee of PKR7,500 (per day) and a

daily allowance of PKR2,500, whereas for a practice match, a scorer receives PKR1,500 (per day) as match fee and a daily allowance of PKR2,000. For outstation domestic and age-group matches, the PCB also provides logistical support to the scorers.

PCB Manager-Umpires and Referees, Bilal Qureshi: "The match officials are an important and integral part of our cricket structure and the PCB has always looked after them. To ensure they are valued and respected, the PCB has provided them top-quality accommodation and travel, while from this year, we have also introduced retainers for our supplementary panelists to align them with our international and elite panelists.

Irfan achieves 57 Guinness World Records feat

ISLAMABAD: Guinness World Records has approved three new records set by Pakistani martial artist Irfan Mehsood, as he registered 57 records to his credit.

"The three new records registered by Masood included the most push-ups (fingertips, carrying 60 lb pack) in one minute, most step-ups in one minute (carrying a 100 lb pack) and the longest time in a reverse abdominal plank position carrying a 100 lb pack," he told APP. Masood carried 58 push-ups to beat the previous record of 49 of the most push-ups with fingertips and carrying a 60 lb pack. Similarly, he registered 50 step-ups in one minute carrying a 100 lb pack surpassing the previous record of 46.

Moreover, he shattered the record of one minute and 30 seconds in a reverse abdominal plank position carrying a 100 lb pack after holding the position for 2 minutes.

Mehsood said he was also the only athlete to break world records using 80 to 100 Pounds weight. "I'm the only Pakistani athlete to break most of India's world records.

I have so far broken records of nine countries including India, USA, UK, France, Philippines, Iraq, Egypt, Italy and Spain," he said.

Argentina slam referee after four yellow cards and 22 penalties

JOHANNESBURG: Argentina coach Michael Cheika has slammed Australian referee Damon Murphy after four of his players were yellow-carded and they conceded 22 penalties in a weekend loss to South Africa.

Two penalty tries were also awarded against the South Americans when they attempted to stop driving mauls by the reigning world champions during the second half.

The Springboks beat the Pumas 38-21 on Saturday in a scrappy, penalty-riddled final round Rugby Championship match at Kings Park in Durban.

South Africa finished second, one point behind eight-time champions New Zealand, while Argentina came last with nine points, one less than Australia. Cheika hinted last weekend that he was unhappy with the refereeing of New Zealander James Doleman in a 36-20 home loss to South Africa, but stopped short of criticising him publicly.

"I promised my mother not to talk about referees anymore and I cannot lie to my



mother," the Australian told reporters in Buenos Aires. Cheika broke his silence about officiating, though, after his side suffered a third straight loss in the southern hemisphere championship after winning two of the first three matches.

"After the first three rounds of the Rugby Championship, we were the least penalised team. It is not clear to us what we are suddenly doing wrong. "It is very difficult

to win games when decisions are made like this," he said, referring to the 17-point defeat in Durban.

- "We need respect" - "At one point the referee told our captain (Julian Montoya) he has empathy for him. We do not need empathy, we need respect." Reflecting on the Championship campaign, which included a stunning first victory for Argentina in New Zealand, Cheika said they

should have won at least two more matches "We could have beaten Australia twice at home, instead of once, and after coming within two points of South Africa in Buenos Aires, we should have gone on to win.

"I also do not think the score in Durban was a true reflection of that match.

"The lesson we take from our latest game is that it is very important to make good decisions at key moments." Cheika said Argentina are improving but must develop a winning mentality ahead of the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France, where they will play England, Samoa, Chile and Japan in Pool D.

"Argentina are good enough to win more Tests than we do. We have to get rid of this notion that just competing is sufficient. We must win regularly.

"We have learnt many lessons from this Rugby Championship and must take them into our November tour of Europe." Argentina are scheduled to play England at Twickenham on November 6, Wales at the Principality Stadium six days later and Scotland at Murrayfield on November 19.

Umair Pehlwan declared Rustam-e-Sheikhupura



Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Umair Gul Pehlwan knocked out Adil Vrik Pehlwan in just five minutes to clinch Rustam-e-Sheikhupura title at Chaudhry Abdul Khaliq Wrestling Stadium in Sheikhupura.

Gama Pehlwan defeated Asif Pehlwan to win the title of Fakhr-e-Sheikhupura. Jail Superintendent Awais Virk, Rashid Sindhu and Shahzad Khaliq Sindhu were the guests of honour on this occasion. They appreciated the performance of all participating wrestlers. Later, they also distributed cash prizes and title belts among the winners. A large number of wrestling fans were also present at the venue to watch the exciting wrestling bouts.

Wazir optimistic to win World Youth title



ISLAMABAD: Top pugilist nicknamed 'Asian Boy' Uman Wazir was optimistic to become the first Pakistani boxer to bring the 'World Youth' title home and make the whole nation proud. "I'm the first Pakistani to fight for the World Youth title. I'm training hard for my fight and hopefully I will become the first Pakistani boxer to win the title," he told APP.

Wazir, would face a Thai boxer on September 28 for the title match in Bangkok, Thailand. Wazir, who remains undefeated in international fights, will be up against the top ranked Thai boxer Somphot Seesa in the title fight.

"Though it will be the home ground of the Thai boxer but I'm not at all under-pressure. I request whole Pakistani nation to remember me in their prayers. I want to make Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan proud by winning the title," the Asian Boy said.

Wazir, who was determined to triumph and shine in the world of boxing, had also won the World Boxing Association Asia Welter-weight title in June this year.

On the other hand, he also bagged the World Boxing Council middle East Champion title last year. The 22-year-old from Gilgit-Baltistan, also grabbed Super Light category competition in Manila, Philippines.

Elite foreign coaches to work in domestic cricket

LAHORE: Six foreign coaches including two former England international cricketers will work in the domestic season 2022-23 - which includes premier Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 starting later next week. The event schedule and squads will be announced in due course.

England's former international Paul Franks who has worked as assistant head coach at Nottinghamshire county in the English circuit and possesses a coaching experience of about 10 years will coach Central Punjab.

Another former international, wicketkeeper-batter Paul Nixon who had coached Jamaican Tallawahs to two Caribbean Premier League titles will be head coach of Sindh - who recently won National T20 2022-23 - their maiden T20 title since the inception of new domestic system.

Nixon is currently working as head coach of the Leicestershire County cricket, he will be relinquishing the role in the coming days before traveling to Pakistan to take up the new assignment.

Along with these two head coaches, four foreign coaches - Bilal Shafayat (Central Punjab), John Sadler (Sindh) will be fielding coaches and Richard Stonier (Central Punjab), Ian Fisher (Sindh) will be strength and conditioning coaches.

Director High Performance, Nadeem Khan: "The introduction of foreign coaches in the domestic cricket is aimed at creating diversity. Whenever you bring coaches from different countries you introduce diversity and new ideas. These experienced foreign coaches working with the local coaches will ultimately help in the growth of the players.

"We are also bringing fielding and strength and conditioning coaches in the setup. This will benefit our local coaches and will bring more competitiveness in both departments of the game. The players will eventually benefit from them.

"These coaches will work in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and Pakistan Cup tournaments. Initially we have brought the two head coaches with Central Punjab and Sindh to see how it works in our setup and how much it proves to be beneficial for the players. We will assess the performances at the end of the season."

Portugal beat Czechs, Spain lose to Swiss in Nations League

BARCELONA: Diogo Dalot helped Portugal take control of its Nations League group by scoring his first two international goals in a 4-0 rout at the Czech Republic on Saturday.

Spain blew their lead of Group A2 after flopping in a 2-1 loss to Switzerland in front of their disappointed fans in Zaragoza.

Portugal moved two points ahead of Spain before the neighbors meet in Braga on Tuesday in a winner-take-all clash to see which advances to the tournament's final four next June.

While his Portugal rolled in Prague, Cristiano Ronaldo had a rough night, first enduring a nasty blow to his face that made his nose bleed and required a small bandage. International soccer's all-time leading scorer with 117 goals also committed a penalty that, fortunately for him,

the Czechs failed to convert with the score 2-0.

Dalot put Portugal ahead in the 33rd minute when the right back scored from a pass by Rafael Leão. Bruno Fernandes doubled the lead in first-half injury time moments before Ronaldo was guilty of the handball inside his own area. But Patrik Schick wasted the penalty kick by sending it onto the crossbar.

Dalot put the result beyond all doubt in the 52nd with a curling shot into the corner. Ronaldo finished with an assist for Diogo Jota to take a fourth goal in the 82nd.

Luis Enrique, who last year guided Spain to the semifinals of the European Championship and the final of the Nations League, is known for making unpopular decisions and sticking to them.

And, once again, he surprised by starting Marco Asensio, who has been relegated to a substitute role at club Real Madrid, as a false nine while leaving pure strikers Álvaro Morata and newcomer Borja Iglesias on the bench. Spain failed to disturb the Swiss in attack and their defense conceded two goals on corner kicks featuring Swiss defender Manuel Akanji.

Akanji struck with a great header in the 21st when he outjumped his marker and drove the ball off the turf and into the top corner of the net.

Asensio finally managed to pick apart Switzerland's defense in the 55th when he dribbled past four players before laying off for Jordi Alba to rifle in the equalizer. But Switzerland hit right back three minutes later when Akanji was left unchecked

at the near post to use one touch to redirect a corner kick into the six-yard box where Brael Embolo nudged it over the line.

"They said that it was easy to beat Switzerland and we have seen that is not true in the least," Luis Enrique said. "They stopped us from playing our game, and you have to add to that our very sloppy first half. We improved in the second half, showed more precision, but just when we scored, we conceded another goal from a corner. Now we have to go to Portugal and win."

Iglesias and 20-year-old Nico Williams debuted for Spain as substitutes. Nico's older brother and clubmate Inaki Williams debuted for Ghana on Friday after he changed allegiance from Spain.

Switzerland hosts the Czech Republic in St. Gallen on Tues-



day to decide which avoids relegation. Switzerland has two

more points than the Czechs in last place. Portugal, Spain and

Switzerland will all play in the World Cup in November.