



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ
جنت میں ایک درخت طویل ہو گا (اتا
بڑا کہ) سوار اس کے سایہ میں سو سال
تک چلے گا اور پھر بھی اس کا سایہ ختم نہ ہو
گا اگر تمہاری چاہے تو اس آیت «وعلیٰ
مردودہ کی قرأت کرو۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 4881)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Sanjrani stresses increasing country's exports

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday urged business community to play their role in increasing country's exports as development was not possible sans achieving self-sufficiency. He said entrepreneurs, having a vital role in economic development, serve as the catalysts in the process of industrialization and economic growth of the country.



UNSG urges all parties in Yemen to choose peace for good

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged all relevant parties in Yemen to choose peace for good. In a statement, the Secretary-General urged Yemeni parties to expand the truce's terms and duration in line with the proposal presented to them by UN special envoy, Hans Grundberg. Antonio Guterres strongly urged all those involved in the long-running conflict to seize this opportunity.

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Sedition case

Islamabad Court summons Gill on Oct 6

ISLAMABAD: A local court has summoned PTI leader Shahbaz Gill on October 6 in a case registered against him for allegedly inciting mutiny within the military's ranks.

At the outset of Saturday's proceedings, prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi appeared before a district and sessions court in Islamabad, while the PTI leader was not present in the courtroom.

The police then submitted a challan against Gill.

Meanwhile, the court issued a notice to the PTI leader and summoned him for trial in connection with the police challan.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Supra will hear the case on October 6.

The PTI leader was booked in a sedition and arms recovery case in August. Gill, however, finally got bail from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the sedition case on September 15.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan's chief of staff Gill was in detention for over a month when he was arrested after a treason case was filed against him for inciting mutiny within the Pakistan Army through his remarks during a private TV channel show.

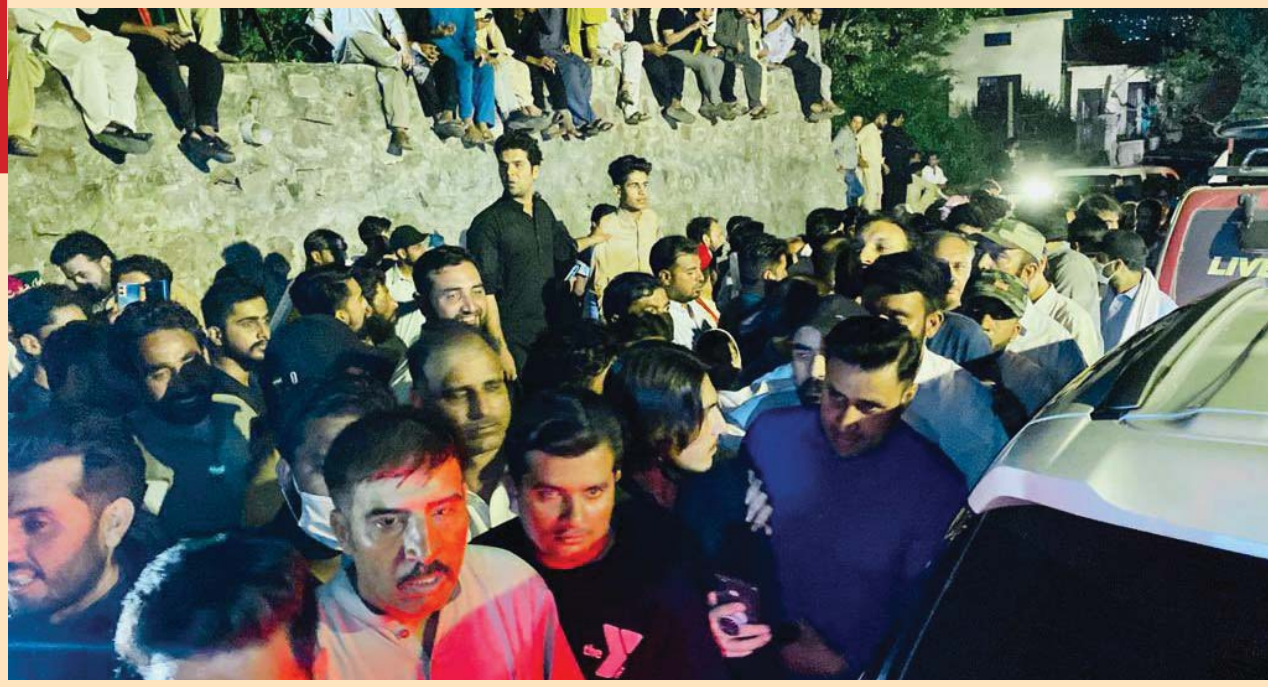
The case against Gill is registered under Sections 124-A (sedition), 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), and of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The PTI had been insistent in demanding the party leader's bail, alleging that he is facing humiliation, torture and sexual abuse in police custody.

Multiple proceedings on pleas seeking and challenging Gill's physical remand for interrogations were held with the defence contending that the politician wasn't physically or mentally fit to undergo physical remand. Agencies

Solidarity

PTI workers pictured at former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's Banigala residence in Islamabad on Saturday.



Global economic power

PM terms peaceful rise of China as source of stability

Shehbaz Sharif says China offers a promise of hope to developing world

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the peaceful rise of China as the second largest economy and paramount global power was a source of stability in a perpetually changing world.

On the National Day of China, the prime minister extended the heartiest greetings to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and the people of China.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that China offered a promise of hope to the developing world, beset by multiple crises relating to climate, finance, food and energy.

"The Chinese template of inter-

state relations prioritizes cooperation over confrontation & is the governing principle in form-

PM Shehbaz directs uninterrupted supply of relief goods, food items to flood victims

tion of a Community of Common Destiny," he posted in a related tweet.

Personally, the prime minister said that he was deeply touched by the Chinese adherence to remarkable work ethic and national disci-

pline. "This explains how China has been able to lift 800 million people out of acute poverty," he added.

The prime minister further stressed upon the nation that at this stage in their national life, work, work and work alone could lift them out of crises.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday here held a meeting to review relief and rehabilitation activities for people in the flood-affected areas.

The PM issued special instructions to ensure an uninterrupted supply of edible and relief items to the flood hit people.

The prime minister instructed to extend special cooperation to the provincial governments

for supply of the edible and relief items so that the problems faced during the relief activities could be resolved.

While taking notice of the rising prices of food items in the aftermath of floods, Shehbaz Sharif directed for immediate resolution of problems in determining the prices of food items.

He issued instructions for enhancing security for people involved in the relief activities and during supply of assistance, in collaboration with the provincial governments.

He ordered steps to resolve complaints regarding deductions from the cash assistance and delivery of relief items to the flood affectees.

Arrest warrant of Imran Khan issued

PTI activists flock to Bani Gala, dare govt to arrest PTI chief Khan

ISLAMABAD: A judicial magistrate of Islamabad on Saturday issued arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s Chairman Imran Khan on his continuous disappearance in a case pertaining to his threatening remarks about a female judge and police high-ups.

The court of Judicial Magistrate Rana Mujahid Raheem had repeatedly summoned Imran Khan in the case but he failed to appear. At this, arrest warrants had been issued against him.

The court had ordered the Station House Officer (SHO) Margalla Police Station to present the accused Imran Khan Niazi, son of Ikramullah Niazi before the court after arresting him.

It may be mentioned here that the capital police had registered FIR No.407 on August 20, against Imran Khan under sections 504/506 and 188/189 for threatening

female judge Zeba Chaudhry and officials of Islamabad Police.

However, the clauses of Anti Terrorism Act (ATA) were removed from the FIR on the directives of Islamabad High Court (IHC). The case was shifted to the district court from the Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) after the decision of IHC.

Meanwhile, a huge number of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf activists as well as party leaders reached Imran Khan's residence Bani Gala in Islamabad on Saturday evening in the aftermath of an arrest warrant issued for the former prime minister by an Islamabad magistrate.

As the news of ex-PM's arrest warrant made it to the electronic and social media, the party leaders and charged activists rushed to Bani Gala to prevent possible attempt by Islamabad Police to apprehend ex-premier. Agencies

China is most reliable iron brother of Pakistan: envoy

Ambassador Nong Rong says China announces the biggest amount of assistance to Pakistan

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: "China is the most reliable iron brother of Pakistan. Since the devastating floods occurred in Pakistan, among all countries, China has announced the biggest amount of assistance to Pakistan," said Nong Rong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

In a videotaped address released on Twitter, the envoy noted, "the total amount of assistance has exceeded RMB 644 million (around US\$90

million)" adding that the assistance comes from the Chinese government, the Communist Party of China, the Chinese army, the Red Cross, Society of China and sister provinces and cities, Chinese enterprises and individuals, CEN reported.

"Instead of finger-pointing against China-Pakistan cooperation," Nong said, "some country better do real and beneficial things for the people of Pakistan." "Action is the truest and most powerful language", he concluded.

Pak peacekeeper martyred in Congo: ISPR

Soldier was martyred after assailants from Bunyamalange Armed Group approached base with intention to surrender

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistani peacekeeper was martyred when armed assailants opened fire at the United Nations (UN) Permanent Operation Base in Minembwe in the Democratic Republic of Congo, said the military's media wing in a statement.

As per the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), six armed assailants from the Bunyamalange Armed Group approached base on September 30 with the intention to surrender their weapons as part of UN initiative.

However, assailants opened discriminate firing on the checkpost where Havaldar Babar was performing his duties as the guard commander. The position was the entry point for registering the proclaimed surrenders.

"The leading assailant started discriminate firing on check post resultantly,



Havaldar Babar received a gunshot on his head. Pakistan Army troops responded immediately. Havaldar Babar was evacuated to nearest Pakistan Army medical aid post but he could not survive," said the ISPR.

The 35-year-old soldier was a resident of Shakargarh and is survived by a wife, son and a daughter.

The military's media wing said that Pakistan has always played a pivotal role as a responsible member of the international communi-

ty to help realise the ideals of global peace and security through active support in various UN Peacekeeping missions.

"Our peacekeepers have always distinguished themselves in executing challenging peacekeeping tasks in conflict torn areas through devotion and, if necessary, rendering supreme sacrifices. So far 171 Pakistan peacekeepers have laid down their lives during various UN missions for international peace and security," said the ISPR.

Mobilize resources

Pakistan urges boosting efforts for crises-hit developing countries

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called on the world community to reaffirm its commitment for poverty eradication, promotion of full employment, and fostering of social inclusion through transformative action, in a bid to empower people. "Let us make this the decade of social development," Pakistani delegate Saima Saleem told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters.

Speaking in a debate on social development, she said that, as the social contract in Islam is based in equity, social justice and inclusion, Pakistan had taken measures to create an inclusive welfare society.

Ms Saleem, a Counselor in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, enumerated the initiatives, including Benazir Income Support programme (BISP) providing aid to 8 million women and youth with employment programmes, microcredit schemes, as well as targeted subsidies for farmers. APP

PML-N to take issue of audio leaks, cipher to logical conclusion

Ishaq Dar pledges to steer the country out of the mammoth challenges

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz have expressed commitment to take the issue of audio leaks and cipher to its logical conclusion as it has raised questions on the prestige and honour of country.

Addressing a news conference along with other senior party leaders in Lahore on Saturday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that Imran Khan's divisive and filthy narrative has been exposed in a recent audio leak and cipher is not a conspiracy.

Terming cipher as a secret document and the property of Prime Minister office, he said that PTI Chief is responsible for this serious security breach.

Expressing displeasure over the poor performance of PTI in last four years, Ishaq Dar lamented that all the macroeconomic indicators of Pakistan showed desperate performance and country ranked as below to 50th economy worldwide in 2034.

He further pledged to steer the country out of the mammoth challenges as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is making his best efforts to tackle the challenges in an effective manner.

He said that due to the prudent steps taken by the coalition government, appreciation of rupee is being witnessed against dollar. Resultantly, a



significant reduction of country's loan has been observed.

Ishaq Dar expressed the resolve to provide maximum relief to the general public in coming weeks.

Speaking on the occasion, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that PML-N will never compromise on the issue of national security.

She said PTI Chief Imran Khan committed forgery with the sensitive document and he should apologize to the nation. She said that Imran Khan tarnished the image of country in the world and ruined the diplomatic ties with other states.

Maryam Nawaz said PTI Chief received billions of rupees from anti state elements under the banner of foreign funding. She further said that

former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will come to Pakistan and lead the party.

Responding to a question, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar warned that strict action will be taken against the elements involved deliberately in the depreciation of rupee.

To a question over the cipher issue, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Federal Cabinet has decided to raise the issue of audio leaks in the Parliament and action will be taken against PTI Chief after discussion in the Parliament.

Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Pervez Rashid were also present on this occasion.

Economy top priority

Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jameel Ahmad called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, Islamabad on Saturday.



Photo: Online

CAA revises rules for domestic, int'l travel

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Saturday revised rules for domestic and international travel. According to a notification issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO), the authority revoked the mandatory requirement of wearing face masks.

"Amid declining COVID-19 trend across the country, mask-wearing as a part of non-pharmaceutical interventions is no longer a mandatory requirement during domestic and international travel; however, still preferable," the notification read. In a separate message posted on the CAA's official Twitter handle, the authority mentioned that although a mask is not a must but it is still preferable. "Please choose to wear a face mask for everyone's safety," the poster read. Earlier in June, CAA had once again imposed this regulation of wearing masks keeping in view the rise in COVID-19 cases in the country. Agencies

Sustainable economic growth

Fiscal, monetary policy direction imperative: Dar

Finance Minister terms fiscal, monetary policy coordination vital for sustainable economic growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday stressed that fiscal and monetary policy coordination is imperative for sustainable and effective economic growth.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar shared about fiscal measures being undertaken for economic revival of the country.

The governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division. The meeting discussed the measures being undertaken for the stabilization and growth of the country's economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor State Bank extended felicitations to the Finance Minister on assuming the office and stated that with the arrival of the Finance Minister, the market sentiments

SBP fully committed to support the process of economic revival

have considerably improved as reflected in the appreciation of the rupee.

He was of the view that continuing efforts by the government and the Bank will further put a squeeze on those who were manipulating the foreign exchange market.

The Governor SBP apprised the Finance Minister on different macroeconomic policy initiatives in line with the objectives of fiscal policy taken to achieve sustainable growth. He said that the bank is fully committed to supporting the process of

economic revival as per the policies of the present government and assured the Finance Minister of his full support.

Ishaq Dar commended the initiatives of the SBP on introducing digital banking in line with international best practices and Pakistan's first Instant Payment System- Raast.

He also appreciated the role of the State Bank of Pakistan for the monetary stability and economic growth of the country.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference along with other PML-N leaders in Lahore, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar vowed to provide maximum relief to the masses in coming weeks, saying that he passed on relief to the people by reducing fuel prices despite challenges. The finance minister lambasted the PTI government for its economic performance and vowed to reverse the damage caused to economy by the previous government.

PTI moves SC seeking probe into PM House audio leak

PTI seeks criminal charges against PM Shehbaz, cabinet members

ISLAMABAD: PTI Saturday moved the Supreme Court, requesting the apex court to investigate the PM House audio leaks and sought criminal charges against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team for hatching a "criminal conspiracy".

A series of audio leaks from the meetings that took place at the PM House during the last several months have shocked the country and raised questions about the cyber security of the building.

One of the audios, which allegedly featured PM Shehbaz, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and others — contains a discussion regarding PTI's resignations.

In it, the PML-N leaders can be allegedly heard expressing their opinions over PTI's resignations. They are also talking about London's permission to accept the resignations.

"...incumbent prime minister and his cabinet members [...] can be heard discussing a heinous strategy to outplay the petitioner from the parliamentary politics in most illegal,

unlawful and objectionable manner," the PTI said in the petition about the audio leak.

The petition said that the entire discussion revolves around a "criminal strategy/conspiracy" to affect and target the party through piecemeal acceptance of the resignations tendered by PTI's MNAs on April 11.

The party said that the prime minister, in a press conference on Tuesday, admitted the "actuality and existence" of the referred audio leaks.

"It is also important to bring on record that the Information Minister Maryum Aurangzeb and Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan have already admitted the reality of the audio leaks," the petition stated.

The PTI claimed that the PM and the cabinet members with aid of National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf violated their oath and utterly disregarded the law and the constitution.

"The admission on the part of the incumbent federal government requires stern action against the prime minister and the federal ministers," the petition said. Agencies

Govt to solve problems of farmers: Sanaullah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has said that government is taking concrete steps to resolve the legal issues of farmers.

In a statement, he said a notification has been issued to postpone the payment of electricity bills of tube wells.

Rana Sanaullah said that a Cabinet Committee is working to reduce the price of electricity for agriculture tube wells and in this regard the committee will again hold its meeting on Monday to consider all suggestions to resolve farmers' issues.

Interior Minister said the Supreme Court has clearly ordered that no one will be allowed to protest in the red zone.

He said the protests of farmers in Islamabad are unjustified and warned that strict action will be taken if they tried to enter the red zone.

Mariyum condemns 'vindictive actions' against Aleem, Shoaib

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Saturday strongly condemned "vindictive actions" against both the political leaders Aleem Khan and Shoaib Siddiqui in Punjab province, which was currently ruled by a coalition government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). She, in a news statement, said Aleem Khan was extremely generous to Imran Khan, but he only loved the former's money. Imran Khan had a history of being thankless to those who favoured him. The PTI chief did not even bother to attend the funeral of friends and those who supported him throughout his entire life, she said, adding Imran Khan was in habit of attacking his well-wishers.

Mariyum said it was history of Imran Khan to consistently lie, hurl allegations and use foul language against others.

Minister briefed on border, peace and dev projects in Kurram

Spokesman Report

KURRAM: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi visited the Pakistan Afghanistan border on Saturday at Kharlachi wherein he was briefed on situation at border, trade, export, import, facilitations, trade opportunities and other related matters. The meeting at border was attended by officials of Pakistan Army, FIA, ANF, NLC, FIA, NADRA, Customs and officials of border management.

Federal Minister on reaching the Pak Army center, paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan Army who laid their lives while protecting the country borders against all inimical forces and foreign aggression adding that



so far number of Pak Army officers and soldiers embraced martyrdom in terrorist attacks from across the border.

He said that Pakistan has always desired peace in the whole region to promote trade and stability. Sajid Hussain Turi said that the historical valley of Kurram is a masterpiece of natural beauty, which is attractive and important not only for tourists and

historians but also international traders as it connects Pakistan with Kabul and Central Asia States by shortest, easiest and safest routes through Kharlachi and Borki borders.

He further elaborated that he has taken up with concerned authorities the extension of CPEC to Kurram as it will bring eternal peace, stability and happiness to the region.

Harassment case

President awards dismissal from service to DG PEMRA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has awarded the major penalty of dismissal from service to a Director General of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and also enhanced the fine from Rs2 million to Rs2.5 million.

He held that it had been established beyond any reasonable doubt that the female employee was harassed by the accused with verbal, vulgar, sexual, and demeaning comments and demands by the appellant (DG). The president held the decision of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH).

The president observed that he took a strong exception and used the full force of the law when such matters were brought to light and were proven

beyond doubt to ensure a safe working environment for the female gender.

This, he said, was aimed at unleashing their great economic potential which remained unexploited due to their fear of harassment at the workplace.

The president further ordered that the amount of compensation should be recovered from arrears of pay (if any), pension emoluments or any other source (property) of the appellant as per Section 4(i)(d) of the Protection Against the Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 and be given to the complainant as compensation in lieu of the hardships faced by her at the hands of the appellant.

"This landmark decision was announced after the President gave

personal prolonged hearings to the accused, the complainant and their counsels on 22.07.2022 and 25.07.2022, besides factoring in the evidence and recording the statements of the witnesses on record and minutely perusing the entire proceedings of the case," President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

In his decision, the president noted that the accused continued harassing the complainant unabated even during the proceedings of the case by FOSPAH, in his suspension period, by filing applications against the complainant to IG Police, Islamabad and to DG (FIA), Cyber Crime Wing, Islamabad, thus, inflicting grave mental torture to the complainant and putting her reputation at stake.

Pakistan most vulnerable to climate change: Ambassador Moin

International organizations, think tanks express solidarity with Pakistan for proactive climate action

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The speakers representing international organizations and the Chinese think tanks at an event expressed their sympathies with the flood victims in Pakistan and expressed the resolve to cooperate with the government for proactive climate action and reconstruction.

The event "In Solidarity with Pakistan" was jointly organized by Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and Center for China and Globalization (CCG) to engage the thought leaders centered in Beijing in order to raise awareness about the recent floods in Pakistan. International organizations, Chinese think tanks, NGOs, members of Global Young Leaders Dialogue (GYLD) and Pakistani community attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque briefed the audi-

ence about the extent and nature of the recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan.

Expressing gratitude for the support extended by international community particularly China and United Nations (UN), he reiterated the need for proactive climate action and international solidarity to mitigate the effects of climate change. Ambassador Haque stressed that it was unfortunate that despite being a low carbon emitter, Pakistan was among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. He called on rich countries to help the developing states affected by the climate change and also hoped that international community would remain engaged with Pakistan in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

In his remarks, President, CCG, Henry Huaiyao Wang highlighted that strengthening international cooperation on climate change was a

matter of utmost urgency.

Sharing China's experience in tackling climate change, he expressed solidarity with Pakistan and welcomed the diverse group of speakers and audience to the event.

Secretary General of CCG and Founder of Global Young Leaders Dialogue (GYLD), Ms. Mabel Lu Miao noted the huge losses of life and essential infrastructure due to floods in Pakistan. She stressed the need for collective action in the wake of the climate catastrophe in Pakistan and stressed the importance of international solidarity in this regard. In his keynote speech, UN Resident Coordinator in China, Siddharth Chatterjee underlined the shifting climate patterns having impact in diverse manners including floods, food security and rising sea levels.

Highlighting Pakistan's vulnerabilities to



climate change and the loss caused by recent floods, he highlighted the need for collective action for tackling climate change.

Other keynote speakers included Professor Shahbaz Khan, Resident Coordinator of UNESCO to China; Vano Noupech, UNHCR Representative in China; Ali Mchumo, Director General of International Organization of Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR); Ambassador Sohail Khan, Deputy Secretary-General, SCO; Ms. Graziella Leite Piccoli, Deputy Head of Regional Delegation East Asia ICRC, and Dr. Zhou Jinfeng.

The speakers appreciated the Embassy's efforts in bringing different thought leaders on one platform. They expressed their sympathies and sentiments, and expressed the resolve to cooperate with Pakistan for proactive climate action and reconstruction.

Chief Minister Punjab directs redressal of public complaints

Says it is government's responsibility to take prompt action on complaints

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has directed the redressal to the public complaints forthwith and asserted to dispose of applications being submitted in the complaint cell at the earliest. He said this, during a meeting with Chairman CM Complaint Cell Zubair Ahmad Khan, who called on him here. The chief minister directed to sort out the applications relating to public complaints within the given time limit. The applicants should get a substantial relief by making the whole system online from the registration of



a complaint till its redressal, he added. He directed that the applicant should be updated at every step about the progress being made for the redress-

al adding that indiscriminate action should be taken against those for submitting baseless and false applications. The CM outlined that it is government responsibility to take prompt action on the complaints and timely redress the grievances of the people. Chairman Complaint Cell Zubair Ahmad Khan briefed the CM about the performance of the cell and the steps being taken about the redressal of public complaints. He also briefed about the steps being taken to ensure availability of flour at the fixed price

on public complaints in Rawalpindi. On the other hand, a delegation of PML-Q office bearers from New York called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi here on Saturday, and presented a cheque worth five million rupees for flood affectees. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said effective mechanism has been evolved for monitoring of flood relief fund. He said one million rupees each have been provided to heirs of flood affectees, while assistance for loss of livestock and homes is also being provided.

Provision of quality health facilities govt's priority: Mahmood

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan has termed provision of quality health care facilities to people foremost priority of government and said that reforms have been introduced in health sector to further improve its performance. In a statement issued here, Mahmood Khan stated that project has been initiated to revamp non-teaching district headquarters hospitals to improve healthcare delivery system. He said that the provincial government was taking various measures including up gradation of basic health care facilities, providing medical equipment to health care centers and recruitment of doctors and uplift tertiary hospitals to provide quality treatment to people. The chief minister said that provincial government has planned development projects in all the sectors including health as per requirements and expectations of people.

Seven gamblers held

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Fatehjang Police have arrested seven gamblers from Bhal Syedan and recovered Rs 140480 bet money from their possession. Case under the act have been registered against them and all have been sent behind the bars. Those arrested include Aurangzeb, Khuram Shahzad, Amir Afzal, Muhammad Riaz, Amir Afzal, Syed Pir Badshah and Zafar Iqbal. Meanwhile in another attempt Hasanabdal police arrested two Afghan nationals Ajmal and Noor Muhammad. Both were staying in Pakistan without valid documents. Meanwhile Attock City police station have booked Akhlaq Ahmad for illegally occupying a plot in People's Colony which is property of the Municipal Committee and tried to construct shops on the said plot.

Rescue 1122 Dera responds 701 emergencies in Sept

D.I.KHAN: The district's emergency service Rescue-1122 received a total of 87,013 calls and responded to 701 emergencies over the last month. Rescue-1122 spokesman said that out of the total emergency calls, 62,327 were irrelevant or fake calls which should be avoided. During the one month period, he said, the rescue service shifted about 639 patients to various hospitals while tackling a total of 805 emergencies including 459 medical, 132 road accidents, 17 bullet or other injuries during fight, 13 injured by fire incidents, three drowned incidents and one building collapse. During these emergencies a total of 639 injured were shifted to hospitals besides giving prompt first aid and other medical facilities. He said a total of 87013 were received by the emergency service, but 62327 of them were irrelevant or fake calls which should be avoided, he added. In last month, the Rescue-1122 teams also handled 120 referral cases during various emergencies and rescued 128 patients. Out of these emergencies 106 were within the district and patients were shifted from one tehsil to another. He said the Rescue-1122 teams were fully equipped with all necessary equipment and they had been efficiently rendering their services during emergencies.

1,350-litre contaminated milk discarded

LAHORE: The Punjab food Authority (PFA), continued its crackdown on milk adulteration mafia in the provincial metropolis and discarded 1,350 litres of impure milk. On the tip-off vigilance cell, the dairy safety team, under the supervision of PFA Director General Mudassar Riaz Malik, Saturday set up a screening picket at Manga Mandi bypass and caught a milk-carrier vehicle loaded with hundreds of litres of milk. He said that the dairy team had taken samples for screening on the spot and found results not up to the mark. Therefore, the regulatory body disposed of 1,350 litres of unhygienic milk after finding contamination of powder in the milk. The DG said that the use of tainted milk, poses a threat to users' health and causes stomach and intestines diseases. The PFA would provide a free milk checking facility at the doorsteps of every people to ensure the provision of healthy milk, he added.

NCSW reviews flood relief measures

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for the Status of Women (NCSW) on Thursday organized various meetings with different segments of society aiming to review the measures being taken to provide relief to flood affected women. According to details, the issues faced by women in the post-flood environment in the country were discussed.

Purchasing in a queue

LAHORE: Large number of people stand in a queue outside a Utility Store for purchasing subsidized grocery items at Garhi Shahu Chowk in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Deserving people to get subsidized flour at their doorstep



By Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the special directions of Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the committee headed by Minister for Food Ali Shan Soni has started its work to provide the provision of subsidized flour to deserving people at their doorstep. The committee has also started work on chalking out a comprehensive policy and recommendations for granting flour subsidy to the poor and needy people across the state. The committee shall also draft a proposal considered by the government to stop flour theft and artificial crisis being created by the mafia. Proposals are also being made regarding pre-emptive measures to deal with the impact of flood-induced

food deficiency in Azad Kashmir. According to the vision of Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the subsidy should be given only to the needy and deserving families. For this purpose, work is being done rapidly under the supervision of Minister for food Ali Shah Soni. The Prime Minister had already directed the Food Department to deal with any eventuality of food shortage in the liberated territory. The Department officials were advised to utilize all its available means to ensure availability of flour in every nook and cranny of the state. The PM had also directed the Food Department to take practical measures vis-à-vis the procurement of wheat from Pasco and other sources and ensure the process of food storage before the advent of winter

season. Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has also issued directions that the benefit of the subsidy on flour should be given to the underprivileged class. Meanwhile, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has issued a weekly schedule for ministers to get the issues of people settled on priority basis. As per the schedule, ministers will work four days a week at their offices to deal with government issues whereas one day has been fixed for public hearing whereby the ministers in the presence of District administration officials would visit their respective constituency to listen to public grievances. The initiative is a step forward towards resolving issues being faced by the people at a lower level.

KP all set to welcome winter tourists

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tourism department was taking all necessary steps towards 'safe tourism' for upcoming season of winter and established an 'information center' for guidance related to tourist destinations in the region, Director Tourism Authority Khurshid Alam said on Saturday. Talking to a private news channel, Director said that winter bells are ringing in northern parts of the country including Babusir top where first winter snowfall was received, adding, KPK tourism department is all set to welcome its winter tourists. He said that all tourist destinations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be opened in winters, for which all arrangements have been completed. Tourist destinations are being opened with strict winter related SOPs



while implementation of SOPs in hotels and tourist spots will also be ensured, he added. Hospitality training of locals and KPK tourism police was also conducted, adding, more trainings would be imparted to the tourism police after tourism season to enhance their capacity and for better service to the tourists and visitors at the scenic attractions of the province.

Every year thousands of families from across Pakistan as well international tourists are visiting various destinations in the region in winter to enjoy winter snowfall, he said, adding, this year too KPK tourism department would facilitate its tourists. He also lauded the enthusiasm of new recruits and rescue teams of KPK who rescued the tourists during the time of flood. Replying to a query, he also advises winter tourists to come fully equipped, with proper shoes and jackets, if they plan on visiting the valley during winter. With the coordination of district administration rehabilitation and construction of roads were also underway after flood while at different tourist spots camping pods were installed for the facilitation of tourists.

11 narcotics dealers arrested

SWABI: Police during crackdown on narcotics arrested 11 persons involved in narcotics business and recovered 12 kilograms drugs from their possession in last 24 hours, said police on Saturday. The narcotics eradication teams started search operation on narcotics dealers in different areas of the district to clear the society from this menace and to save the future of youth. The teams raided on different points and also checked suspected vehicles and recovered 11.951kg hashish, 1.255kg ice and 0.145kg heroin from their possession and arrested them.

Visa takes shot at financial goals with new soccer video game



By Spokesman Report

LAHORE: With FIFA World Cup™ excitement heating up, Visa (NYSE: V), the Official Payment Technology Partner of FIFA, invites soccer fans to sharpen their financial skills on the virtual pitch with the new version of the educational video game, Financial Soccer. Gamers can suit up as the country of their choice and take their best shot for the coveted trophy by correctly answering questions designed to help players make smart, well informed money management decisions. To further Visa's commitment to uplift lives through the power of sport and the global platform of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, Visa is working in collaboration with clients and non-profit organizations to make the new version of Financial Soccer available to as many people as possible. Visa and partners will host events, learning series and promote game availability in more than 100 markets around the world leading up to and following the tournament. With only one-in-three adults estimated to have a basic understanding of financial concepts, Visa understands the critical need to foster financial literacy early to ensure a stronger relationship with financial health through adulthood.

Bank Alfalah partners with Haball

To launch digital supply chain lending for Shariah-compliant clients in Pakistan

By Our Correspondent

LAHORE: "In line with its mission to provide innovation and convenience to customers, Bank Alfalah has partnered with Haball, a B2B payments aggregator catering to Shariah-compliant clients, to launch digital supply chain lending in Pakistan. Haball has launched a digital lending platform, "Wisaq", which will now be available for use to Bank Alfalah's corporate clients. Customers seeking Islamic variants of the bank's supply chain finance products can obtain financing through a quick and simple digital process. With a growing need for financing by vendors and dealers in different industry verticals, this collaboration will enable Bank Alfalah help more credit-starved businesses. Customers hesitant to obtain conventional modes of financing will now have greater access to Islamic variants of supply chain finance products. Representing Bank Alfalah at the ceremony were Group Head CIBG, Saad-Ur-Rahman Khan, Head of Transaction Banking Mr. Muhammad Shehzad Ilyas, Group Head IBG Dr. Muhammad Imran and CEO of

Haball, Mr. Omer Bin Ahsan, was also present with his team. Commenting on the collaboration, Saad Ur Rahman Khan, Bank Alfalah Group Head Corporate, Investment Banking and International Business said, "We are committed to collaborating with Fin-techs and investing in innovative products in the digital sphere. This collaboration aligns with the Bank's vision to facilitate the digitalization of Supply Chain Finance in Pakistan. We are committed to supporting businesses with innovative solutions while playing a vital role in driving economic growth. This collaboration will facilitate B2B payments as we continue to offer a range of digitally innovative Islamic products and services." "Pakistani supply chains are dominated by SMEs and they are thirsty for liquidity. They need delivery to be quick, matching seasonal needs and delivered in a Shariah compliant way," said Mr. Omer Bin Ahsan, CEO, Haball. "This partnership allows Haball to scale digital supply chain financing for its corporate customers and enables Bank Alfalah to it deliver across 200 cities efficiently using cash flow transparency."

Islamabad
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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:39 am
Zohr	11:58 am
Asr	4:11 pm
Maghrib	5:53 pm
Isha	7:15 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
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Rawal Town	5773343

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G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883	G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249

82 more dengue patients reported

RAWALPINDI: As many as 82 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,360. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control(DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood on Saturday said that, among the new cases, 44 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, 14 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, 13 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, six from Chaklala Cantonment, four from Potohar rural, two from Kalar Syedan and one from Taxila cantonment. He added that 265 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 113 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH), 82 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 70 to the Holy Family Hospital(HFH). He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 88 tested positive, with 141 belonging to Rawalpindi, adding three patients were in a critical position at BBH and two HFH.

SC turns pink in support of pink ribbon

Event was organized as a solidarity gesture with PINKtober

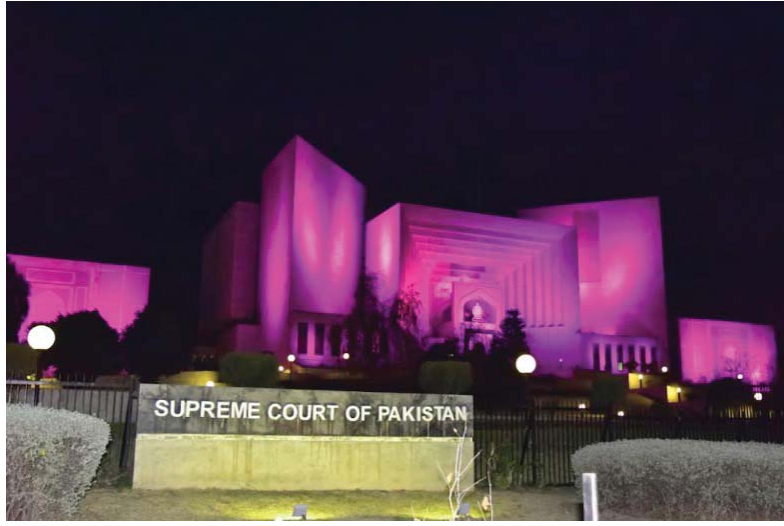
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan was illuminated in the pink colour in support of Pink Ribbon on Saturday to raise awareness on the issue of Breast Cancer.

The event was organized as a solidarity gesture with PINKtober—Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign for millions of women of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Founder of Pink Ribbon Omer Aftab said it is indeed an honour for us to illuminate the highest court of appeal in Pakistan for such a noble cause. Involvement of such a sanctified institution has provided hope to thousands of breast cancer patients in Pakistan. He expressed his deep gratitude to Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Atta Bandyal for his generous support for the illumination of the prestigious building to spread awareness about breast cancer.

It is so unfortunate that breast cancer alone claims 40,000 lives every year due to ignorance, late diagnosis and myths related to breast cancer. Despite the fact, that out of all the types of cancers, breast



cancer is only cancer that can be cured successfully if diagnosed at an early stage. Said, Omer Aftab

He said that as per the new statistics, over 10 million Pakistani women are at high risk of getting breast cancer in their lifetime. We need to re-establish

our health structure based on better-researched statistics of disease burden. Besides this, a special focused awareness drive is required to promote the concept of "prevention is better than cure" as a better healthy lifestyle can prevent breast cancer up to 40%.

Tax harmonization, policy consistency vital for investments: Experts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Tax harmonization in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is crucial to prevent misuse of government's tax incentives and support for sustainable development of indigenous businesses, said Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) while speaking at public-private dialogue on "Business Regulatory Environment in Newly Merged Districts, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" organized by SDPI at local hotel on Saturday.

He said that the newly merged districts of FATA offer immense economic and trade potential and have dynamic agricultural value chains which must be harnessed. He stressed that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa must conduct sector diagnostics particularly in businesses working in the sectors of agriculture, trade, transport and warehousing to scale them up from micro to small and medium stage.

Member Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Ghazi Ghazan Jamal stressed on improving uptake of renewable energy by domestic and commercial consumers. He said that billions of rupees are being spent on expanding distribution networks and grid systems to support businesses which can be avoided by promoting renewables. He stressed on small renewable power projects and reducing financial burden for provision of power to citizens through grid electricity.

Dr. Sebastian Paust, Counsellor/Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed that German

cooperation has been interested in building the capacity of technical training institutes in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan should review confidence building measures among German investors due to business regulatory inconsistencies.

Adnan Jalil Executive Member, Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Industries said prime responsibility of the government is to provide 3.5% NFC share to ex-Fata districts to ensure continuity of development. He suggested that future policies must be formulated in consultation with the provincial business community to ensure policy homogeneity and standard-



ized growth. He further said that this will encourage local entrepreneurs and businesses to invest rather than taking the route of CSR activities.

He also encouraged the government to expand horizons from Afghanistan and increase cooperation with Central Asian states.

Sohail Jan from SMEDA informed that SMEDA has dispersed the assistance through US-Aid projects in the newly merged districts for supporting businesses. He pointed out a finance-

ing gap by informing that in response to 40,000 applications received, SMEDA has only managed to disperse \$ 3 million in grants. He pointed out that these districts are confronted with internet connectivity challenges, lack adequate micro-financing network, and insufficient banking infrastructure which create obstacles in strengthening the business environment.

Nazish Afraz, Program Economist, SEED suggested weeding out inappropriate regulations which negatively impact growth of sectors. She suggested targeted fiscal and financial incentives to address activities with spill-over impacts keeping in mind

He further said there is much potential in these districts in terms of logistics and can be used as trade corridors. He also suggested redistribution of revenue collected from these districts to encourage investments, formalization and create an overall positive environment.

Fazal Karim, Deputy Collector, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority—KPRRA recommended against extension of tax exemptions granted in these districts to create a level playing field for businesses and to counter the dominance of non-local business entities. He further said that uniform taxes will encourage formalization and documentation of businesses and their transactions.

Mujahid Saleem Farooqi, Project Management Specialist, Economic Growth, USAID expressed that lack of government ownership in implementation of policy recommendations is leading to donor fatigue, and financial exhaustion which can negatively impact donor support. He called upon federal and provincial governments to ensure implementation of policies and incentivizing formalization of businesses in these districts which will enhance the share of the province in national GDP.

Sana Khan, from Planning and Development Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed that master plans for these districts are under deliberation and will improve the business environment of the areas.

She suggested creating awareness among locals on the potential positive impacts of land-use interventions in terms of economic and employment development in the areas.

Health Corner

Babies react to taste and smell in womb

ISLAMABAD: Scientists have recorded the first direct evidence that babies react differently to various smells and tastes while in the womb by looking at their facial expressions.

A study led by Durham University's Fetal and Neonatal Research Lab, UK, took 4D ultrasound scans of 100 pregnant women to see how their unborn babies responded after being exposed to flavours from foods eaten by their mothers.

Researchers looked at how the fetuses reacted to either carrot or kale flavours just a short time after the flavours had been ingested by the mothers. Fetuses exposed to carrot showed more "laughter-face" responses while those exposed to kale showed more "cry-face" responses.

Their findings could further our understanding of the development of human taste and smell receptors. The researchers also believe that what pregnant women eat might influence babies' taste preferences after birth and potentially have implications for establishing healthy eating habits.

The study is published in the journal Psychological Science. Humans experience flavour through a combination of taste and smell. In fetuses it is thought that this might happen through inhaling and swallowing the amniotic fluid in the womb.

Lead researcher Beyza Ustun, a postgraduate researcher in the Fetal and Neonatal Research Lab, Department of Psychology, Durham University, said: "A number of studies have suggested that babies can taste and smell in the womb, but they are based on post-birth outcomes while our study is the first to see these reactions prior to birth. "As a result, we think that this repeated exposure to flavours before birth could help to establish food preferences post-birth, which could be important when thinking about messaging around healthy eating and the potential for avoiding 'food-fussiness' when weaning.

"It was really amazing to see unborn babies' reaction to kale or carrot flavours during the scans and share those moments with their parents."

The research team, which also included scientists from Aston University, Birmingham, UK, and the National Centre for Scientific Research—University of Burgundy, France, scanned the mothers, aged 18 to 40, at both 32 weeks and 36 weeks of pregnancy to see fetal facial reactions to the kale and carrot flavours.

Mothers were given a single capsule containing approximately 400mg of carrot or 400mg kale powder around 20 minutes before each scan. They were asked not to consume any food or flavoured drinks one hour before their scans.

The mothers also did not eat or drink anything containing carrot or kale on the day of their scans to control for factors that could affect fetal reactions.

Facial reactions seen in both flavour groups, compared with fetuses in a control group who were not exposed to either flavour, showed that exposure to just a small amount of carrot or kale flavour was enough to stimulate a reaction. Co-author Professor Nadja Reissland, head of the Fetal and Neonatal Research Lab, Department of Psychology, Durham University, supervised Beyza Ustun's research. She said:

"Previous research conducted in my lab has suggested that 4D ultrasound scans are a way of monitoring fetal reactions to understand how they respond to maternal health behaviours such as smoking, and their mental health including stress, depression, and anxiety.

"This latest study could have important implications for understanding the earliest evidence for fetal abilities to sense and discriminate different flavours and smells from the foods ingested by their mothers."

Co-author Professor Benoist Schaal, of the National Centre for Scientific Research—University of Burgundy, France, said: "Looking at fetuses' facial reactions we can assume that a range of chemical stimuli pass through maternal diet into the fetal environment.

"This could have important implications for our understanding of the development of our taste and smell receptors, and related perception and memory." The researchers say their findings might also help with information given to mothers about the importance of taste and healthy diets during pregnancy.

They have now begun a follow-up study with the same babies post-birth to see if the influence of flavours they experienced in the womb affects their acceptance of different foods. Courtesy Science Daily

ATP criticises politicians for humiliating dignity of institutions

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) Muhammad Faiq Shah has criticised the politicians for humiliating dignity of institutions and smear campaign against them for gaining personal interest.

Shah while responding to various queries at a public forum here on Friday said ATP is making a vigorous struggle for attainment of public authority and provision of justice to everyone.

He alleged politicians and powerful people have snatched authorities from people through fraud, deceit tactics and fake narratives.

We will deliver both justice and authority to people, Shah vowed. He made it clear the formula of divide and rule will not run now anymore. Faiq continued to say that all institutions, country and every nook and corner of motherland from Khyber to Karachi belong to Pakistan and an ideology exists for its protection.

The ATP chief vowed to fight for public authority and justice at every fora. Shah noted attempts have been made to weaken, divide and ineffective the institutions. Like and dislike are being imposed instead of making serious initiatives for reforms, he observed.

Indonesian Embassy organizes blood donation camp in collaboration with PRCS

Ambassador Adam Tugio says saving one life is equivalent to saving humanity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

Member of diplomatic corps and Indonesian students volunteered in donating blood. The Indonesian Embassy and PRCS have been cooperating to organize a blood donation camp to facilitate brothers and sisters of Pakistan since 2016. Pakistan Red Crescent Regional Blood Donor Center is known for being very responsible in supplying safe quality blood to the community by implementing a safe blood program that embodies the spirit of "Altruism" and the principle of Voluntary, non-remunerated Blood Donation.

Ambassador Adam Tugio said,



"Saving one life is equivalent to saving humanity and blood donation raises awareness of the importance of regular blood donations to help patients in need". Pakistan is currently facing a dengue outbreak, and demand for blood transfusion and plate-

lets are significantly increased as a result all across Pakistan. In addition, Pakistan has an additional requirement for blood supply because of thalassemia patients, and the challenge has magnified due to the lack of blood donors amid COVID-19.



Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Ibrahim Almadani who volunteered in blood donation said, "I am very happy to be a part of such an important drive, as it can help save or improve the lives of our Muslim brother or sister." Blood donation camps increase

awareness among the general public and especially youth for "Blood Safety", and prevention of the spread of transfusion-transmitted diseases. It can also promote the concept of voluntary blood donation by removing the fears and superstitions



associated with blood donation. Ambassador Tugio expressed his appreciation to the entire team of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and to all the blood donors, including youth for voluntarily donating blood and inspiring others to join hands

and support a noble cause. "The collected blood will be distributed to critical patients with Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Cancer, Dialysis, and others who are in serious illness in hospitals in Islamabad and Rawalpindi", added a team member of PRCS.

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The EU, not Meloni, is the threat to democracy

Dr. John C. Hulsman

I have found through my constant exposure to them through the years that the EU's intellectual cheerleaders among geopolitical analysts — funded as they so often are by the very institution they are supposed to be impartially analyzing — are as numerous as they are clueless.

At my political risk firm, the joke goes that if Brussels is "for" something — entrusting its energy security to the Russians, confidently predicting that Europe will emerge as the dominant superpower in our new era, or ignoring the threat that China poses — we should instinctively bet against them, so often and regularly are they proved mistaken. Beyond the mirth, there are two concrete reasons EU analysts are so unerringly wrong.

First, the corkscrew way EU cheerleaders reason dooms them from the start. In a sort of Kafkaesque example of magical thinking, they believe that while EU policy success confirms the upward trajectory of Brussels, failure also somehow means the bloc is about to arrive. Success

obviously means the EU is headed in the right direction; failure, in a bizarre form of Hegelianism, means Brussels will inevitably "learn" from whatever it has done wrong, immediately and rationally make the necessary corrections, and move onward unto sunlit uplands. As ever with wish-fulfillment, these cheerleaders fool no one so much as themselves.

Their second major intellectual mistake is to confuse analysis with what they would like to happen. Brussels advocates invariably tout the death knell of populism, the EU's sworn enemy, because across Europe it embodies the very things Brussels most hates — it is nationalistic, suspicious of experts, and democratic rather than elite-driven.

Next, with the invasion of Ukraine, these same experts felt populism would come to an end, because the overriding imperative of international cooperation (a supposed strength of Brussels) over the conflict was self-evident. Once again the EU's cheerleaders got it wrong, while populists learned the realist lesson that a country's specific national and geostrategic interests are paramount; plus actually having an army — neither of

which are policy areas in which the EU is anything other than a pipsqueak.

Recent political facts confirm my political risk call, rather than that of my cheerleader foes. In Sweden, the rightist populist Sweden Democrats, rather than disappearing as most EU analysts had confidently predicted, now hold the balance of power. Even more importantly, last week in Italy there was an overwhelming populist rightist electoral victory over the remnants of the Brussels-installed center-left political establishment. One of the great powers of Europe, contrary to the fever-dream of the EU's favored pundits, decisively elected a government deeply skeptical about the very nature of Brussels itself.

Of course, confronted by the imminent election of a government not to its tastes, the EU's authoritarian visage, so often hidden behind banal verities about its innate goodness, became plain for all to see. Just a week before the Italian election, a grim European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, referencing serial troublemakers Poland and Hungary, threatened that Brussels had "the tools" to deal with wayward

members not content to sing along with the EU's supranational, elite-driven hymnal.

What did Italy's newly victorious Giorgia Meloni do, even before coming to power, that so threatens the Brussels establishment? Or, to put it another way, what explains the meteoric rise of her rightist populist Brothers of Italy party from 4 percent of the vote in 2018 to a dominant 26 percent now? First and foremost, Meloni crucially decided to stay out of the EU-imposed government of national unity run by Brussels darling Mario Draghi, which managed to last for only 18 storm-tossed months.

Meloni proved to be highly effective in opposition, artfully questioning whether Draghi's authoritarian response to COVID was serving basic democratic ends, given his habitual governing by authoritarian decree rather than the usual parliamentary process. As ever, biography proved to be destiny; Draghi, a technocrat to his fingertips, thought the pandemic crisis too important to be left to the vagaries of democratic scrutiny. Meloni brilliantly made her commitment to democracy (despite the present hyper-ventilating of the mainstream

media) abundantly clear, while yet another unelected, Brussels-imposed prime minister ignored any shred of democratic practice.

Second, this Brussels-imposed elite (incredibly, Meloni will be Italy's first elected prime minister since the odious Silvio Berlusconi was ousted by the EU in 2011) has utterly failed at the policy level. Extraordinarily, Italian GDP per capita is lower now than it was before the country adopted the euro in 1999. This lost economic generation is only a few years away from irrelevance, more likely to end up a crumbling, irrelevant Greece than to emerge as the new Germany.

In just practical terms, EU tutelage has been an absolute disaster for Italy, and for a long while. It is little wonder its citizens have revolted against its EU-shackled establishment.

John C. Hulsman is the president and managing partner of John C. Hulsman Enterprises, a prominent global political risk consulting firm. He is also a senior columnist for City AM, the newspaper of the City of London. He can be contacted via johnhulsman.substack.com. Courtesy: Arab News

Time-tested Pak-China friendship

Pakistan and China enjoy deep rooted and strong ties spanning over many decades. China is the stabilising factor in the whole region of South and South East Asia. China has no objection of Pakistan maintaining good ties with either the US or India. China's foreign policy is peaceful and is not directed against any specific country. Islamabad and Beijing's relations have further strengthened since the start of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. We can benefit from this project most optimally by devising our economic policies in a way that are consistent and stable. We should provide maximum facilitation to Chinese private sectors so that they could come and invest in our country. Political stability is very important for economic development. The nemesis of Pakistan do not want Pak, China friendship to prosper and they use tactics like targeting of Chinese nationals in Pakistan to put a dent in relations between the two countries. Our forces are already doing what they can, but now people of Pakistan should give a clear message that Pak, China relation is in our interest and we will not tolerate any nefarious effort to sabotage it. Pak, China defense cooperation is very important for stability of Pakistan.

"China is the most reliable iron brother of Pakistan. Since the devastating floods occurred in Pakistan, among all countries, China has announced the biggest amount of assistance to Pakistan," said Nong Rong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. On Saturday, the envoy noted, "the total amount of assistance has exceeded RMB 644 million (around US\$90 million)" adding that the assistance comes from the Chinese government, the Communist Party of China, the Chinese army, the Red Cross, Society of China and sister provinces and cities, Chinese enterprises and individuals. "Instead of finger-pointing against China-Pakistan cooperation," Nong said, "some country better do real and beneficial things for the people of Pakistan." "Action is the truest and most powerful language", he added. Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, while responding to the debt relief appeal by the US Secretary of State said that "The Chinese government has provided RMB 400 million worth of humanitarian assistance and China's civil society has also lent a helping hand." The spokesman noted, "China and Pakistan have had fruitful economic and financial cooperation. The Pakistani people know it best," adding that "instead of passing unwarranted criticism against China-Pakistan cooperation, the US might as well do something real and beneficial for the people of Pakistan."

It is very important day for the Chinese and we congratulate them on this auspicious occasion. During the last seven decades, China has progressed immensely in every field. Its credit goes to Chinese people and leadership who carried their nation forward. Despite many ups and downs during this period, they persisted and succeeded. Chinese philosophy is based on win-win cooperation and peaceful coexistence. China is committed to help uplift the developing countries from poverty. China is a source of inspiration for many countries of the world that are on path to development. China's OBOR will benefit around one hundred and thirty countries of the world.



Arab world can unlock opportunities by reskilling workers

Sara Al-Mulla

A reskilling revolution is needed to power the future talent pipeline in the Middle East and North Africa region. Currently, high-skilled employees account for only 21 percent of the MENA labor market, meaning a shortage of talents who are ready to navigate future skill-reliant jobs. As we speak, rapid and multiple transformations are sweeping across sectors, with experts forecasting that between 41 and 52 percent of all work activities in Arab countries will shift toward automation. As such, an ambitious, large-scale reskilling program is needed to circumvent these disruptions and seize lucrative economic opportunities in the new world of work.

The MENA region enjoys a demographic advantage in its sizable youth cohort, which accounts for nearly half of its population. An opportunity arises here for this large workforce to play a role in the region's economic prosperity, provided they possess the right suite of skills. A report published recently by the World Economic Forum projects that, by equipping primary and secondary school students with enhanced collaborative problem-solving skills, the Middle East economy would see an increase in value of \$266 billion.

Arab states have a unique window of opportunity to accelerate their post-pandemic recovery plans by modernizing their education systems, vocational training programs and lifelong learning initiatives. To realize this vision, support from multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, educators and enterprises, will

need to be garnered.

In another example from the government of Singapore, selected employers working in strategic sectors regularly update the government on the required skills needed in the workforce in the coming three to five years. Accordingly, the government leverages these insights to draw up its Industry Transformation Maps, which provide targeted training programs corresponding to those specific skills. Students and employees can also rely on these maps to inform their decision-making on strategic education choices and career pathways.

Employers can expedite the reskilling revolution by working in tandem with governments and education providers to create holistic, practical and world-class training programs for employees to be reskilled and upskilled on the job. To illustrate, private enterprises can jointly define required specializations and skill sets, design educational curriculums and training content, and develop on-the-job apprenticeship and training programs for students.

In many countries, such apprenticeship programs are labor market-driven by private enterprises based on the unique requirements of diverse sectors, while governments impose quality standards and ensure experiences are recognized. Apprenticeships are also conducive learning opportunities for students and youths to immerse themselves in real-life work placements so they learn about a profession and hone the relevant skills.

Many governments and enterprises have successfully integrated apprenticeship programs as a key tenet of their education systems. Switzerland offers a great

case study, with 70 percent of young people enrolled in apprenticeship programs and a selection of more than 230 professions to choose from. Between the ages of 15 and 16, students can pursue a hybrid model of enrolling in classes at a vocational school combined with on-the-job training with an employer. The program lasts between three and four years, after which students graduate with a federal diploma that is recognized by employers across Switzerland.

A similar approach is being adopted by the government of Singapore, with the launch of its "SkillsFuture" campaign that facilitates skill attainment and mastery that would be useful for exploring new career opportunities. One of its key offerings is an extensive course list that is developed and provided by partner educational providers and covers important subjects within strategic sectors, such as big data analytics and artificial intelligence, finance and accounting essentials, cybersecurity fundamentals, barista skills, floristry, data science, digital marketing, and logistics and supply chain management. Another interesting initiative is the Career Conversion Program, wherein the government partners with strategic employers to reskill mid-career individuals and have them ready to be redeployed in new occupations.

By placing reskilling as a strategic policy priority, governments can tap into the potential of their local talent pool and advance their economic and social agendas.

Sara Al-Mulla is an Emirati civil servant with an interest in human development policy and children's literature. She can be contacted at www.amorelicious.com. Courtesy: Arab News

US dollar losing its attraction and global status

Liang Haiming

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, apart from causing energy and food crises, has also triggered the largest de-dollarization wave since the 2008 global financial crisis. And although Russia is leading the de-dollarization drive to offset the effects of the US-led West's financial sanctions against Russia, many other countries have also intensified their de-dollarization efforts due to growing concerns over the dollar's weaponization by the United States.

That the US Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points on Sept 21 — the fifth rate hike and the third by 75 basis points this year — without thinking about its consequences on other countries is yet another proof the US is using its currency as a weapon. With the Fed once again aggressively hiking rates, developing economies risk "losing a decade" just as Latin American countries did after being forced into a debt crisis by the US' drastic rate hikes in the late 1970s.

This perception, too, has prompted some countries to accelerate their de-dollarization drive.

Since the US is a leading economic and financial power, big companies from around the world flock to its stock market to raise capital, further enlarging its financial pie. But by using both the dollar and the financial market as a weapon, the administration has driven many Chinese companies out of the US stock market, which ironically has undermined the US' financial leadership and the dollar's global status.

However, the fact that attempts have also been made in the past to de-dollarize the global economy suggests it is difficult to change the global status of the dollar. And, as former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger said "who controls money controls the world."

Besides, the US will not sit idle when another currency threatens the dollar's hegemony. In fact, the US has been doing its utmost to maintain the

dollar's supremacy.

Take for example the fact that following the 2008 global financial crisis, the Fed struck a temporary dollar swap deal with the central banks of the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada and Switzerland, to help foreign banks to overcome the short-term dollar shortage and appropriately respond to the crisis. But instead of scrapping the short-term swap deal, the US turned it into a permanent arrangement under which the Fed could supply dollar bills to the five central banks at any time.

The US move is to ensure the dollar continues to play the pivotal role in the global financial markets and consolidate the greenback's status as the "lender of last resort".

In the past, other countries didn't make greater efforts to de-dollarize their economies because they feared their economic sufferings would increase if the dollar weakened any further. And even after realizing the US uses the dollar to maintain its financial hegemony, many countries feared the country whose currency replaces the dollar as the global reserve currency would start behaving like the US.

But now that countries and investors have started selling or swapping their dollar assets for assets in other currencies, the chances of the dollar depreciating and other currencies appreciating have grown.

However, a number of issues need to be addressed to develop a global reserve currency to rival or replace the US dollar, including building a strong credit backstop to increase that currency's usage and liquidity.

The latest wave of de-dollarization has made the trend of the global monetary system clearer. And only if most of the countries in the world recognize a currency as being capable of replacing the dollar, should it be accepted as the new global reserve currency.

The author is the dean of Hainan University Belt and Road Research Institute. Courtesy: China Daily

Indian troops martyred seventeen Kashmiris in September

APHC appeals to international community to play role in resolution of Kashmir dispute

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred 17 Kashmiris in the last month of September.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred 10 youth were killed in fake encounters. During the month, 7 youth were critically injured due to the use of brute force by Indian police and paramilitary personnel in the territory.

At least 140 civilians including religious leaders, youth and social and political activists were arrested and most of them were booked under black laws, Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The troops also destroyed four residential houses during 162 cordon and search operations in the month.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Indian brutalities cannot force the Kashmiris to surrender their just struggle for securing



their right to self-determination. He appealed to the international community to come forward in a big way and play its role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute to save the Kashmiris from the Indian wrath.

Meanwhile, the family of illegally detained APHC leader, Altaf Ahmed Shah, who has been diagnosed with cancer, has demanded his immediate release. Altaf Shah's daughter and

Kashmiri journalist, Ruwa Shah, in a tweet said her incarcerated father has been diagnosed with acute renal cancer which has metastasized and has spread to his other body parts including bones. She requested the Indian authorities on behalf of her entire family to allow them to see him and consider his bail application on health grounds. Altaf Ahmad Shah has been undergoing illegal detention at New

Delhi's infamous Tihar jail for the last over five years.

The occupation authorities have deployed Indian troops and police personnel in strength across IIOJK in the name of security measures ahead of Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah's visit, to the territory. Amit Shah is visiting IIOJK for two days from Tuesday. Indian troops conducted a massive cordon and search operation in several areas of Kathua district in the Jammu region.

On the other hand, hinting at victimization of its opponents in IIOJK, the Bharatiya Janata Party has said that National Conference President, Farooq Abdullah, will be in jail very soon. The BJP General Secretary in-charge of IIOJK chapter Sunil Sharma in an interview said the next Chief Minister of IIOJK will be from the saffron party. He claimed that while BJP will be in power in the occupied territory and Farooq Abdullah will be counting his losses sitting in jail.

Gunfire erupts again in Burkina Faso day after 2nd coup



OUAGADOUGOU: Gunshots rang out Saturday in Burkina Faso's capital amid signs of lingering tensions a day after a group of military officers overthrew the man who had seized power in a coup only nine months earlier.

Roads remained blocked off in Ouagadougou, where a helicopter could be heard flying overhead. An internal security analysis for the European Union seen by The Associated Press said there was "abnormal military movement" in the city.

As uncertainty prevailed Saturday, the international community condemned the ouster of Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who overthrew the country's democratically elected president in January. The African Union and the West African region bloc known as ECOWAS sharply criticized the developments.

"ECOWAS finds this new power grab inappropriate at a time when progress has been made," the bloc said, citing the recent agreement Damiba had made to return to constitutional order by July 2024.

After taking power, Damiba made promises to end the Islamic extremist violence that has forced 2 million people to flee their homes in Burkina Faso. But a group of officers led by Capt. Ibrahim Traore said Friday that Damiba had failed and so was being removed as interim president. The new junta leadership said it would commit "all fighting forces to refocus on the security issue and the restoration of the integrity of our territory."

But it remains to be seen whether the junta can turn around the crisis. Concerns already were mounting Saturday, though, that the latest political volatility would further distract the military and allow the jihadists to strengthen their grip on growing swaths of the once peaceful country.

Earlier this month, Damiba had addressed the nation and told the Burkinabe people that "our efforts have begun to bear fruit at the military operational level." Only two days later, a roadside bomb struck a military convoy in the north, killing at least 35 people.

This week, at least 11 soldiers were killed and 50 civilians went missing after gunmen attacked a supply convoy in Gaskinde, a commune in Soum province in the Sahel.

"Faced by the continually worsening security situation, we, the officers and junior officers of the national armed forces, were motivated to take action with the desire to protect the security and integrity of our country," said the Friday statement read by junta spokesman Capt. Kiswendida Farouk Azaria Sorgho.

Cuban PM to visit Cambodia next week

PHNOM PENH: Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz will pay an official visit to Cambodia from Oct. 4 to Oct. 6, where a number of bilateral documents are expected to be signed, the Cambodian foreign ministry said in a press statement on Saturday.



In Phnom Penh, Marrero will have a bilateral meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and then both leaders will preside over the signing ceremony of a number of documents covering bilateral cooperation in sports, education, culture as well as in other domains, the statement said.

The Cuban prime minister's visit "will reaffirm the long-standing and friendly relations between Cambodia and Cuba and underscores the need to further deepen and broaden cooperation for the greater benefits of the two countries and peoples," the statement said.

During the visit, Marrero will be granted a royal audience by Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni and will also pay courtesy calls on Senate President Samdech Say Chhum and National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin, it said.

Marrero's scheduled visit to Cambodia came just days after Hun Sen paid an official visit to Cuba from Sept. 23-25, where three memorandums of understanding on cooperation in the fields of health, education and diplomacy were inked.

Nigerian president vows to continue anti-corruption campaign

LAGOS: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari emphasized on Saturday the importance of continuing to fight corruption and preventing opportunities for corrupt practices in the country.

The president's remarks came while addressing the nation in a broadcast as part of activities to mark the nation's 62nd Independence Day on Saturday in Abuja, the nation's capital.

Referring to the achievements in anti-corruption during his presidential terms, Buhari said the progress was one step in the reform process, which he had vowed to continue.

"We strengthened the institutions for tackling corruption and also cultivated international support, which aided the repatriation of huge sums of money illegally kept outside the country," he said. According to the president, the increasing number of prosecutions and convictions, with associated refunds of large sums of money, is still ongoing.

Ukraine says Russians shell evacuation convoy, killing 20

KYIV: A senior Ukrainian official says Russian forces on Saturday shelled a civilian evacuation convoy in the country's northeast, killing 20 people. Bombardments have intensified as Moscow illegally annexed a swath of Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of the war.



Kharkiv region Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said the convoy was struck in the Kupiansky district, calling the attack on people who were trying to flee the area to avoid being shelled "cruelty that can't be justified."

Russian forces have not acknowledged or commented on the attack, apparently the second in two days to hit a humanitarian convoy. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region after a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive last month but continued to shell the area.

The attack comes at a pivotal moment in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. Facing a Ukrainian counteroffensive, Putin this week heightened threats of nuclear force and used his most aggressive, anti-Western rhetoric to date.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his military vowed to keep fighting to liberate the annexed regions and other Russian-occupied areas.

Ukrainian officials said Saturday that their forces

had surrounded thousands of Russian forces holding the strategic eastern city of Lyman, which is located in one of the four incorporated areas. Zelenskyy formally applied Friday for Ukraine to join NATO, increasing pressure on Western allies to help defend the country.

Also Saturday Ukraine's nuclear power provider said that Russian forces blindfolded and detained the head of Europe's largest nuclear plant. It appeared to be an attempt to secure

Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory.

Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.m. Friday, Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom said. That was just hours after Putin signed treaties to absorb Moscow-controlled Ukrainian territory into Russia, including the area around the nuclear plant.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov's car, blindfolded him and then took him to an undisclosed location.

Russia did not immediately acknowledge seizing the plant director. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which has staff at the plant, said it was aware of the reports of Murashov's capture, and had contacted Russian authorities for clarification on what happened.

Powerful earthquake shakes Indonesia's Sumatra



JAKARTA: A strong and shallow earthquake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island on Saturday, killing a resident, injuring 11 and damaging more than a dozen houses and buildings, police said.

The magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck about 40 kilometers (24.8 miles) northeast of Sibolga, a coastal city in North Sumatra province, according to the US Geological Survey. It was 13 kilometers (8 miles) deep.

The pre-dawn earthquake was followed by two 5.0 magnitude aftershocks.

A 62-year-old man died of a heart attack while fleeing to safety in Tarutung village, which is closest to the epicenter, said local police chief Johanson Sianturi. Eleven people have been injured and at least 15 houses and buildings damaged in the village, he said.

Authorities were still investigating the full extent of the damage.

A footage released by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency showed several residents evacuating an injured person by a van to a hospital while panicked voices cried for help. The agency also showed several people receiving treatment and walls cracked by the earthquake.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of more than 270 million people, is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

In February, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed at least 25 people and injured more than 460 in West Sumatra province. In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed more than 100 people and injured nearly 6,500 in West Sulawesi province.

A powerful Indian Ocean quake and tsunami in 2004 killed nearly 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.

UK train strikes and energy hikes add to a week of turmoil

LONDON: Trains in Britain all but ground to a halt Saturday as coordinated strikes by rail workers added to a week of turmoil caused by soaring energy prices and unfunded tax cuts that roiled financial markets.

Only about 11 percent of train services were expected to operate across the UK on Saturday, according to Network Rail. Unions said they called the latest in a series of one-day strikes to demand that wage increases keep pace with inflation that is expected to peak at around 11 percent this month.

Consumers were also hit with a jump in their energy bills Saturday as the fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine pushes gas and electricity prices higher. Household bills are expected to rise by about 20 percent,

even after the government stepped in to cap prices.

Prime Minister Liz Truss, who has been in office less than a month, cited the cost-of-living crisis as the reason she moved swiftly to introduce a controversial economic stimulus program, which includes 45 billion pounds (\$48 billion) of unfunded tax cuts.

Concern that the plans would push government debt to unsustainable levels sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar this week and forced the Bank of England to intervene in the bond market.

"We need to get things done in this country more quickly," Truss said in an unapologetic column for The Sun newspaper published Saturday. "So I am going to do things differ-

ently. It involves difficult decisions and does involve disruption in the short term."

Many workers aren't convinced.

Four labor unions have called three, 24-hour strikes over the next eight days, ensuring service disruptions for much of the week.

The timing is of particular concern for runners and fans trying to get to the capital for Sunday's London Marathon, with is expected to attract 42,000 competitors.

Mick Lynch, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union, said the strikes were designed to target the annual conference of Truss's Conservative Party, which begins Sunday in Birmingham, England.

"We don't want to incon-

venience the public, and we're really sorry that that's happening," Lynch said. "But the government has brought this dispute on. They (put) the challenges down to us, to cut our jobs, to cut our pensions and to cut our wages against inflation."

Lynch urged Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan to take "urgent steps to allow a negotiated settlement." The union said the latest figures showed railway bosses benefiting from government tax cuts.

As a result of the strike, there will be no service between London and major cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle on Saturday. Linger- ing disruptions are likely to effect service on Sunday morning as well.

North Korea conducts 4th round of missile tests in 1 week

SEOUL: North Korea on Saturday test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles, its neighbors said, the fourth round this week of weapons launches that prompted quick, strong condemnation from its rivals.

In an unusually strong rebuke of North Korea's weapons programs, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "obsession" with nuclear weapons is deepening the suffering of its own people, and warned of an "overwhelming response" from South Korea and U.S. militaries should such weapons be used.

"North Korea hasn't abandoned its obsession with nukes and missiles despite the persistent international objection in the past 30 years," Yoon said

during an Armed Forces Day ceremony at the military headquarters in central South Korea. "The development of nuclear weapons will plunge the lives of North Korean people in further pains."

"If North Korea attempts to use nukes, it'll face a resolute, overwhelming response by the South Korea-U.S. alliance and our military," Yoon said.

The North's testing spree this week is seen as a response to recent naval drills between South Korea and the United States and their other training that involved Japan. North Korea views such military exercises by the allies as an invasion rehearsal and argues they reveal U.S. and South Korea "double standards" because they brand the North's weapons

tests as provocation.

On Saturday, South Korea, Japanese and U.S. militaries said they detected the two North Korea missile launches. South Korea said the liftoffs occurred from North Korea's capital region.

According to South Korean and Japanese estimates, the missiles flew about 350-400 kilometers (220-250 miles) at a maximum altitude of 30-50 kilometers (20-30 miles) before they landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Toshiro Ino, Japan's vice defense minister, said the missiles showed "irregular" trajectory.

Some observers say the weapons' reported low and "irregular" trajectory suggest they were likely nuclear-capable, highly maneu-

verable missiles modeled after Russia's Iskander missile. They say North Korea has developed the Iskander-like weapon to defeat South Korean and U.S. missile defenses and strike key targets in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there.

The five other ballistic missiles fired by North Korea on three occasions this week show similar trajectories to the ones detected Saturday.

"The repeated ballistic missile firings by North Korea are a grave provocation that undermines peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the international community," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Ino called the launches "absolutely impermissible," adding that



four rounds of missile testing by North Korea in a week is "unprecedented." The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the launches highlight "the destabilizing impact" of North Korea's unlaw-

ful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.

On Friday, South Korea, the United States and Japan held their first trilateral anti-submarine drills in five years off the

Korean Peninsula's east coast. Earlier this week, South Korea and U.S. warships conducted bilateral exercises in the area for four days. Both military drills this week involved the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

The North Korean missile tests this week also bookended U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris' visit Thursday to South Korea, where she reaffirmed the United States' "ironclad" commitment to the security of its Asian allies.

Worries about North Korea's nuclear program have grown since the North last month adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in certain situations, a move that shows its escalatory nuclear doctrine.

Thar coalfield to use DMR communication solutions

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Thar Coalfield, the 16th-largest coal reserves in the world, will be equipped with cutting-edge communication technologies from Hytera, a leading global provider of professional communications technologies and solutions.

TECNO launches Camon 19 Pro Mondrian in Pakistan



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: TECNO Mobile- the leading smartphone manufacturer announces the launch of its newest multi-color-changing smartphone CAMON 19 Pro Mondrian in Pakistan. To catch the buzz over TECNO's new device, tech lovers and design enthusiasts have flocked to both online and offline shops. TECNO stirs the market by storm with the industry's first 64MP camera features equipped with RGBW + (G+P) technology for even better photography results. The award-winning Slimmest Bezel design is promising enough to enthrall its audience in Pakistan.

Camon 19 Pro Mondrian edition is inspired by the famous Dutch Painter, Piet Mondrian's abstract paintings. For its amazing design and style, the device has also received a Silver Award and a MUSE DESIGN AWARD. The CAMON 19 Pro Mondrian features Polychromatic isomer technology keeping loyal to its "Industry's First" and "Segment First" ideologies. The monochrome rear panel of a device can now reliably display various changing colors in the sunlight, creating a vivid "light chasing" effect. Camon 19 Mondrian is the fusion of innovation and technology.

TECNO ranks among the top smartphone brands in Pakistan, according to Kelvin Zeng, CEO of TECNO Mobile Pakistan, who commented on the successful launch of the camera-focused CAMON 19 Pro Mondrian. "With the most recent release of CAMON 19 Mondrian, we hope to continue raising the bar for technology and aesthetics by providing pro-level photographic features in a smartphone at a competitive cost and providing a light-chasing encounter with these color-changing features of Mondrian to satisfy the evolving customer demands."

Camon 19 Pro Mondrian will be available all across Pakistan in the offline market. You can buy this amazing handset online through Daraz with a complimentary TECNO branding bag at the price of Rs 51,999. Visit the official Facebook account for more news and updates.

Software Industry elects new CEC, nominates Zohaib Khan as Chairman

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: P@SHA-Pakistan Software House Association - went through their yearly elections and elected new board members to the Central Executive Committee (CEC). CEC unanimously nominated Muhammad Zohaib Khan from A2Z Creatorz as the Chairman P@SHA.



Newly elected members of the CEC include, Mohsin Ali (Inbox), Shahzad Shahid (TPS), Jamil Goheer (Virtual Force), Mudassar Malik (App Genni) and Azam Mughal (Secure Beans). CEC include 5 newly elected members every year; and, 5 elected members from previous year. New CEC has elected new office bearers of P@SHA including, Zohaib Khan (Chairman), Ali Ihsan (Sr. Vice Chairman), Khurram Rahat (Vice Chairman), Shahzad Shahid (Treasurer).

IT industry leaders, trade bodies and top governmental functionaries welcomed the new CEC and office bearers and have expressed their willingness to work together with IT companies and exporters under this dynamic and internationally renowned leadership.

Mr. Zohaib Khan has expressed his profound gratitude over this responsibility and shared his vision: "Take IT exports to USD 10 Billion in next 5 years. Work with Government to reintroduce tax holiday for the IT industry until 2030. Work with Government bodies like SECP, FBR, SBP to improve ease and cost of doing business. Build industry academia collaboration to promote high-end & market-based skills. Promote Make in Pakistan products and help scale globally."

Floods enhanced need for identifying ESG issues, risks: SECP Chairman

SECP requires listed Companies to have ESG policy in place

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Aamir Khan stated that the recent damage caused by floods in Pakistan, has enhanced the need for identifying Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) issues and risks due to climate change from a local perspective.

He was addressing the 20th Anniversary Celebration Event of CFA Society Pakistan. The subject was Pakistan Capital Markets 2002 - 2042. Former minister for Finance and Revenue Dr. Miftah Ismail Sahib, President CFA Society, Abdul Rehman Warraich, Advocacy Chair, CFA Society, Mohammad Shoaib and Ms. Sima Kamil, Deputy Governor, SBP were also present.

Aamir Khan said SECP considers sustain-



ability as a priority in its regulatory agenda. He told participants that the SECP, through consultation with all stakeholders, has proposed an ESG regulatory roadmap with key milestones for capital markets. Through Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019, based on comply or explain

approach, board of directors are required to have ESG policy in place and disclose implementation of ESG initiatives, he explained the ESG roadmap.

The SECP has also unveiled guidelines for the corporate sector to raise funds from the capital market to finance or refinance projects that contribute positively to the environment. All issuers who are eligible to issue debt securities, including sukuk either by way of public offer or private placement are eligible to issue green bonds while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory framework.

He pointed out that environmental, social and governance factors are gaining traction in the capital market, as investors are increasingly incorporating sustainability factors into their investment decisions. He hoped that these efforts will pave the way for promoting ESG

based investing, enhancing ESG disclosures and launch of ESG-based financial products and ESG based Index at Pakistan Stock Exchange in due course.

SECP supports initiatives that foster competition and inculcate ethical decision making, both internally and in our regulated sectors. The SECP, in the past three years, has introduced various reforms in local markets for promoting transparency, ensuring consistent regulatory actions, and leveraging technology. In achieving our goals, we are ensuring that our policies and decisions conform to values of Objectivity, Integrity and Equitability.

He applauded the efforts of CFA Society Pakistan for playing an effective role in raising awareness, capacity building and research in issues related to corporate governance, sustainability and ESG based investing.

BOP president highlights potential of blue economy

To meet Pakistan's external account challenges

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The launch ceremony of report "Pathways to a Sustainable Blue Economy: Role of Financial Institutions" organized jointly by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Bank of Punjab (BOP) was held at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. A round-table discussion was held which was led by Zafar Masud (President & CEO, BOP) and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri (Executive Director - SDPI).

Zafar Masud (President & CEO - BOP) stated that the enormous potential of the Blue Economy to contribute towards economic growth and improvements in livelihoods has not been fully realized by the policy makers of Pakistan and across the world. The maritime sector provides significant opportunity to meet the external financing requirement in short to medium term through raising funding through Green and Blue bonds on extremely attractive terms (vis a vis plain vanilla offering of Sukuks and Eurobonds), enhancing fish exports, offer-



ing coastal tourism, etc. Global sustainable bond market is estimated to be around US\$ 1 trillion. China and India have taken the lead in terms of issuance of global sustainable bond with over US\$ 12 billion raised by each of them hitherto. In India, the corporate sector raised nearly US\$ 10 billion through ESG and Green bonds in 2021. While Pakistan tasted success in its first green bond issuance in 2021, there is a need to develop a larger pipeline by identifying green assets and scaling up capacity to meet the international standards. Climate change and over-exploitation of our blue natural resources are extracting significant costs in terms of loss

to marine biodiversity.

He further said that the recent flooding could also be mitigated with proper and focused infrastructure investment in this area. The livelihoods of communities dependent on the blue resources are also being impacted, leading to rising unemployment and poverty. "Blue economy contributes 0.45% to GDP which is \$ 1 billion" he said, adding that Pakistan's maritime sector is confronted with governance issues, lack of technology, marine pollution, and destruction of mangroves. He pointed out that \$5 billion can be generated annually through coastal and marine tourism.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri (Exec-

utive Director - SDPI) said that blue economy has immense untapped potential which requires out-of-box solutions. "Only adding a port without a port city will not add anything substantial to the economy," he said and suggested that we must focus on rules and policies on trans-shipment and turning our ports into green and completely change the fate of these ports. He further proposed to develop marine tourism and reduce fossil-fuel based transport through in-land freight by adding sea liners and insurance covers in the sector something India has already achieved.

Kamran Farooq Ansari (Joint Secretary - Ministry of Maritime Affairs) said that post 18th amendment, maritime functions were dispersed to provinces, causing lack of consensus of policies and initiatives. He said the Ministry of Maritime Affairs is proactively devising policies to promote the sector. Emphasizing on amending the mercantile marine policies, he suggested offering incentives and tax exemptions to attract private sector investment in this sector.



Muhammad Abdus Shakoor, President Alkhidmat Foundation, receives a PKR 10 million cheque from Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, as a humble contribution from Jazz employees through the organization's matching grant initiative. This initiative is part of the PKR 1 billion pledge made by Jazz towards flood relief efforts.

Ahsan Bakhtawari takes charge as President ICCI



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has taken over charge as President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam as Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year 2022-23 during a ceremony held at Chamber House.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Zahid Maqbool, Nasir Qureshi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Baser Daud, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed and others were present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Bakhtawari said that taking over charge of ICCI Presidency was a great honor for him and he has come with a mission to serve the business community.

He vowed that he would work hard to promote the interests of traders and industrialists and take all possible measures to resolve their key issues.

He said that he would also work for the better development of markets,

industrial areas and the overall city.

Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik congratulated the newly elected President Ahsan Bakhtawari, Senior Vice President Faad Waheed and Vice President Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI assured that they would make all possible efforts to deliver up to the expectations of the business community.

He hoped that the new team would play an effective role in resolving the key issues of the business community.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI assured that they would make all possible efforts to deliver up to the expectations of the business community.

Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Nasir Qureshi, Zahid Maqbool, Baser Daud, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, and others congratulated the new Office Bearers of ICCI and assured them of their cooperation in the efforts to serve the cause of business community.

Paymob signs up with medIQ

To drive financial inclusion for payment acceptance.

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Paymob, the leading Omni channel payments gateway and financial technology enabler in the MENAP region, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with medIQ Smart Healthcare, Pakistan's first integrated virtual care platform to drive financial inclusion and lead the way for swift payment acceptance.

Smart healthcare is an opportunity that has a lot of potential in Pakistan, a country where the ratio of healthcare personnel to population is around 0.8 to 1000. While larger cities still have relatively better access to private healthcare, the challenge is in territories that are distant and not easily accessible due to lack of infrastructure and education.



the B2B virtual care platform, provides a highly customizable plug-and-play technology stack, custom-made health and life insurance plans, and an integrated OPD solution consisting of a comprehensive network of online pharmacies, online laboratory services and teleconsultations with general practitioners (GPs) and medical specialists.

Speaking at the occasion, Fawad Abdul Kader, Country

Manager Paymob said, "It is great to work with like-minded people and organisations which are using technology to extend the reach of necessary services to people without the limitation of proximity. Paymob is proud to support medIQ in partnering with them to support the cause and enabling their platforms with our unique and diverse collection options for accepting payments against the service-

es. Through this partnership, we are facilitating patients and healthcare professionals in order to uplift the entire ecosystem. We believe in democratising payments across Pakistan and we are thrilled to be able to partner on an issue that we deeply care about which is healthcare."

Dr. Saira Awan, CEO of MedIQ was quoted saying, "Healthcare access and financial inclusion go hand in hand. medIQ and Paymob's partnership will result in having access to useful and affordable financial services that meet their healthcare needs of medIQ's consumers - healthcare transactions, payments, credit and or even purchase of micro health insurance. We are on our journey together to make Pakistan healthy with financial wellness"

Female led Coworking Space

Workshack signs partnership with Garaj, Jazz Cloud

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's first female led Coworking Space 'Workshack' recently launched in Islamabad to accelerate women empowerment across the region. This coworking opportunity is created by the Managing Director Parvin Khudadad, a single mother and an educationist for more than 30 years, and the CEO Tooba Saad Khan, an active Board Member of Industrious Private Limited and Ex-HR Team Member at US Embassy Employees Association.

A range of amenities such as Free internet, Free tea & coffee, Electricity with backup, Day Care, Valet parking, TLA-R 3 Cloud Solution, Health Coverage up to Rs. 500,000 per annum per user, Corporate & b2b Solutions, Shuttle Service, Roof Top Cafeteria, Dedicated Cloud Support

Team and 24/7 surveillance & Security are housed within the space. While availing these facilities, women will find a networked community of other ambitious women with like-minded goals.

Reflecting upon the need of women empowerment, the Managing Director, Ms. Parvin Khudadad commented, "As a single independent mother, I could foresee that the restrictions associated with working women and the challenges they encounter won't be that simple. Therefore, I always wanted to create such a space for them where they could pursue their businesses and startups smoothly."

Emphasizing upon the significance of women development in Pakistani society, the CEO of foundation Ms. Tooba Saad Khan stated, "Being a mother of a toddler I always wished to start something of my own after my

baby. The strenuous work routine and time constraints led me to conceptualize the idea of a co working space where mothers and women like me could work stress free and have no barriers to entry."

Talking on the occasion at the opening ceremony, the Chief Business Officer of Jazz, Ali Naseer said "Jazz has partnered with Workshack to provide Garaj Services for the female-led startups involved in the co-working space. With organizations shifting to a more hybrid model, co-working spaces are able to provide extensive networking opportunities, fuel innovation and deliver a safe space for entrepreneurs where they are able to network, learn and boost their businesses."

Also present at the said ceremony and commenting on partnership with Workshack, Sardar AbuBakar,



The Chief Finance & Digital Officer and SEVP of Mobilink Microfinance Bank said "Ecstatic that Workshack is catering to the needs of female

entrepreneurs and budding startups through dedicated co-working spaces & business solutions. Really great focus, & innovation potential"

Pakistan take on England in T20I series decider

Cricket fans eagerly look forward to the intriguing match

LAHORE: The seventh and final Twenty20 International between Pakistan and England will be played today at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Even-match T20I series is drawn 3-3. The tourists won the previous match in Lahore by eight wickets with Phil Salt smashing a career-best 41-ball 88 runs net out.

The England opener Salt played a blistering innings laced with three sixes and 13 fours — the third fastest half-century by an England batter in the shorter format. Thanks to his daredevil showmanship, England accomplished a fast-track chase of a target of 170 in just 14.3 overs.

Salt's fireworks overshadowed Babar Azam's 59-ball 87 [not out] that took the home team to 169-6 and saw Pakistan captain equal India star Virat Kohli's



record of the fastest man to 3,000 runs in cricket's shortest format.

Cricket fans eagerly look forward to the intriguing match that concludes the

series in Lahore on Sunday.

Cricketeer Haider Ali was taken to a hospital immediately following the sixth game on Friday, according to a statement from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "Haider Ali is feeling unwell. He has a viral illness and is being taken to the hospital for further check-ups. He will stay overnight in the hospital," said the PCB in a statement.

Haider is the second player to fall ill after Naseem Shah, who is in isolation at his house.

On September 29, the PCB said the pacer contracted Coronavirus hours after the board confirmed that he had been diagnosed with pneumonia. On September 28, the Pakistan team's key fast bowler was admitted to a hospital. He later joined the national team at a local hotel after he was discharged from the hospital.

Bismah eyes momentum ahead of ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: After undergoing a 10-day camp at the Lahore Country Club, Muridke and three days of intense practice and preparations in Sylhet, Bangladesh, Pakistan are ready for action with their first match of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup taking place tomorrow against Malaysia at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS).

Bismah Maroof-led Pakistan are eager to showcase their talent, skill and temperament in the shortest format of the game. The seven-team tournament follows a round-robin format where each team will play the other once before the top four sides qualify for the semi-finals. The final of the tournament will be played on 15 October. Paki-



stan will take on defending champions and hosts Bangladesh on 3 October whereas the game against arch-rivals India is scheduled on 7 October.

Pakistan finished on the third spot in the last edition of ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2018-19. Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof: "The conditions here are the same as at home, the pitches will help the spinners. We

will try to make full use of the conditions and get our momentum going and start on a winning note.

"The tournament's format gives us a number of matches, providing us a great help to prepare for next year's ICC Women's World Cup.

"We are not going to take any team lightly and try to execute ourselves well to win tomorrow's match."

Right-handed batter Sidra Amin is included in

the side as an opener in place of out-of-form Iram Javed. Commenting on her inclusion in the side and pairing up with Muneeba Ali, Bismah said, "We have tried a new pair in the opening position, I hope Sidra performs, her runs at the top will give stability to the batting order which can contribute in the team's win."

The tournament matches will be broadcast live on PTV Sports. Toss for the Pakistan and Malaysia clash will take place tomorrow at 0730 PKT while the first ball will be bowled at 0800 PKT.

Squad: Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nida Dar, Omaidha Sohail, Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tuba Hasan.

PCB-BRB Group partnership for Pathway Programme unveiled

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board and BRB Group partnership for the PCB Pathway Programme was unveiled at the board's headquarters, the Gaddafi Stadium Lahore on Saturday.

Through this partnership, the BRB Group will sponsor monthly stipends of the 100 players involved in the PCB Pathway Programme. The partnership is aimed at supporting the PCB's initiative of providing financial comfort to the participants and their parents in the pursuit of their cricketing dreams. The stipend will be of great value to the players especially the ones hailing from underprivileged backgrounds all across the country.

PCB Chairman Ramiz



Raja: "The PCB Pathway Programme participants are being provided a life time opportunity of training with some of the best foreign coaches in a world-class high performance environment.

"These players will now showcase their talent at the Pakistan Junior League from next week. Through the PJJ platform and the partnership with BRB we are ensuring that the players and their parents get adequate financial help and

support.

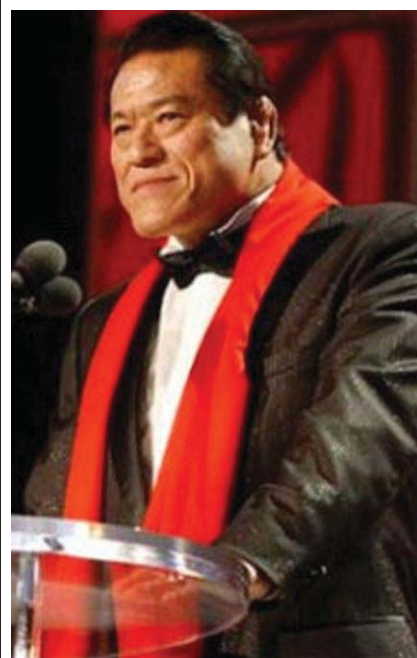
"Our partnership with BRB is a long term asset-building alliance. In the years ahead, these youngsters will represent Pakistan at the senior stage and compete with the best in the world. Their success will bring a lot of joy and satisfaction to the PCB, our fans and supporters of Pakistan cricket."

BRB Group Chairman Khawaja Bilal Azam: "The BRB Group is delighted

to associate with the PCB Pathway Programme. The programme is indeed a revolutionary concept that has the potential to shape the future of Pakistan cricket. We closely followed the progress of the first camp last month, we are very pleased with the way the programme is being run especially the involvement of world-class foreign coaches.

"This PCB Pathway Programme will bring great rewards to Pakistan cricket in the coming years as these players are set to serve us for a long time. Cricket unites the country and the team's success is often a morale booster for the entire nation. By contributing for the development of our future stars, we are making a long term commitment which is very exciting for the BRB Group."

Japan's famous wrestler Inoki dies aged 79



TOKYO: Muhammad Hussain Inoki, a Japanese professional wrestling star turned politician, who lost to Pakistan's Jhara in 1979 and was widely known for his match with Muhammad Ali, has died aged 79, after years of battling a rare disease, the company he founded said on Saturday.

Inoki became one of the biggest names on Japan's pro-wrestling's circuit in the 1960s. His fame went global in 1976 when he had a mixed martial arts match with boxing legend Muhammad Ali, billed as "the bout of the century".

The lantern-jawed, 6-foot-three-inch performer entered politics, winning a seat in the upper house of Japan's parliament in 1989.

He made headlines the next year going to Iraq during the Gulf War and intervening on behalf of Japanese hostages, who were subsequently released.

Inoki loved Pakistan and was attached to its people. He gained popularity in Pakistan after losing to Pakistani wrestler Jhara in 1979. After Jhara's death, Inoki supported the wrestler's nephew and brought him up in Japan under his supervision.

The famed wrestler believed in peace between Pakistan and India and wished to go for a peace walk at the Wagha Border.

Tributes to Inoki poured in across social media. The prime minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif expressed his condolences, saying that Inoki "mesmerised a whole generation". He also reminisced meeting the champion a decade ago.

Minister assures full support to Pakistan Hockey Federation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for interprovincial coordination (IPC) Ahsan-ur-Rehman Mazari has assured full support to Pakistan Hockey Federation in their endeavor to revive the national game and bring the green shirt on podium again.

He made these remarks while talking to the PHF Secretary General Syed Haider Hussain who called on him at his office in Islamabad.

He was accompanied by Olympian Nasir Ali. The Minister Said IPC will always stand behind the sincere effort of the PHF for the promotion of the game at the grassroots level he appreciated the idea of Pakistan Hockey League and hoped that when launched it will benefit the players, besides providing financial relief to the PHF. IPC Minister asked the PHF Secretary to submit a detail proposal to him so that measures could be taken in the interest of the game.

Earlier the PHF Secretary apprised the minister of his road map to involve the government and private institution to contribute their share in the uplift of the game haider hussain said the role of IPC and PSB is vital in promoting the sports culture in the country.

He also requested the IPC minister to depute PSB's national coach Rana Nasarullah for the national hockey camp which is in progress at Karachi for Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. haider said it was his desire to create three tier system of all national teams with focus on under 16. The meeting lasted for about an hour during which Haider also threw light on development and reviving hockey activities across Karachi.

Concluding ceremony of 6th Students Olympic Games today



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The concluding ceremony of 6th Students Olympics Games will be held today at 5.00 p.m at Pakistan Sports Board Coaching Centre, Karachi.

President, Pakistan Students Olympics Association, Maqbool Arain will be the chief guest on the occasion and give away the trophies, Medals and Certificates to the winning teams.

Women's Netball, Volleyball and Cricket competitions were ended.

Netball O Level Girls. Results:

1st Position: The City School PAF, 2nd Position: Habib Girls School and 3rd Position: The City School North Nazimabad. Netball A Level Girls. Results: 1st Position: Habib Girls School. 2nd Position: The City School PAF and 3rd Position: The City School North Nazimabad.

Cricket O Level Girls. Results: 1st Position: The City School DK Campus. 2nd Position: The City School PAF and 3rd Position: IUSS School.

Cricket A Level Girls. Results:

1st Position: The City School PAF. 2nd Position: The City School DK and 3rd Position: Whales College.

Volleyball O & A Level Girls. Results: 1st Position: Habib Girls School. 2nd Position: Habib Girls H.S School 3rd Position: Aga Khan H. S School.

Prize money announced for T20 World Cup 2022

ISLAMABAD: ICC have announced the prize money for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, with the title winners taking home a whopping \$US 1.6 million.

The ICC announced that the winning side at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Melbourne on November 13 would receive prize money of \$1.6 million, with the runners-up guaranteed half the amount.

At the end of the 16-team tournament that runs for nearly a month, the losing semi-finalists will each get \$400,000 from the \$5.6 million total prize pool.

The eight teams who exit at the Super 12 stage will receive \$70,000 each. Like last year at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, a win in each of the 30 games in the Super 12 phase will be worth \$40,000.

The eight teams that made it directly to the Super 12 phase are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa.

The other eight teams—Namibia, Sri Lanka, Netherlands, UAE in Group A and West Indies, Scotland, Ireland and Zimbabwe in Group B—are split into two groups of four and will play the first round. For any win in the first round, prize money of \$40,000 will be awarded, with the 12 matches amounting to \$480,000. The four teams knocked out in the first round will get \$40,000 each.



Australia stretch their lead at top of ICC Women's Team Rankings

DUBAI: Australia continue their domination in both ODIs and T20Is at the top of the ICC Women's Team Rankings after the annual update.

The gap between the top two sides in the MRF Tyres ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings continues to increase as Australia's lead over second-placed England has risen from 14 to 18 points. The new rankings reflect all series completed since October 2019, with those completed prior to October 2021 weighted at 50 per cent and subsequent series weighted at 100 per cent.

In the matches played in the last one year, Australia are undefeated in 14 matches, with 10 wins against their name and four ending without a result. En route, they have swept aside India, England, Pakistan and Ireland in a tri-series and ended on a high by bagging gold in the cricket event of the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

Australia have 299 rating points to their name while England are at 281. While the top four remain the same,



South Africa have leapfrogged West Indies to the fifth spot with 246 rating points.

Jersey has witnessed a meteoric rise in women's cricket lately and it reflects in

the rankings as well, as they jump from 28th to 22nd with a 14-point increase. Namibia have moved into the top 20 with a four-place climb from 21st to 17th.

Eight teams – China, Fiji, Japan,

Mali, Myanmar, Samoa, South Korea and Vanuatu – lose their rating since they have not played a game since October 2019. Four more teams – Indonesia, Mexico, Norway and PNG – failed to meet the requirement of having played minimum six matches. As a result, the number of ranked teams falls from 60 to 48.

The theme in the annual ODI rankings update was the same with Australia extending their domination. Their lead at the top increases from 48 to 51 points, the biggest lead any international men's or women's side has ever had in any form of the game.

In ODIs too, Australia have enjoyed an unbeaten record in the last 12 months. Their 100% win record in 12 games in that period includes a dominating ICC Women's Cricket World Cup win.

The gap between the top two might be massive but the fight for the second and third spot is heating up with only three points separating South Africa in second place from England, who are in third.