



KP govt facing financial constraints: Taimur Jhagra

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance Taimur Saleem Jhagra on Monday said that the provincial government was facing financial constraints as it had spent more than Rs 60 billion in the merged districts. Kamran Bangash said the KP government had effectively tackled financial matters even during Covid-19 situation and made record exports during the period.



Sindh CM reviews relief, rehabilitation activities in flood-hit areas

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Monday presided over a meeting on the disposal of flood and rainwater from cities, towns, and agricultural lands and directed the Irrigation department to ensure the draining out rainwater by the end of October so that displaced people could be sent back to their homes and lands could be prepared for sowing early and late varieties of Rabi crop. News on page 3

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 7, Tuesday, October 4, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 181

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Fiscal deficit contained at 0.3% of GDP

ISLAMABAD: The fiscal deficit during the first month of the current fiscal year (FY2022-23) has been contained at 0.3 percent against the deficit of 0.4 percent recorded during same month of last year, according to latest report of finance ministry.

The primary balance during July FY2023 posted a surplus of Rs 142 billion against the deficit of Rs 5 billion in July FY2022, says 'Economic Update and Outlook for September 2022' released by finance ministry here on Friday.

According to the report, the net federal revenues in July FY2023 increased by 9.3 percent to Rs 229 billion against Rs 209 billion in the same period last year while the total expenditures increased by only 3.7 percent to reach Rs 536 billion in July FY2023 compared to Rs 517 billion in the same month last year.

Within the total, current expenditures increased by 8.0 percent to Rs 531 billion in July FY2023 as compared to Rs 492 billion in the same period last year, it added.

According to the report, for FY2023, the fiscal deficit had been budgeted to reduce to 4.9 percent of GDP, while the primary balance is a surplus of Rs 153 billion.

The budget for FY2023 was prepared to achieve the goals of stabilizing economic growth, increasing revenues, rationalizing expenditures through prudent expenditure management, enhancing exports, and protecting the vulnerable segments of society through relief measures and pro-poor initiatives. However, the economy of Pakistan has been affected severely by widespread destruction brought by extreme flooding. Consequently, there will be a detrimental impact on the government's fiscal situation from both the revenue and expenditure sides, it adds. APP

Financial assistance

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting to review the payments of from cash assistance to flood affectees at Finance Division on Monday.



Photo: PID

For credibility, coordination

PM for designing 'world-class' flood relief dashboard

"We should design a dashboard which the whole nation should be proud of," PM Shehbaz tells officials

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to improve the flood relief digital dashboard by adding more required features believing that a dashboard of international standard would ensure better coordination among institutions and enhance country's credibility.

The prime minister, in a briefing on the dashboard being developed to provide real time information about the flood relief support and its usage, instructed to add more features like the weather alert and others to make it a "world class" platform containing all relevant information.

PM warns 'cipher manipulators' to face the law

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the manipulation of diplomatic cipher was equal to putting national security at stake and vowed that those involved would be held accountable before the law. The prime minister in strong criticism of the anti-State institution campaign launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan - whose recent audio leaks exposed his plot to play 'on the cipher, said that every person was equal before the law. "Being popular does not mean being exempt from the law. Law is equal for all," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office. PM Sharif stressed that the audio leaks of Imran Khan uncovered the truth about a serious conspiracy against the interests of Pakistan. "The thieves caught red-handed now struggle to evade the law by indulging in defamation of the State institutions," he said.

"We should design a dashboard which the whole nation should be proud of," said the prime minister who would formally inaugurate the facility on Monday.

The prime minister exemplified a dashboard on dengue outbreak by the Punjab government during his stint as chief minister, which he said had got

international recognition as it had contained all the relevant information like hotspots and the provided facilities.

He pointed out the shortcomings in the design and called for further improvements to enable it to meet the nation's needs and effectively reflect the coordinated efforts being made by the government for relief and rehabilitation

of the flood-stricken people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the flood relief dashboard must contain all the relevant information about every item where the relief items like quilts and baby food was sent and where it came from.

He said the government would provide all required support for development of the dashboard which should not be a makeshift arrangement rather a facility usable even for decades.

The prime minister said the government would hold a conference on Thursday inviting friendly countries and international organizations extending flood relief support to brief them about the latest situation and country's future needs.

Govt stands with flood victims: Dar

FM expresses concern on malpractices in payments to flood-hit people

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has expressed concern on the malpractices in payments to the flood-hit people, emphasizing that government stands with people in this hour of need and will utilize all available resources for rescue and assistance of the people.

He said this while chairing a meeting to review the payments of cash assistance to flood-hit masses in Islamabad, on Monday.

He stressed the SBP and HBL to redress the grievances of the people and take every possible step for the smooth and actual distribution of cash relief to the affectees.

The Finance Minister further directed to ensure

availability of cash at all the distribution points, resolution of cyber related issues to ensure timely payment of relief cash to flood affectees by strengthening cash distribution system.

Secretary BISP briefed the meeting that almost ninety per cent of beneficiaries have been paid cash assistance. The remaining beneficiaries will receive the payment within next five days. He further informed that there were a few complaints regarding malpractices in payment at ATMs.

Governor SBP and President HBL also updated the meeting on the situation and informed that a big volume of the relief cash has been distributed to the flood affectees.

Devastating floods

US supports Pakistan at this difficult time: Ambassador

Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome Monday said the United States had always stood with the people of Pakistan in times of devastation like the 2005 earthquake and was now supporting the country to come out of the difficult time due to unprecedented floods in its different parts.

Talking to the media after laying a wreath at the memorial of 2005 devastating earthquake at here at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), he said the US had provided substantial financial contribution to support the ongoing relief and reconstruction efforts in the flood-hit areas.

The ambassador, who is on

a visit to the AJK, said they were committed to strengthen educational facilities in Azad Kashmir. His country had also provided funds to the AJK government for renovating nine health facilities, he added.

Besides lay a wreath, Ambassador Blome planted a tree on the lawn of UAJK. Donald Blome, on his way from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad on Sunday, visited the historical Dak Banglo near Kohala - the rest house where Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had stayed while travelling to Srinagar in 1940.

The ambassador is scheduled to visit Bagh on Tuesday inaugurate the Head-Start School, established by the Medical Transcripts and Billing Company of the US.

No compromise on national interests: Marriyum

Says criminal investigation to be carried out into recent audio leaks of Imran

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said criminal investigation will be carried out into the recent audio leaks of PTI Chairman Imran Khan regarding diplomatic cipher.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, she said the responsibility to this effect has been entrusted to a committee of the FIA which will work without any political interference.

The Information Minister said the PTI Chairman has confessed his crime of playing with the cipher in the audio leaks. She said Imran Khan then in an interview also admitted that he has lost the copy of Cipher.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said it is not a political matter but that of the national interests and the constitution, and it will be dealt legally. She regretted that Imran



Khan compromised the national interests and violated the secrecy act for his political interests. She said this matter will be taken to logical conclusion.

She said the whole conspiracy and drama of Imran Khan stands exposed before the masses.

LHC orders to return Maryam's passport

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered to return Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz's passport on Monday.

A three-member bench headed by the Chief Justice of LHC resumed the hearing on the petition filed by Maryam Nawaz for her passport return on Monday.

In the petition, the PML-N leader has taken the stance that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has not filed the reference of Chaudhry Sugar Mills for 4 years, so the court should direct the registrar office to return her passport.

In the last hearing, the three-judge bench had sought reply from the respondents, while NAB had decided not to oppose Maryam's plea for passport return.

Meanwhile, the LHC accepted Maryam's plea and directed to return her passport in today's hearing.

IHC quashes contempt of court case against Imran Khan

Court expresses contentment over his conduct

ISLAMABAD: A five-member larger bench of Islamabad High Court - under Justice Athar Minallah has decided to quash the contempt of court case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan.

The IHC larger bench expressed contentment over Khan's conduct. During the proceeding on Monday, Justice Athar Minallah remarked Imran Khan proved his good intentions and went to apologize therefore the larger bench mutually decided to stop the investigation against him.

While announcing the verdict, the court discharged the contempt of court notice against Imran Khan.

On September 22, the indictment of Imran Khan had deferred by the IHC after he showed a willingness to apologize to the judge against whom he had passed comments.

However, on September 30, Khan appeared before the court unannounced to seek an apology from judge Zeba Chaudhry but she was herself on the leave. The PTI chairman urged the court reader to stay witness for his appearance in court to apologize to Judge Zeba.

After the proceedings, Imran Khan had an informal conversation inside the courtroom with the media. When a journalist asked Imran Khan about his strong networking skills, he replied, "A politician talks to everyone but will



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan leaving Islamabad High Court after attend his hearing for contempt case in IHC, in Federal Capital. PHOTO ONLINE

not talk to the criminals. The doors are always open for the negotiation."

The only case that is yet to be made against me is why I dip bread into tea, he quipped.

A journalist asked if he has been able to find the copy of the cypher that he had misplaced, and the former PM laughed it away.

On the question regarding telethon money, he said that the party start distributing it from Saturday.

On Monday, Islamabad authorities were preparing to enhance security at

the high court with the deployment of additional contingents of police and paramilitary forces expected.

Over 700 police personnel under two senior superintendents of police have been deployed around the court premises while the area will be monitored by the CCTV cameras. Inside the court premises, Rangers and FC personnel were being deployed.

Security officials have carried barricades using barbed wires. The anti-riot police force has also been put on standby. Agencies

Awareness

President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the representatives of various chambers of commerce and industry of Pakistan about breast cancer awareness campaign at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.



Photo: PID

LHC quashes money laundering case against Moonis Elahi

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday quashed a money laundering case filed against PML-Q leader Moonis Elahi in a victory for the allies of the PTI.

Justice Asjad Javed Gharal issued the verdict on Elahi's petition, seeking dismissal of a money laundering case filed against him by the FIA (Federal Investigation Agency).

Elahi's petition had said that the FIA's money laundering case against him was the result of "political engineering", as the government wanted to hold his media trial.

The NAB law supercedes all criminal laws and the bureau already gave Moonis a clean-chit in the cases, according to the petition. Earlier, a special (banking) court had summoned Moonis and others on October 11 in the money laundering case after the FIA filed a challan in that matter.

The case probe against Moonis under the Money Laundering Act began two years ago, as per the FIA.

The first information report (FIR) registered in this regard — quoting a report by the Sugar Commission — said that Moonis was allegedly involved in money laundering.

PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan tasked the FIA to investigate the sugar crisis throughout the country and find out who benefited from it.

Subsequently, a report by the agency released last year claimed that top PTI members as well as Moonis were among those who had allegedly gained from the sugar crisis in the country. Agencies

Kashmir Dispute

Pakistan asks India to quit state terrorism in IIOJK

The FO voices serious concern over deteriorating health of Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmed Shah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected Indian External Affairs Minister's highly "irresponsible and gratuitous" remarks made at Vadodara, India, insinuating Pakistan's so-called involvement in "international terrorism".

"Instead of leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan, India is well advised to abjure its policy of state terrorism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and against the Muslims in India," the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

The FO urged India to allow the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and as per their wishes.

"The Indian EAM's unfounded remarks are yet another manifestation of the Indian leaders' obsession to concoct facts with

respect to terrorism for misleading the international community and point fingers at neighbours in a bid to mask India's own well-known credentials as a state-sponsor of terrorism and a serial violator of human rights," it said.

"Nowhere is state terrorism more evident than in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), where over 900,000 Indian occupation forces continue to terrorize, torture, and torment innocent Kashmiris with impunity," the FO stressed. "The world is also aware of the 'saffron terror' orchestrated and unleashed by the BJP-RSS zealots against Muslims in India."

The Foreign Office said Pakistan's contribution to world peace, from successful counter-terrorism operations to our role in the global fight against terrorism, was widely acknowledged by the international community.

"Pakistan is the only country that has

stemmed the tide of terror directed against it from elements and states with inimical motives," the statement concluded. "In reality, India has been involved in supporting terrorism against Pakistan from its own territory and from other countries in the region."

India's mischievous campaign to masquerade as a 'victim' of terrorism and seek to hoodwink the world community by hypocritically leveling allegations against Pakistan is pathological. The spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian navy officer and RAW operative who was involved in planning, supporting, abetting and executing terrorist activities in Pakistan, remains a stark reminder of India's true face of a state sponsor of terrorism.

Pakistan calls upon the international community to hold India accountable for its patronage of terrorist entities and for instigating unrest in neighboring countries.

Govt, UN to launch joint flash appeal for Pakistan's flood affectees on Tuesday

Flash appeal for Pakistan's flood victims being responded positively: UN

ISLAMABAD: On the basis of an updated on-ground needs assessment of the floods situation in the country, an up-scaled Flash Appeal is being jointly launched by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations (UN) on Tuesday in Geneva.

The revised 2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan would be shared at the event.

Ministerial level participation from the government of Pakistan will include Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, attending the event in person in Geneva, and Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar participating virtually from Islamabad.

UN Under-Secretary-General for

Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths and Director General World Health Organization Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus will represent the UN, along with Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Julien Harnais.

The meeting will be attended by the United States Member States as well as various UN agencies and humanitarian organizations working in the area of disaster relief.

The Floods Response Plan has been prepared in close coordination between the government of Pakistan and the United Nations, and focuses on providing necessary assistance to the vulnerable people affected by the unprecedented floods. It complements the government's overall response to the recent climate-induced floods in Pakistan. APP

IK tried to isolate Pakistan internationally: Gilani

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and central leader Pakistan People's Party Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Monday that Imran Khan tried to isolate Pakistan from rest of the world.

While talking to media persons along with Chief of Pakistan Democratic Movement Moulana Fazal ur Rehman, at Jamia Qasim ul Aloom, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani recalled when he was prime minister, he used to receive ciphers. It is a routine matter, however Imran Khan played on this issue and tried to isolate Pakistan from the rest of the world. Describing his purpose to visit Qasim ul Aloom, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani remarked that he came to seek formal support from Moulana Fazal ur Rehman. Although, being chief of PDM, Moulana Fazal ur Rehman was supporting PDM's candidate Ali Musa Gillani in bye elections in NA 157. Responding to a question, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani observed that foreign funding case was very much clear. PTI concealed bank accounts. PTI always leveled allegations on others, however foreign funding proved against itself (PTI), said Gilani. APP

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 83 points

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 83.03 points, a positive change of 0.20 percent, closing at 41,211.70 against 41,128.67 points on the last working day.

A total of 185,369,288 shares were traded during the day compared to 205,699,969 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.9.382 billion against Rs.9.499 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 344 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 140 of them recorded gain and 181 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hub Power Company with 30,842,445 shares at Rs.75.15 per share, TRG Pak Ltd with 15,993,429 at Rs.129.58 and Habib Bank with 13,165,202 at Rs.68.19 per share.

Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs84.01 per share price, closing at Rs.1,233 whereas the runner up was Sapphire Textile with Rs 49 rise in per share price to Rs.1,149.

Sindh once again seeks postponement of LG polls

Polls have been earlier postponed due to floods, rains

KARACHI: The Sindh government Monday requested the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to once again postpone the local body polls, citing inadequate police resources to maintain the law and order situation in the province.

If the election commission decides to put off the polls, this will be the third time that the elections are postponed.

The second phase of the local body polls was originally scheduled to take place in July, but unprecedented rains and floods — that killed hundreds — hampered the commission's plans to hold the election.

In the letter to the ECP, the Sindh government said that the province's inspector-general provided a summary of police personnel deployed, citing a shortage of men for the election.

"The inspector-general of police has provided a summary of deployment along with shortfall details informing that for the said elections, the police force will have to be arranged from District and Interior Sindh along with auxiliaries to meet the shortfall," the letter mentioned.

"However, due to recent disastrous floods [these human resources are] engaged in flood relief operations and the maintenance of law and order situation due to damaged infrastructure and highways," it added.

In view of the shortage of manpower due to flood relief operations and enhanced patrolling in the affected portion of roads, the Sindh Police has expressed inability for the required assistance during the local body polls in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions, the letter said. Agencies

Minister lauds long-term cordial ties with China

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his office on Monday. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly welcomed Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, in Ministry of Economic Affairs today. Matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

The Minister Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the long-term cordial relationship that both countries share. We share a special relationship with China, that we don't share with any other nation in the world.

He expressed gratitude for all the support that China has given to Pakistan and still giving for rescue and relief



during floods catastrophe. Chinese Ambassador appreciated the brotherly relations between both nations. He stated that the Government of China is actively participating in providing rescue and relief assistance to Pakistan.

By 11th of Oct, all cargoes carrying flood related immediate relief items

will be arriving in Karachi. He further assured more assistance to be given in reconstruction and rehabilitation phase. While speaking on the Occasion, the Chinese Ambassador expressed the need for a positive projection of the Chinese contribution on Pakistan's Media.

We are not taking sides in Ukraine-Russia conflict: FM Bilawal

Bilawal highlights Pakistan's neutral position in Ukraine-Russia war

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reiterated Pakistan's position in the Ukraine-Russia war, asserting that "we would not be taking sides as we are sick and tired of wars and conflicts."

In a recent interview with Al Jazeera, the foreign minister was constantly being pestered by the interviewer for "avoiding the question regarding Pakistan's position in the international conflict" that has been the talk of the town since the February 24 invasion.

"The path to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy. I would advocate appeal to the parties involved to perceive dialogue and peace," Bilawal said, replying to the question thrown at him.

The interviewer irked the foreign minister by asserting that his reply "very much sounded like he was avoiding the question". In response, Bilawal immediately cut in by saying that he doesn't think he was avoiding the questions.

"I think I am entitled to my own position and that's exactly the attitude in the West at the moment actually,"

he maintained, adding that his position was in line with his country's stance on the issue.

He asserted that Pakistan was not taking sides in this conflict "we just got out of Afghanistan and literally just a month or few months before this [Ukraine-Russia] conflict broke out, the fall of Kabul happened."

"We are sick and tired of the 20 years of war and conflict. And we saw at the end of that how, ultimately, no matter what people thought, without asking us or the Afghans, the dialogue was started and it happened and, whether you like it or not, a conclusion was reached," he added.

The foreign minister said: "We suffered in that conflict not only in the form of 80,000 Pakistani lives lost, my mother also lost her life, and we have washed our hands of the whole situation."

"All I am saying is that what's happening in Ukraine right now; the Russians have their own perspective, the West has its own; whichever perspective you hold, this is surely not the appropriate time to be starting another world war."



Regarding the international laws, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions are concerned, Bilawal said that he "completely" supports them; however, he said that he would just like them to adopt the same line when it comes to the Kashmir issue as international laws and the UNSC resolutions have been violated and a host of international organisations are emphasising the deep violations of human rights there.

"Muslims not only within the Kashmir valley but all across India, the largest minority on Earth, are being prosecuted, so if we are expected to take positions on one issue, at least from the major stakeholders, there should be similar policy all the time and, therefore, it would be understandable for everyone to take consistent policies in a similar way."

"But if that's not happening, please allow us to focus on our own issues and problems as there is far too much devastation happening in Pakistan right now for me to be worried about." Agencies

Sindh CM reviews relief, rehabilitation activities in flood-hit areas

Directs to clear Indus Highway, Roshanabad Bridge for vehicular traffic

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Monday presided over a meeting on the disposal of flood and rainwater from cities, towns, and agricultural lands and directed the Irrigation department to ensure the draining out rainwater by the end of October so that displaced people could be sent back to their homes and lands could be prepared for sowing early and late varieties of Rabi crop.



"I am working day and night to ensure sowing of Rabi crops, particularly the wheat to avoid a famine-like situation next year for which everyone in the agriculture and irrigation departments has to be my helping hand," he said.

The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Brigadier Nayar of Engineering Corps Corps-5, Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh, Chief Engineer Irrigation Jamal, DG PDMA Salman Shah, and former chief engineer Zahid Shaikh. Those who attended the meeting through video link included Chief

Engineer Development-II Zarif Khoro, MD SIDA Pritam Das, and Chief Engineer Sukkur Sardar Shah. River Flood situation: Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro briefing the chief minister said that River Indus was flowing normally at Guddu, Sukkur, and Kotri Barrages.

He said that Manchhar Lake has also shown a reduction of water by 5.95 feet, from R.L 123.30 R.L to 117.35 R.L. Similarly, the level at Dadu-Moro Bridge has come down from R.L-130.40 to R.L 119.40 that showed a reduction of 11 feet. Mr. Shoro said that the water level has reduced along FP Bund ranging from 8.5 ft to 11.5 ft in the upper reach of Saifullah and Rice Canal Division, whereas 5 to 8 ft in the lower reach of

Southern Dadu Division. He further said that the water level along Suprio has also reduced about 6 to 7 ft. Reduction along MNV at RD-194 is about 4.2 ft, at RD 210 is about 3.5 ft and at RD-346 is about 11.4 ft.

During the online discussion, Zarif Iqbal Khoro, Chief engineer Development-II told the chief minister that water was receding from LBOD Spinal smoothly at about 1-2 decimals a day which would increase as time passed.

He further said that the speedy evacuation was taking place in Sanghar district as well as in Mirpurkhas apart from Taluka Jhudo which was dependent on further reduction in the Spinal drain at RD 295.

The CM Sindh directed that all measures should be taken to close the remnant part of a breach in Dhoro Puran across Jhudo city. The public representatives acknowledged the efforts taken by the Irrigation department in safely passing the flood waters. District-wise status of flood water posi-

tion: The chief minister was told that 58 percent of the flooded area of Kashmore has been cleared by 58 percent, Jacobabad 41 percent, Shikarpur 55 percent, Kambar-Shahdadkot 25 percent, Larkana 48 percent, Dadu 13 percent, Thatta 77 percent, Ghotki 75 percent, Suukkur 50 percent, Khairpur 46 percent, Naushehroferoze 48 percent, Shaheed Benazirabad 53 percent, Sanghar 65 percent, Umerkot 58 percent, Mirpurkhas 52 percent, Matiari 82 percent, Tando Allahyar 56 percent, Hyderabad 70 percent, Tando Allahyar 61 percent, Sujawal 53 percent and Badin 41 percent and Jamshoro is yet to be cleared.

The chief minister directed the irrigation department to clear the Roshanabad bridge, District Mirpurkhas within the next four days so that it could be used for vehicular traffic. He also directed the chief secretary to take NHA on board for clearing the Indus Highway at Toll Plaza.

Shah directed the Irrigation department to insert pipes under the road for the flow of water.

ACPK organizes grand musical concert to help flood victims



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A grand musical concert was organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi to help flood victims at the Karachi Gymkhana. Singers Asim Azhar, Young Stunners, Aima Baig, Natasha Baig, Ramees, and Jambrooz Band forced the participants to dance with their performance. A large number of people from Karachi participated in the concert. Arts Council Karachi President Muhammad Ahmad Shah and various personalities from different walks of life also enjoyed. Speaking to the media on this occasion, famous singer Asim Azhar said that the Arts Council Karachi has taken a wonderful step to help the flood victims, in which the artist community is fully supporting them. Everyone has to work together. It should be noted that all the income collected from the concert will be collected in the flood relief fund established by the Arts Council Karachi to help the flood victims.

NIC Karachi, The Asia Foundation launch 'Impact Collective' initiative



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: National Incubation Center Karachi, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, launched the 'Impact Collective'. The initiative is a consortium of organizations committed to initiating research and technology-driven dialogue to address the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues in Pakistan.

In the upcoming months, The Asia Foundation will award research grants to three members of the Impact Collective to conduct research on the environmental crisis that the country is currently facing. This research will guide the legislators, policymakers, public administrators, civil society activists, and ESG, sustainability, and CSR departments of corporate entities to develop policies and solutions to address the impending climate crisis that Pakistan is currently facing.

Atif Rais Khan, CEO, LMKT, while appreciating the strategic partnership between LMKT and The Asia Foundation, said that, "Climate change and its resulting calamities are a reality for the world in general and Pakistan in particular. It is the duty of every citizen, corporation, and innovation-driven enterprise to step up and help humanity get through these difficult times. Impact Collective is an effort to help build better processes and solutions to manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in Pakistan as well as other developing nations."

In his opening statement, Omar Abedin, Director of NIC Karachi, said that "Humanity is capable of achieving great feats. In the last few centuries, we have achieved feats that were considered impossible to achieve, and we can reverse and restore climate change too. We have the technology, the data, and the tools. What we need is the will and the mindset. I am hopeful that the impact pool will embed that will among the policymakers and citizens of Pakistan."

While explaining the purpose of establishing the Impact Collective, Haris Qayyum Khan, Director Strategy & Operations, Asia Foundation, said that, "Even though Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the global greenhouse gases that warm our planet, its geography makes it extremely vulnerable to climate change."

The country cannot change its geographical location, but it can develop policies, systems, and mindsets to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. We can accomplish this by conducting research and developing innovative solutions based on the findings of indigenous studies."

UN-Habitat Pakistan organizes seminar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UN-Habitat Pakistan organized a seminar to kick start the celebration of Urban October activities—World Habitat Day on 3rd October 2022 – on the theme 'Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind' – putting the spotlight on widening inequalities with respect to climate change impacts and sharing cost-effective technologies for the provision of clean water for every segment of the society, and addressing growing inequalities exacerbated by the 2022 floods crises in Pakistan.



The event was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan Council for Research on Water Resources, Water and Sanitation Agency, Shehersaz, National Disaster Risk Management Authority, Shehersaz and TMA Nowshera.

The event commenced

with a message from Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General in which it was highlighted that we need more urgent action and greater investments for innovative solutions to address inequalities to tackle the climate crisis and drive a green and inclusive pandemic recovery. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN Habitat, in her video message, emphasized on raising awareness about innovations that inspire all of us to push for immediate action.

Speaking at the seminar, Dr Muhammad Ashraf Chairman PCRWR remarked that habitat is the right of all living

beings. If we leave any segment of life behind there will be an aftermath for all in the form of urban flooding and heatwaves. Therefore there is a need to bridge the gap through ecosystem preservation.

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, UN-Habitat Programme Manager, Pakistan reiterated the need on bridging the widening gap for leaving no place and no one behind. The worth mentioning UN Habitat interventions include the Adaptation Fund project on urban flooding and drought management in Nowshera and Rawalpindi; development of the project for the

protection of coastal communities from the impact of sea level rise in Karachi, Sindh as well as an ongoing project in 76 Katchi Abadis in Karachi for uplifting the poor and vulnerable communities through climate-friendly intervention and provision of basic urban services like safe and clean drinking water and sanitation etc.

Ms. Almas Shakoor, Executive Director on the event emphasized that community engagement for bridging the gap is mandatory. Mr. Sadoon Basra, Director PCRWR explained the adaptation measures taken to reduce the flood impact on the community.

The discussions in the seminar were centered on the actions which needs to be taken for improving the quality of life every citizen. There is a need for transformative change which starts with the individual, with us as a community and with cities to scale things up.

PMAFK apologizes to Farooq Haider over unpleasant incident

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmiri Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has apologized to former

Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan for the unpleasant incident that occurred between Minister of Law and Tourism Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani and Raja Farooq Haider inside the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

In his audio message, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that he had tendered an apology to Raja Farooq Haider Khan over the phone, which he accepted. "Raja Farooq Haider Khan is a senior politician, I have always respected him from the core of my heart", the PM said.

The Prime Minister said that it was quite unfortunate an unpleasant incident took place in the Assembly that acerbated the congenial atmosphere of the house. The incident, he said, occurred in the spur of the moment and was not premeditated. "My entire team apologizes to Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan", he added.

The Prime Minister also urged the workers of PML-N and other political parties to show political magnanimity and play their role in normalizing the situation in the capital city.

TikTok reinforces commitment to safety with its Family Pairing feature

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: TikTok is continuing its efforts towards family safety with its unique Family Pairing feature, which allows parents and teens to customize their safety settings based on individual needs. With its #FamilyFirst initiative, TikTok aims to create awareness on how parents can use Family Pairing Feature to monitor activities on their teens' accounts including DMs, notifications, watch and download settings, forming an important part of TikTok's ongoing commitment to support and care for the safety of youths on the platform.



Family Pairing allows a parent to link their TikTok account to their teens and set controls including: Screen Time Management: Control how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day, with the option to choose between 40 to 120 minutes.

Restricted Mode: Limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate for all audiences. Even without Family Pairing enabled, parents can help their teen set Screen Time Management and Restricted Mode by visiting the app's Digital Wellbeing controls at any time.

Direct Messages: Restrict who can send messages to the connected account,

or turn off direct messaging completely. With user safety in mind, TikTok has many policies and controls in place for messaging already – for example, only approved followers can message each other, and TikTok does not allow images or videos to be sent in messages. TikTok also automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16.

Manage privacy and security settings: Parents can decide who can like or comment on their teens' videos, decide whether their account is private or public or whether their account can be recommended to others. Parents can also decide whether their teen can search for content, people, hashtags, or sounds.

TikTok has collaborated with some of Pakistan's most popular celebrities and creators who will be creating exciting content to amplify TikTok's endeavours around family safety, especially focus-

ing on its younger users aged between 13 and 19.

The embrace of platforms like TikTok is providing families with joint tools to express their creativity, share their stories, and show support for their communities. At the same time, they are often learning to navigate the digital landscape together and focused on ensuring a safe experience.

With families in mind, TikTok has taken a number of steps over the past year to improve and enhance its teams, policies, controls, and educational resources. The platform has made its policies more transparent and accessible, grown its trust and safety teams, built upon the resources in its Safety Center, also available in Urdu, and partnered with leading online safety organizations.

TikTok advanced its commitment to building for the safety of our users by introducing Family Pairing, which enhances the platform's suite of safety tools and complements its work to provide greater access to product features as users reach key milestones for digital literacy. It is part of TikTok's continued work toward providing parents better ability to guide their teens' online experience while allowing time to educate about online safety and digital citizenship.

NTDC installs 250MVA transformer at 500kV grid station New Multan



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Under the plan to enhance the transmission capacity of the system, the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully augmented 160 MVA (220/132 kV) with 250 MVA transformer at 500 kV grid station New Multan.

The transformer was energized on 01 Oct 2022. The NTDC spokesman said that a comprehensive plan for phase-wise removal of system constraints was chalked out to overcome overloading of the system, especially during summers.

This augmentation of the transformer will improve the loading capacity of the grid station & provide relief to MEPCO consumers. This is the second transformer that has been augmented at the same grid station.

The induction of new transformers will benefit the industrial, rural, and urban consumers of MEPCO. MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan appreciated the concerned project team and other allied departments for early completion of the project.

ASI martyred in Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A clash between two groups on the basis of a dispute took place in Karikot area of Wana sub-division of South Waziristan tribal district on Monday.

The information about which was given to the local police outpost in-charge, ASI Maroof Khan, immediately after receiving the information, the in-charge of the outpost, Maroof Khan along with his personnel reached the concerned area.

As soon as the police arrived, the two groups



confronted each other and started firing heavily at each other, causing a large number of casualties among the two groups, including women and children.

As they watched, Maroof Khan, who was in charge of the post to save people's lives

and to cease fire, was doing his duty without caring for his own life, and got stuck between the two groups.

In order to stop the exchange of fire by seeing the police, at the same time, two constables, including ASI Maruf, were injured by

the bullets, who were immediately taken to the hospital.

Where ASI Maroof Khan succumbed to his injuries. Later, the funeral prayer of martyred ASI Maroof Khan, in-charge of the checkpoint, was performed with full official honors at Police Line Wana.

A large number of police officers and officials including 131 Wing Commander Mr. Umar Anjum, DSP Headquarter Nadir Khan Wazir and DSP Sharifullah participated and prayed collectively for the elevation of the martyrs.

ACCA organizes moot on Rethinking a better world-Sustainable Growth



Our Correspondent

MULTAN: ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) hosted a large-scale corporate conference here in Multan today on the theme 'Rethinking a better world-Sustainable Growth for Pakistan' featuring country's top business and thought leaders and policy makers.

The conference provided a platform to region's key stakeholders and brightest minds to engage in interdisciplinary, forward-thinking conversations to propose an agenda to revitalize the private sector and kick start an era of sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

The conference was attended by many prominent names in the corporate sector, as well as leading policy makers and the members of the provincial cabinet. The guest of honour for the event was Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani-Senator/Former Prime Minister of Pakistan

Lt. Gen Tariq Khan - Vice Chancellor, National University of Security Sciences, Mohammad Ali Ibrahim - Head of Marketing and Communication, Mobilink Micro Finance Bank. Barrister Taimur Malik - Partner, Clyde & Co LLP and Anab Arshad -

Head of Institute, The Millennium Universal College were among the keynote speakers who shared their insights and proposed tips for organizations to become future-ready.

DigiKhata, EO Lahore, Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Multan, ICMAP, P@SHA, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) and Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) joined as Supporting Partners. Nutshell Group powered the conference as a Knowledge Partner.

Speaking at the conference, Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan shared his thoughts on Pakistan's path to a sustainable economy, "ACCA is committed to positively influencing governments, policy makers and regulators on sustainability matters including climate action and develop the profession in alignment with the SDGs. ACCA and ACCA members continue to contribute, collaborate and converge thought leaders to bring conversations that explore high impact actionable agendas to drive an inclusive, green and sustainable economic growth for Pakistan."



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:41 am
Zohr 11:57 am
Asr 4:08 pm
Maghrib 5:50 pm
Isha 7:13 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

Officers of Ministry of I&B, allied entities awarded certificates

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Twenty-five officers of different batches, from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its allied entities, here on Monday received certificates upon successfully completing weeklong capacity building courses held over the past one month.

Officers nominated by PEMRA, PBC, PTV, Audit Bureau of Circulation, APPC and PID attended the training sessions. The Capacity Building Courses were held in tandem with the 5th Domain Specific Training course for 34th MCMC. Irfan Ashraf Qazi was awarded the special shield and certificate on completing the month-long Domain Specific Course. Secretary Information and Broadcasting, Ms Shahera Shahid gave away certificates to the successful participants. In her brief remarks on the occasion, the Secretary said that special courses had been designed and conducted by the Information Service Academy (ISA) for capacity building of the officers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and its allied entities.

The courses were part of the Capacity Building Program under the PSDP FY 2022-23. She said officers from all the attached departments and sub-offices of the Ministry will be encouraged to undertake the capacity building courses in greater number in future, to keep themselves abreast of the latest trends in media development, use of IT, and campaign development using different media platforms especially social media. The Secretary I&B also called upon the trainee officers of the 49th CTP, currently receiving specialized training at the ISA to have focus on digital and social media usage.

Pakistan, Germany enjoy excellent ties: NA Speaker

Says Parliamentary diplomacy could further strengthen the existing bonds

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said that relations between Pakistan and Germany are based on shared democratic values and multifaceted corporations. "Parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation between National Assembly and German Parliament Bundestag could further strengthen the existing bonds" the speaker expressed these views while talking to Ambassador of Germany Alfred Grannas who called on him.

Speaker while highlighting the calamitous effects of climate change in Pakistan remarked that the recent flooding has submerged one-third of the country and left more than 33 million Pakistanis homeless, said a news release.

In this regard, the National Assembly of Pakistan has moved an emergency resolution in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Rwanda to underline the developed nations of the world to compensate for irreversible losses due to the climate crisis in developing countries like Pakistan.

The German Ambassador expressed solidarity with the flood affectees and assured support to the National Assembly's call for the global fund through IPU to tackle the climate crisis. Later on, the Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Per



Albert Isaas also called on Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. Various matters about bilateral cooperation, economic ties, and the recent flood situation in the country were discussed.

Speaker remarked that Pakistan considers Norway as its loyal friend and an economic partner and desires to further strengthen its existing bilateral relations.

He also accentuated the need to expand cooperation and interaction between the parliaments and parliamentarians of both the countries for exchange of knowledge and experiences.

He also said that the National Assembly of Pakistan being cognizant of the sufferings of the flood affectees has proposed an emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 145th IPU Conference in Rwanda that will highlight the plight of flood-affected people of Pakistan.

Speaker sought the support of Norway for Pakistan's call for the inclusion of the flood crisis on the emergency agenda at the conference. The Norwegian ambassador expressed grief over the unprecedented losses during the recent flooding in Pakistan.

He highlighted that more than 39,000 Pakistani diasporas in Norway have contributed greatly to the progress of the country. He also emphasized reviewing bilateral business concerns to make it more profitable for both sides. He also assured his country's support for the National Assembly's call for the global fund through IPU to tackle the climate catastrophe.

The meeting ended on a positive note with a commitment to continue cooperation on matters of mutual interest by addressing all impending issues.



ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker calls on Federal Secretary for Commerce Muhammad Sualah Ahmad Faruqi here on Monday.

Promotion of dialogue culture at university campuses urged



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad and QAU Alumni Association hosted reception in honour of newly appointed, Quaidian Vice Chancellors at Islamabad.

Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, he lauded contribution of QAU and its alumni for socio-economic development of Pakistan.

He congratulated newly appointed vice chancellors. He emphasised on promoting culture of dialogue, respect for democratic norms and inculcating values of peace, tolerance, responsible citizenship, harmony among the youth at university campuses.

The Chief Guest along with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor QAU and Mr. Murtaza Noor, Secretary General, QAU Alumni Association distributed the shield among the ambassadors and vice chancellors.

Dr. Iqbal Chaudhary Coordinator General COMSTECH Islamabad, Ambassador from Kazakhstan and Greece, Dr. Qasir Abbas, Vice Chancellor, University of Sargodha, Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice Chancellor Punjab University of Technology, Rasul, Prof. Dr. Gul Majid, Vice Chancellor, Islamia College University Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Vice Chancellor, LCWU Lahore, Dr. Anila Kamal, Vice Chancellor, Rawalpindi Women University, Dr. Hasan Pro-Vice Chancellor Muslim Youth University Islamabad, Dr. Sohaib Ahmed, Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Mr. Asif Noor, Dr. Ishtiaq Ali, Dr. Sohail Yousaf, Dr. Mariam Anees, Shabbir Hussain also attended the ceremony.

President condoles life loss in Indonesia stampede

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a stampede at a football ground in Indonesia that killed almost 125 people and injured 323 people.

The president said that he was deeply saddened by the tragedy and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Government and the people of Indonesia.

He said that the people and the Government of Pakistan shared the grief and sorrow of their Indonesian brethren in this difficult time.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for granting forbearance and patience to the families of the victims, and for the rapid and complete recovery of the injured.

ATP urges govt to ensure justice to poor people

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) Muhammad Faiq Shah urged the government to fulfil its duty and provide legal assistance to ensure justice to poor people. Shah stressed it is the duty of the government to provide complete and impartial legal assistance as justice is the only alternative to cruelty.

He noted politics, society and economy have been shattered owing to prevailing laws for rich and poor in the country. We want to remove this distinction forever, for which struggle is underway across the country, the ATP chief said. Faiq while chairing a meeting of review committee here at the party's central secretariat on Monday said hardworker, labours, farmers and poor people had sacrificed their lives for availing justice.

However, he said elites are continuously carrying out exploitation by imposing on people of the country. Shah went on to say that courts and bails, all of their imprisonment and difficulties have come in part from poor people. Foundation of such a political system has been laid down, which would obstruct the way of competent people to come forward, he remarked. Don't go far away, analysis should be conducted for the last 22 years, he said.

FTO distributes cheques of excess sales tax refunds to taxpayers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman said that the business community was the backbone of the economy and his institution was working as an advocate of taxpayers to provide them speedy, fair and cost free redressal of tax grievances.

He said that the mission of FTO was to deliver justice to the taxpayers at their doorsteps. He said this while addressing at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) a cheques distribution ceremony of excess sales tax refunds to the taxpayers in Suzuki Car cases in light of FTO's decision. He also congratulated Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI on their unopposed elec-



tion and announced to nominate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as Honorary Business Advisor of FTO for one year to act as a bridge between FTO and the business community for the facilitation of taxpayers.

Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah said that Pakistan Suzuki had charged 17% sales tax from purchasers at the time of car booking, but in the last budget, the sales tax on vehicles up to 1000 cc vehicles was reduced

to 12.5 percent. He said that on receipt of complaints from car purchasers, FTO dug out the data of Suzuki car purchasers and worked hard to provide refunds of 4.5% excess sales tax to 9500 car purchasers. He said that the FTO would continue to provide more relief to taxpayers. He urged that the business community should take maximum benefit of the services of FTO to get relief in tax grievances.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry lauded the efforts of FTO for providing speedy justice to taxpayers by addressing their tax complaints. He said that refunds of excess sales tax to the taxpayers in Suzuki car cases reflected the commitment of FTO to protect the interests of taxpayers. He assured that ICCI would work closely with the FTO to address the grievances of taxpayers.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President, Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President and Muhammad Shakeel Munir outgoing President ICCI also lauded the efforts of FTO in resolving the tax grievances of business community and hoped that close liaison between ICCI and FTO would provide more relief to taxpayers.

PAC organizes Islamic calligraphy exhibition

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized an Islamic Calligraphy exhibition in connection with Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatulil Alameen.

Political Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab, Arooj Raza Sayyami was the chief guest of the opening ceremony along with Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Human Development Fund Mr. Zafar Haider Jappa. While addressing the ceremony Arooj Raza Sayyami said that writing the Holy Quran is a great blessing from Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty gives the honor of writing the Holy Quran to those who are lucky.

The purpose of celebrat-



ing Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatulil Alameen under the Punjab government is to convince the West that how much we love Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). Our lives are not complete without the love of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). We need to follow the Sunnah of Prophet Muham-

ad (PBUH) for success in this world and the hereafter. Aftab Ahmad Khan has painted the Quranic verses on the canvas in a beautiful style, she added. The art works of the presidential award-winning artist Aftab Ahmad Khan (Late) have been placed in the exhibition.

Naheed Manzoor said that during prostration, a person is closest to Allah. During prostration, a person is in a spiritual state, where a person speaks his heart to Allah. Looking at today's exhibition, I feel a sense of spirituality. Behind every verse selected for Islamic calligraphy, there is a story.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that calligraphy is one of the oldest arts in the world. Arts Council is taking substantial steps to promote Islamic calligraphy. Islamic calligraphy classes are a link in this chain. A large number of people from different walks of life participated in the exhibition. The exhibition will continue till October 5.

President receives credentials from Ambassadors-designate

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Ali received the diplomatic credentials of the ambassadors designate of Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland, Zimbabwe & Senegal during a Presentation of Credentials Ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Ms Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Mr Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr Georg Steiner, Ambassador of Finland, Mr Hannu Ripatti, Non-Resident High Commissioner of Zimbabwe, Lt Gen (Retd) Martin Chedondo, and Non-Resident Ambassador of Senegal, Mr Saliou Niang Dieng, presented their credentials and also made separate calls on the President.

Talking to the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the President said that Pakistan desired to forge a long-term and multi-dimensional partnership with the Netherlands, especially in the fields

of trade, agriculture, investment, energy, culture, education and people-to-people contacts.

He added that the Netherlands had become the second largest export destination for Pakistani products in the European Union (EU) with a bilateral trade volume of USD 2.3 billion. He expressed the hope that the Netherlands would continue to extend its support for Pakistan's GSP plus.

Talking to the Ambassador of Denmark, the President said that Pakistan desired to further strengthen relations with Denmark in all spheres, especially in political, economic, trade, investment and defence fields. He proposed that Pakistani tech companies could offer their cost-effective and high-quality services and products to Denmark. He highlighted the importance of ease of travelling between the two countries for further improving the bilateral economic relations as well as people-to-people contacts.

Talking to the Ambassador of Switzerland, the President said that Paki-



stan highly valued its partnership with Switzerland in economy, trade and commerce as well as in the sphere of socio-economic development and humanitarian assistance.

He said that Swiss companies could invest in Pakistan's tourism sector which had great potential to attract tourism traffic from across the globe. He said Pakistan could learn from Switzerland's highly developed tourism and hospitality industry, besides benefiting from Swiss expertise to train Human Resource-

connected with the tourism industry. While talking to the Ambassador of Finland, the President urged the need to enhance interactions between the business communities as well as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries to fully achieve the potential of bilateral trade volume. He said that Pakistan would welcome Finnish expertise in the transport sector, including environmentally sustainable transport technologies.

Talking to the High Commissioner

of Zimbabwe, the President expressed Pakistan's desire to enhance cooperation in the agricultural, pharmaceutical and defence sectors. He also underlined the need for enhancing bilateral trade volume to its fullest potential.

Talking to the Ambassador of Senegal, the President said that Pakistan considered Senegal an important country in the West African region, and expressed satisfaction over the excellent state of relations between the two countries

During the meetings, the Presi-

dent emphasised the need for further strengthening the international partnerships for countering climate change and moving toward the goal of zero emission of greenhouse gases. He said that the international community should commit itself to help the most vulnerable countries, including Pakistan, to improve their capacity and resilience to mitigate the effects of climate change-induced disasters.

He briefed the envoys on the recent catastrophic super floods caused by the emission of greenhouse gases where Pakistan's contribution was less than 1% but it was facing the brunt of climate change in the form of unprecedented floods, forest fires, heat waves and droughts.

The President thanked the international community for its continued support for Pakistan during the recent floods and expressed the hope that the international community would further step up its contribution to relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit population and reconstruction of lost infrastructure.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No.11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

The emerging Biden doctrine and what it means for the world

Yossi Mekelberg

There is nothing like crisis and upheaval to focus the mind, and in less than two years of his presidency, Joe Biden has had more than his fair share of both.

He entered the White House in the middle of a pandemic, with his citizens at each other's throats, and his rallying of humanity to live up to the challenges of climate change faltering as rising tensions with China were singled out as the main challenge to US and global stability. On top of all that came Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February this year.

This is only part of a long list on a saturated agenda that demands not only immediate answers from his administration but also a response that goes beyond mere crisis management and instead calls for the development of a well-organized doctrine that defines America's place in the world and its mission. This is something that has been missing for a while.

In the early days of his presidency, Biden embarked on a diplomatic campaign to reassure NATO members and

European friends that the US was back and keen to resurrect close ties based on shared values, a campaign that remedied the constant, illogical and irrational rancor that had been shown toward them by his predecessor.

Russia's war on Ukraine provided a platform for Biden to translate his intentions into concrete policies and back them up with more than \$25 billion in aid to date. His address to the General Assembly set the stage for him to distinguish the US as defender of the UN charter, at the heart of which is the idea, and ideal, of global collective security.

However, the very fact that a permanent member of the Security Council is currently violating the sanctity of another country's sovereignty, and in doing so committing horrendous atrocities against the Ukrainian people, has inevitably led to questions about the viability of the UN as a mechanism for preserving peace, and especially the role of its Security Council.

It is no secret that this body — which was created in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War and given the task, at least in principle, of preventing future conflicts or stopping them when they do break out — has failed spectacularly.

This has mainly been due to its five permanent members operating within the paradigm of realpolitik in a context that was supposed to adhere to and advance the liberal-institutionalist perspective. The Security Council has failed to operate in the realm of world affairs in a way that accepts that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Instead its permanent members have been mainly preoccupied with consolidating alliances to serve their own national interests rather than subscribing to the UN charter's aim of collective security as the modus operandi in order to "maintain international peace and security."

Because of this, a major building block of the nascent Biden doctrine is reform of the UN, and the Security Council in particular, by expanding the latter to become more representative of the current international arena, rather than the way it was in 1945.

In a rather exceptional moment of self-introspection, America's president called for the permanent members of the Security Council, including the US, to refrain from the use of their power of veto "except in rare, extraordinary situations, to ensure that the council remains

credible and effective."

These are more noble than novel ideas, but creating additional permanent seats for countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as was suggested by Biden, is a step in the right direction toward a more inclusive international arena that provides a voice and influence to parts of the world that for much too long have been treated as no more than making up the numbers on the chessboard of great power rivalries.

While Russia's brutality in Ukraine inevitably demands that the world rally around to stop the old-style politics of a country using force to impose its will on a neighbor, the agenda that the Biden administration is promoting, and which was reflected in his General Assembly speech, is one that prioritizes US leadership on climate change, the current global economic and food crises, and the advancement of human development, all of which are issues which affect billions of people around the world.

This emergent Biden doctrine combines hard and soft power. It starts with moves to create a fairer and greener economy at home, working to enhance international cooperation with allies

and building bridges with rivals where cooperation is possible, and taking steps to deter those who threaten regional and world order.

The Biden administration's instincts are to embrace a global agenda in line with the UN's founding principles, adjusted to take account of 21st-century challenges and combined with a reformist drive.

However, for a new US global agenda to succeed will take much convincing of others, including friends, that America is ready to lead without dictating, to share power, and to demonstrate that it has internalized the idea that its self-interest is consistent with the security and prosperity of others that do not enjoy the same political, military and economic power.

There were enough hints of this in Biden's speech at the UN; now it is time for his administration to roll up its sleeves and articulate all of it in a clearly stated doctrine.

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

Exposing India's propaganda campaign

The allegations hurled by the external affairs minister of India regarding Pakistan's so-called involvement in international terrorism are not supported by any facts. India's baseless allegations are a reflection of their irresponsible and brutal behaviour in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The people of Kashmir are harassed on the name of cordon and search operations conducted by the Indian army. The Modi-led BJP government is following the Hindutva ideology and evidently is trying to suppress the Muslims in the region, to make them a minority by force. The Indian government should be forced to halt these atrocities against the Kashmiri people. International community must come forward to help grant the Kashmiris' their right to self-determination.

Fact of the matter is that India itself is involved in many acts of international terrorism. India used Afghan soil to destabilize Pakistan by promoting terrorism inside the country. India also used Iran to launch terrorist operations in Pakistan. It is not new propaganda of India. Rather, it has established many disinformation networks around the world which were exposed in EU Disinfo Lab reports. India has been involved in state terrorism in IIOJ&K by abusing Kashmiris and subjecting them to worst human rights violations. Pakistan at all international forums has been highlighting and exposing the nefarious face of India. Pakistan has always promoted peace in the region. But it is India that is acting as saboteur. International community acknowledges Pakistan's positive contributions toward world peace. India out of sheer frustration wants to tarnish the image of Pakistan. No other country except Pakistan has played its role in war against terrorism so effectively by sacrificing its people and infrastructure.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also presented the Kashmir issue quite effectively before the world at the recently held United Nations General Assembly session. The diplomats from other countries also agreed that this lingering issue between Pakistan and India has been creating tensions, and until it is resolved the peace and stability in the region is impossible. Our foreign office is in favor of talks to resolve this issue in a peaceful manner, but India on the other hand is not yet ready. Presently, the current Indian government does not seem interested in resolving the issue. Atrocities against the Muslims are increasing day by day in India but New Delhi government is looking toward the other side. Pakistan as always will continue to support Kashmiri people until their right of self-determination is achieved.

The statement given by the Pakistan's Foreign Office reflects the true narrative of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has always expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Pakistan will keep on raising its voice against the atrocities of Indian army and its government in the region, until their right of self-determination and freedom is achieved. Pakistan has been highlighting the Kashmir issue in front of the world and made it a matter of international interest. Pakistan and India can work together in diverse fields and can grow gradually through it. We have to work for the settlement of the Kashmir issue to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Sarmad Kashani: A merchant who became a saint

Asadullah Mahesar

Whenever, Sufi saints, poets sages, God-loving people, etc. obtain fame and strength among the masses then the rulers of that era do not acknowledge the famousness of these righteous people. Indeed, the Sufi saints publicly identify the unlawful deeds and exercises of rulers moreover, they criticize them and expose their eyes to reality. Hence, the rulers endeavour to execute the Sufi saints such as Mansoor al-Hallaj (d. 922 AD), Sufi Shah Inayat Shahed (d. 1718 AD), Makhdoom Abdul Rehman (d.1732AD), etc. by issuing the religious decree with the help of conservative religious leaders.

Sarmad Kashani was one of them who was assassinated on the charges of blasphemy by Aurangzeb's court. Kashani was the eminent Persian Sufi poet and God-loving man. He opened his eye in the abode of an Armenian Jew family at Kashan in the Iranian province of Isfahan in the year of 1590. He was by birth a Jew but later converted to Islam and became a Sufi saint of the Sub-continent. Sarmad was the poetic name of the saint as well as known as Mansoor e Saani (second Mansoor). Thus, when he reached the age of forty-four, he came to Thatta in 1634 for the purpose of trade during the period of Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor.

During the musical concert at Thatta, he found a beautiful young Sindhi Hindu singer named Abhay Chand, who was singing in the concert, at the first sight he fell in his love. Though, he started to go to concerts for his love and neglected for what purpose he had come here. His love too responded to him

and they began to live unitedly at Sarmad's abode. For this reason, the jealous people of Thatta could not bear the unity of love and lover and they jeered them, consequently the parents of Abhay detached his child from Sarmad. Though Sarmad rent his clothes in remembrance of his love and he never wore them again in his life.

It is said that in the Sufism "the Majazi Ishq" (love for God's creation) is sometimes road to "the Haqiqi Ishq" (love for God). Thus, the state of Sarmad was not too much distinctive in this matter. Then the Sufi poet shifted to Lahore along with Abhay Chand and remained there for thirty years. Afterward, he moved to Agra and finally migrated to Delhi to his last destination in 1657. From here his fame and followers enlarged and he publicly taunted the religious orthodox in this way, "Evil grows up in the shadow of great mosques". Due to his famousness and kindness towards the people Dara Shikoh, a favourite son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, was attracted to his circle and became his disciple.

Thereafter the assassination of Dara Shikoh in 1659 by Aurangzeb, so Aurangzeb attempted to exterminate all the close mates of Dara Shikoh because he felt worried about their resistance. Alike, Sarmad was one of their close friends of Dara and he did not use to wear clothes and was naked among his admirers. Aurangzeb's council of Ulema led by Abdul Wahab stated to Sarmad to hide his nudity but he denied it. Therefore, the nakedness of Sarmad could not be an appropriate reason to execute him. Once a time Aurangzeb met Sarmad outside of Jama (great) mosque Delhi while going to perform the Friday prayer. When Aurangzeb uttered Sarmad to hide the nakedness then

Sarmad replied to the emperor to bring the blanket when the emperor got it Sarmad said, "Should I conceal my nakedness or your sin".

Furthermore, Sarmad had an ideological clash with the religious Ulema regarding the Miraj, the Miraculous Night. Journey of Prophet (PBUH). Ulema say Prophet (PBUH) travelled to the heavens however, Sarmad says, the heavens were inside the Prophet (PBUH). Another conflict between Ulema and Sarmad was the recitation of 'Kalima Tayyaiba' (word of purity) on which basis Sarmad was executed. Sarmad recited the first two words of Kalima "La Ilaha" (there is no God) and did not complete it. When the council of Ulema inquired about this, Sarmad said, "I am at the stage of negation and have not reached the position of yes. If I will read the complete phrase, then it will be a lie". Then the council of Ulema adjudicated the judicial decree that if Sarmad did not atonement then it would be declared heresy.

Therefore, the nakedness of Sarmad could not be suited for his execution but the Kufur or heresy had been fitted to exterminate him. Subsequently, people implored the saint to read the full Kalima as his life could be saved from execution, but the naked saint did not recite the whole Kalima and was executed in front of Jama Mosque Delhi in 1661. He was martyred in a very cruel and inhuman way and his cut-off head was buried on the ladder of the Jama Mosque. He was buried near the Jama Mosque Delhi at the grave of his spiritual master Hare Bhare Shah. It is articulated that his cut head recited the complete Kalima.

The author is graduated from NIPS, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He can be reached at aliasad326@gmail.com

How can parents & teachers help children to stay safe online?

Muhammad Farooq

Islam is a complete code of life, its guidelines are beneficial not only for Muslims but for the whole mankind. Islam has declared modesty as a part of faith and strictly discourages nudity and immorality. Technology continues to infiltrate more parts of our lives. It is important to highlight that many of the 83 million internet users in Pakistan are young people who can fall prey to harmful online content — which may lead to social/immoral issues and even involvement in serious crimes at later stage.

It starts with searching for indecent/immoral online content and may lead to the young person committing unlawful acts and indulging in heinous cybercrimes. The number of such youngsters are increasing day by day and if not controlled, it may have devastating impact on our society at large.

In this technological era, we cannot deprive young people & children from using internet/social media however, we can certainly guide them about the risks associated with online activities. Online risks vary by age, gender and country to country. However, searching/viewing sexual content may be the most dangerous online hazard being faced by our youngsters which can incite them to other immoral crimes. To mitigate the risk, parents need to communicate and discuss with their children about such online content. They must also talk to them about cyberbullying, predators, inappropriate online content and associated legal consequences. For deterrence, youngsters must be made aware about prevailing internet laws of Pakistan which includes Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 and (ii) Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards), Rule 2021 to avoid initiation of penal consequences.

Some guidelines designed for parents/guardians to minimize online risks for their children have been summarized and listed below:

Always spare time for your kids. Treat your childlike

a friend and always keep communication channels open so that they may freely share any threat being faced over internet/social media.

Always convey potential online hazards to your children and how to avoid associated risks for example: do not interact with strangers, don't disclose personal information to any one, don't allow strangers into your group/page, don't follow their instructions etc.

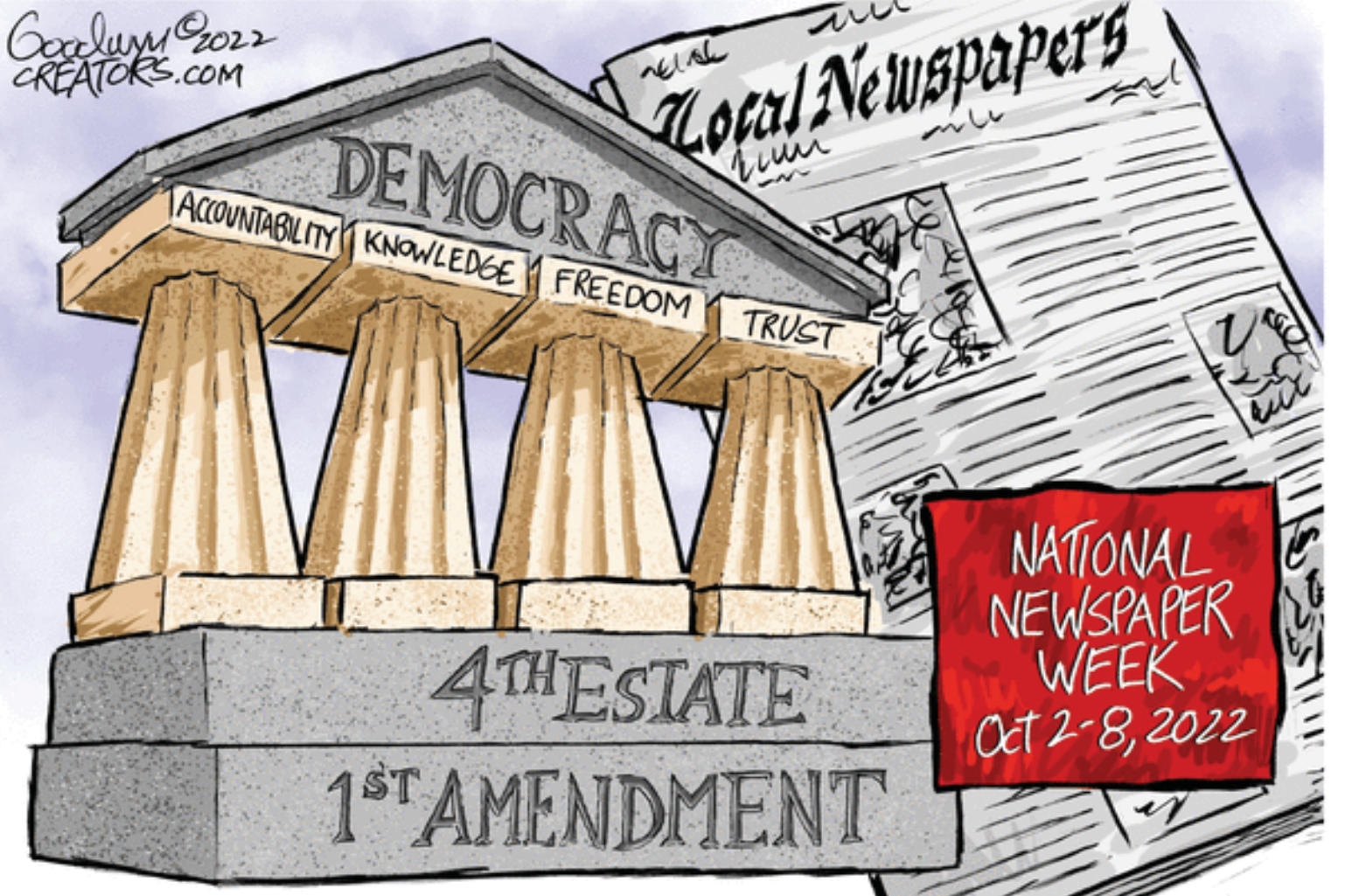
Use parental control software to set controls over IT devices as per age requirement like set watch time, allow only appropriate applications, access to history etc. A list of parental control software is also available on PTA website (on home page under "quick link") or directly download from: (https://pta.gov.pk/assets/media/internet_parental_control_software_list_13032020.pdf).

Try to always place the computer in an open space so you can keep an eye on their online activities.

Encourage and provide opportunity for physical activities to your kids instead of merely letting them play online video games especially games which have violent imagery. Excessive use of such games may have a negative impact on kids' personality and health, when kids have greater exposure to violence they may imitate the violence they see and show aggressive behavior while interacting with others kids of same age group.

Additionally, users can report prohibited content to concerned Social Media Platform(s) or to PTA so as to ensure its quick removal to mitigate associated risks especially in defamation cases. PTA has devised a user friendly Complaint Management System (CMS) for instant lodging of complaint at <https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/registercomplaint.aspx> or install PTA CMS mobile app (available on Android & iOS). Users can also email at: content-complaint@pta.gov.pk or file a complaint on Prime Minister Citizen's Portal (PM Portal).

With meaningful discussions and mutual coordinated efforts, we can prevent our children from online risks and help them navigate the online space in a secure way.



Ukraine claws back more territory in southern Kherson region

Kherson is one of the four regions annexed by Moscow last week

KYIV: Ukrainian forces have broken through Moscow's defenses in the strategic southern Kherson region, the Russian military acknowledged Monday, an achievement that delivers a sharp blow to one of the four areas in Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed last week.

Russia's Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in his daily briefing that "with superior tank units in the direction of Zolotaya Balka, Aleksandrova, the enemy managed to penetrate into the depths of our defense." Konashenkov added that "Russian troops have occupied a prepared defensive line and continue to inflict massive fire damage" on Kyiv's forces.

Kherson is one of the four regions illegally annexed by Moscow last week after a hasty "referendum" orchestrated by the Kremlin that Western nations have derided as a sham vote at gunpoint. Kherson has been one of the toughest battlefields for the Ukrainians, with slower progress when compared with Ukraine's breakout offensive in the northeast around the country's second-largest city of Kharkiv that



began last month.

As the front lines shifted, the political theater in Moscow continued. Russia's lower house of parliament on Monday quickly rubber-stamped an endorsement of the treaties for four regions of Ukraine to join Russia, a move that will be followed by the upper house on Tuesday.

Still, Russian officials and lawmakers gave conflicting signals on exactly what areas are being incorporated.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said before the vote Monday that two

regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, are joining Russia with the same administrative borders that existed before a conflict erupted there in 2014 between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces. But he noted that the issue of the borders of the two other regions — Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — remains open.

"We will continue to discuss that with residents of those regions," Peskov told reporters, without elaborating.

Putin's land grab has threatened to push the conflict to a dangerous new

level. It also prompted Ukraine to formally apply for fast-track NATO membership.

On the battlefield, Ukrainian media outlets on Monday highlighted an image of Ukrainian troops displaying flags at a marker for the village of Khreshchenivka, which is in the same area of Kherson where Ukrainian troops apparently have broken through Russian lines.

Ukraine's presidential official said Russian authorities have restricted people from leaving the city of Kherson, introducing special permits for those who want to go.

Ukraine has pressed its counter-offensive in the Kherson region since the summer, relentlessly pummeling Russian supply lines and making inroads into the areas west of the Dnieper River held by the Russians.

The Ukrainian military has successfully used U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to repeatedly hit the main bridge across the Dnieper in the city of Kherson and a dam that served as a second main crossing. It also has struck pontoon bridges that Russia has used to supply its troops on the western bank of the river.

Egyptian scholars win prestigious award for energy research

ROME: Two young Egyptian scholars have been honored with a prestigious Eni Award for their work related to research and technological innovation in the energy sector.

Yousif Adam, of The American University in Cairo, and Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim Moustafa Ibrahim, of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, were presented with their prizes by Italian President Sergio Mattarella at a ceremony at Quirinal Palace in Rome.

They were both recognized in the Young Talents from Africa category. Established in 2007 by the Italian energy company from which they take their name, the Eni Awards are considered an international benchmark for research in energy and the environment.

The aim of the prizes is to promote better use of energy sources and to stimulate the work of new generations of researchers. Adam's work was related to sustainable wastewater management in Africa, while Ibrahim proposed a thesis on improving the accuracy of solar energy prediction.

Afghanistan classroom bombing death toll jumps to 53

KABUL: At least 46 girls and young women were among 53 people killed in a suicide attack on an education center in the Afghan capital last week, the United Nations said Monday.

"Fifty three killed, at least 46 girls & young women," the United Nations mission in Afghanistan said on Twitter, adding that another 110 people were injured in the bombing on Friday.

The death toll previously stood at 43. The bomber detonated as hundreds of students were sitting a practice test ahead of an entrance exam for university admissions. No group has so far claimed responsibility.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan last year brought an end to a two-decade war against the Western-backed government, and led to a significant reduction in violence, but security has begun to deteriorate in recent months. Friday's attack triggered sporadic women-led protests in Kabul and some other cities.

Around 50 women chanted, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite," as they marched on Saturday in Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood where the attack happened. The rallies have been dispersed by Taliban forces often firing shots into the air and beating protesters.

Philippines, U.S. kick off joint military drills

MANILA: Over 3,000 Philippine and U.S. troops on Monday kicked off a series of joint military drills to sharpen their "interoperability in conducting combined tactical readiness."

Acting Philippine Navy chief Rear Admiral Bernard Valencia said 630 Philippine troops, mainly from the marines, and 2,550 U.S. marine soldiers are participating in the 12-day annual exercises, dubbed KAMANDAG 6. Japanese and South Korean troops are taking part as observers, he added.

This year's exercise, running at various training sites in Metro Manila, throughout the main Luzon island and in Palawan province, will focus on "curbing transnational crime, counter-terrorism, and performing other non-traditional security roles," Valencia said at the opening ceremony.

Rear Admiral Derek Trinque, exercise director on the U.S. side, said coastal defense, amphibious operations and live-fire training will be included in this year's exercises.

Lebanon launches new UN-supported plan to reboot economy

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Ministry of Economy and Trade launched Monday a UN-supported plan to reboot the country's ailing economy.

The plan, with support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), identified short-term actions in three key sectors, namely agribusiness, tourism, and the digital economy, to "initiate recovery by rapidly generating employment opportunities and additional income," said an ESCWA statement.

"Amid this challenging situation, we are looking to light a candle of hope. The plan presented today is subject to development, improvement, and feedback. Still, most importantly, it is feasible," Lebanese Minister of Economy and Trade Amin Salam said at the project's launching ceremony.

ESCWA Executive Secretary Rola Dashti said that ESCWA would support the ministry in conducting analysis, developing key performance indicators (KPIs), engaging with stakeholders, and communicating strategically about the plan.

"Although fundamental reforms are crucial, the Lebanese people do not have the luxury to wait for longer-term results; they need quick wins," she added. According to ESCWA, the country's GDP shrunk by 25 percent in 2020 and 16.2 percent in 2021. However, it projects positive growth for Lebanon in 2022.

Swede Paabo wins Nobel Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM: Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal and discovered the previously unknown hominin Denisova, on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize.

"By revealing genetic differences that distinguish all living humans from extinct hominins, his discoveries provide the basis for exploring what makes us uniquely human," the Nobel committee said in a statement.

Paabo, director of the department of genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago.

"This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections," the jury said.

Kashmir Council Europe demands early release of Yasin Malik

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Chairman Ali Raza Syed has asked international community including European Union (EU) to use their good offices for early and unconditional release of prominent Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik.

In a statement from Brussels, Ali Raza Syed said, Yasin Malik has been in jail for last three years on false charges and now Indian authorities want to strictly sentence him on the fake old allegations. Life of Malik is in danger and under the unjust judicial trial, he can be given capital punishment as Maqbool Butt and Afzal Gori had faces unfair trial before.

It is important to mention that an Indian court will hear on May 19 the arguments regarding quantum of sentence for offences levelled against Yasin Malik including terrorist acts and conspiracy to commit terror-



ist acts, in which according to some experts, the maximum punishment might be life imprisonment.

Ali Raza Syed also wrote a letter to the European Union authorities including Charles Michel, the President of European Council, Ursula Von Der Leyen, President of European Commission, Josep Borrell, High Representative of EU and David McAllister, the Chair of Committee of Foreign Affairs of EU parliament.

In his letter, Ali Raza Syed asked the European Authorities to use their good office

to pressurize India for early and unconditional release of Yasin Malik.

Chair of KC-EU also called for unconditional release of rights activists including Khurram Parvez and Mohammad Ahsan Unto, Journalists Sajjad Gul and Fahad Shah and as well as the political activists detained in the Indian prison.

These Kashmiri figures remain in detention under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in one of the most overcrowded and unsanitary prisons in

the country for raising rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir.

KC-EU has already launched a campaign in Europe for release of the prisoners a few weeks ago. For a first step of the move, members of KC-EU holding pictures of the Khurram Parvez, Mohammad Ahsan Unto, Sajjad Gul and Fahad Shah stood for a while in front of main gate the European parliament.

Ali Raza Syed said, these figures are detained because they always helped the people of Kashmir in raising their voices against the Indian brutality in occupied Kashmir particularly they highlighted the terrible incidents of Indian state terrorism in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, India can not achieve its evil objectives including concealing war crimes and inhuman acts in occupied land of Jammu and Kashmir.

Top Al-Shabab leader killed in joint operation: Somalia govt

MOGADISHU: The Somali government announced on Monday a top Al-Shabab militant, who had a \$3.0-million US bounty on his head, had been killed in a joint air strike in southern Somalia.

The drone strike on October 1, launched by the Somali army and international security partners, killed Abdullahi Yare near the coastal town of Haramka, the ministry of information said in a statement dated Sunday but posted online on Monday. "This leader... was the head preacher of the group and one of the most notorious members of the Shabab group," it said.

"He was former head of the Shoura council and the

group's director for finances," the ministry said, referring to a powerful consultation body within Al-Shabab. A co-founder of the Al-Qaeda-linked group, Yare was believed to be next in line to take over the leadership of the movement from its ailing chief Ahmed Diriye, according to the ministry.

"His elimination is like a thorn removed from Somalia as a nation," the ministry said.

Yare was one of seven leaders named by the United States on its most-wanted list in 2012. Washington offered three million dollars for his capture. The announcement of the strike comes weeks after Somalia's recently elected President

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud vowed to stage all-out war on the jihadists, following a string of deadly attacks. They include a 30-hour hotel siege in the capital, Mogadishu, that killed 21 people.

Mohamud last month urged citizens to stay away from areas controlled by Al-Shabab as he vowed to ratchet up offensives against the militants.

US forces have in the past partnered with African Union soldiers and Somali troops in counterterrorism operations, and have conducted frequent raids and drone strikes on Al-Shabab training camps throughout Somalia.

Last month, the US military said it had killed 27

jihadist fighters in an air strike near Bulbarde, the main town on the road linking Mogadishu to Beledweyne, a key city on the border with Ethiopia. It said the air strike was carried out "at the request" of the Somali government.

Al-Shabab, which espouses a strict version of sharia or Islamic law, has waged a bloody insurrection against the Mogadishu government for 15 years and remains a potent force despite an African Union operation against the group.

Its fighters were ousted from the capital in 2011 but continue to stage attacks on military, government and civilian targets.

APHC calls for strike on Amit Shah's visit to IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called upon Kashmiris to observe a complete shutdown on October 5 against Hindutva leader and Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the occupied territory.

Call for the strike has been given by the APHC spokesman and supported by other parties and leaders to convey a message that they reject India's illegal hold of their homeland.

The APHC spokesman in a statement in Srinagar said that road or so-called projects were not important for the Kashmiris, instead they want the settlement of the UN-acknowledged Kashmir dispute in its historical back-

ground. APHC said the RSS-backed fascist Modi regime has broken all the records of terrorism and brutality and has usurped all the basic rights of the Kashmiri masses.

The APHC maintained that the scrapping of Article 370 and 35-A was a blatant violation of international laws and direct attack on the basic and political rights of the Kashmiri people. Since 5 August 2019 when special status of IIOJK was snatched, Kashmiris are not only under military and police siege but Indian forces' personnel and BJP regime have intensified their atrocities in the occupied territory, the spokesman said.

Future of around one and

half billion people is associated with the Kashmir dispute and this future can only be secured by resolving the dispute as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, the statement added.

The APHC said that India had turned Kashmir into a military garrison where human rights violations were taking place every now and then. The APHC pointed out that besides committing heinous crimes against humanity, the Modi regime has hatched numerous conspiracies to change the demography of IIOJK.

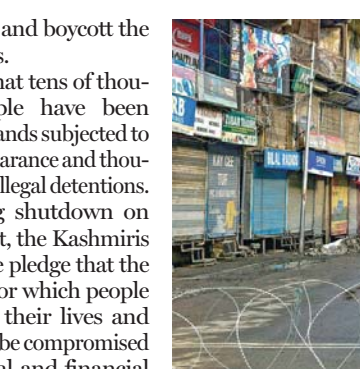
The statement said the Hindutva BJP-RSS is hell-bent to turn Kashmir into graveyard and settle Hindu goons in the territory. The spokesman urged brave people of Srinagar, Baramulla and Rajouri

to stage protest and boycott the official functions.

APHC said that tens of thousands of people have been martyred, thousands subjected to enforced disappearance and thousands are facing illegal detentions.

By observing shutdown on Amit Shah's visit, the Kashmiris will reiterate the pledge that the sublime cause for which people have sacrificed their lives and property cannot be compromised with economical and financial grants," the spokesman maintained. Meanwhile, the several parties and leaders have also extended their support to the strike call.

On the other hand, All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed concern over the



continued illegal detention of illegally detained leaders, activists and youth languishing in different jails of India and the territory.

APHC leaders including Zamrooda Habib, Yasmeen Raja, Abdul Ahad Parra, Dr Qayoom and Dr Musaib in their



statements in Srinagar demanded immediate release of APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar, Mushtaqul Islam, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Nahi-

da Nasreen, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Ayaz Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Merajudin Kalwal, Shahidul Islam and Farooq Ahmad Dar.

They termed the plight of Kashmiri political detainees in jails as an eye-opener for the United Nations and other international human rights organizations, adding that the jails authorities were playing with their lives.

They lamented that the authorities were not only treating them inhumanly in the jails but were also prolonging their illegal detention by not producing them in courts. The authorities are using such undemocratic tactics to break their political stand and freedom sentiment but they will never succeed in their nefarious designs, they added.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,211.70	41,128.67
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,403.73	41,090.52
Index Value	Change
8,349,210,653	+83.03
Percentage	Time
+0.2%	3 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,908.76	+14.95
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	3 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
29,338.95	+613.44
Percentage	Time
+2.14%	3 Oct, 11:54 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,215.79	+278.58
Percentage	Time
+1.07%	3 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	146.46	147.71
Bahrain Dinar	606.23	610.73
Canadian Dollar	165.88	167.23
China Yuan	32.09	32.34
Danish Krone	30.14	30.49
Euro	223.5	226.1
Hong Kong Dollar	29.04	29.39
Indian Rupee	2.84	2.92
Japanese Yen	1.3	1.35
Kuwaiti Dinar	733.41	738.41
Malaysian Ringgit	50.02	50.47
New Zealand \$	131.4	132.6
Norwegians Krone	21.57	21.87
Omani Riyal	591.9	596.4
Qatari Riyal	63.61	64.11
Saudi Riyal	60.5	61.5
Singapore Dollar	159.17	160.47
Swedish Korona	20.61	20.91
Swiss Franc	230.56	232.31
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	62.7	63.3
UK Pound Sterling	255.5	258
US Dollar	228.5	230.5

Pak-US ties improving

America is Pakistan's largest export market: Mian Zahid

Says Pakistan would have gone bankrupt if it lacked the cooperation of IMF

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the relations between Pakistan and America are improving which is the need of the hour.

Bilateral relations cannot be called ideal at this time, but the efforts of the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Chief of Army Staff are improving things which is worthy of praise, that will have far-reaching effects, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that

these efforts will contribute to increasing Pakistan's trade and stabilize the economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan would have gone bankrupt if it lacked the cooperation of IMF as friendly countries had also linked loans to the IMF deal.

Despite the Indian pressure, the US has decided to supply the parts of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, while its attitude towards flood victims is also positive, which is a success of Pakistan's diplomacy, he noted. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the American policymakers have also realized that India's unnecessary

support in the region has not benefited them, but has caused a loss so it is important to improve relations with Pakistan as well, which is a positive development.

Currently, Pakistan's economy is very weak, it is facing floods, terrorism, food security and social problems, so having better relations with all powerful countries is the best option while ignoring America is foolish because not only the army and the industry needs American technology, but the US is our largest export market, while our IT industry, which is growing at an astonishing pace, cannot progress sans the US.

He noted that currently, Paki-

stan's exports are 31 billion dollars and we are getting remittances of 30 billion dollars from abroad, all of which are directly from the United States or countries under the influence of the United States, while the current account deficit of 18 billion dollars in which the US can help us in a great way.

Some of our ignorant politicians consider the independent foreign policy as opposed to America, while some are constantly defaming America for cheap popularity, which is not serving Pakistan but damaging it. Misguided politicians are not reducing but increasing the country's problems, he said.



Boosting dairy industry

China, Pakistan enhance buffalo research

NANNING: In the aseptic and automatic production workshop of Royal Group Co., Ltd., a Chinese giant dairy company headquartered in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, thousands of different kinds of dairy products made from buffalo milk roll out the production line.

Thanks to the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of buffalo breed research, Chinese consumers are expected to taste these buffalo milk and its dairy products added with "Pakistani nutrient elements" in the near future, according to the Royal Group. "Buffalo milk has high nutritional value and good market prospect, sales of our products has been increasing in recent years," said Teng Cuijin, vice president of Royal Group, adding that in 2010, buffalo milk products only accounted for 20 percent of the group's total production volume, but now it has been raised to nearly 50 percent.

With the market demands surges, although the group has established 28 standardized buffalo breeding bases across



the country, supply of raw buffalo milk still insufficient for the company, Tang added.

To enlarge the milk source and meet the demands, the group decided to cooperation with Pakistani counterparts, through its subsidiary company Royal Cell Biotechnology (Guangxi) Ltd., a cooperative project named Royal Cell's China-Pakistan Epidemic Free Pasture and Breeding Project was inaugurated in Punjab province.

"The annual milk production of one Pakistani buffalo can reach 3 tonnes, which is three

times that of local variety in Guangxi," Tang said. "Our milk production has been improved via cross-breeding of imported frozen semen with local buffalo, but this process need more time."

Now Royal Cell has reached a joint venture agreement with Pakistan's JW SEZ Group to invest 100 million U.S. dollars to boost local buffalo industry. As a result, the first buffalo embryo production and research laboratory has been built and run into operation in the city of Raschel, capital of Punjab Province.

"Allowing the import of

embryos is a mutually beneficial policy, because our Pakistani counterparts have agreed to work with us to research and explore the genetic advantages of Nili Ravi buffalo," said Qin Junjie, director of overseas business department of Royal Cell.

The laboratory built in Raschel committed to develop high-yield Nili Ravi buffalo embryos, and a dairy farm in Pakistan that can accommodate 5,000 buffaloes is built to greatly improve both Pakistan and China's buffalo breeds and milk production, Qin added.

According to Qin, besides buffalo breeding, the cooperation between the two parties also include developing milk and meat products industries, building a number of modern large-scale buffalo prairies, and jointly extend the market of Pakistan, China, ASEAN countries and the Middle East.

The two parties are expected to launch the construction of the first jointly invested buffalo prairie in Oct. this year, once the construction is completed and put into operation in June next year, nearly 300 employees will be recruited in Pakistan. Xinhua

President KATI condemns attack on fire brigade office

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Faraz-ur-Rehman strongly condemned the attack on the fire brigade office at Korangi Bilal Chowranghi and said that the attack on the personnel who are protecting the lives and property of the common people is an attack on humanity. He expressed his condolences to the families of the 2 officials who were martyred in the incident and prayed for the speedy recovery of an injured fireman.

Faraz-ur-Rehman said that the firemen are our heroes and it is unfortunate that they were targeted by terrorists. He said that because of the lack of the Safe City project in Karachi and CCTV cameras not installed on important highways, the terrorist are moving freely around the city without fear.

President KATI said that the safe city project in the city is inevitable which



will help in the eradication of crime, the government should start the safe city project as soon as possible to control such crimes. He said that the morale of the criminal elements is now so high that they have started targeting the public as well as the public services personnel, with the aim of disrupting the law and order of Karachi and instilling fear in the people.

Faraz-ur-Rehman said that the police and law enforcement agencies should immediately take notice of such crimes and find the culprits involved and bring them to justice so as to provide protection to the public as well as the officials engaged in public service.

45th FPCCI Export Awards

Shan Foods receives Premier of Pakistan Export Award

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Leading global culinary brand, Shan Foods, has been honored with the Premier of Pakistan Export Award at the 45th FPCCI Export Awards in recognition of its export contribution in spice recipe mixes category and for its outstanding services in building a positive corporate image in international markets.

The award was conferred by the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad.

Organized annually by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the Export Awards acknowledge the



meritorious performance of exporters in different fields of commerce and their service to the country in the form of valuable foreign exchange that they bring in, and are considered the benchmark of corporate excellence.

The FPCCI's Premier of Pakistan Export Award accord-

ed to Shan Foods is a testament to the company's remarkable performance across 75 countries where it serves, delivering premium quality food products for over 40 years with the same traditional and authentic taste. Being one of the most popular consumer choices of recipe mixes around the world

due to its unmatched quality and flavors, Shan Foods has not only garnered brand trust for itself but also continues to uplift Pakistan's name globally through the kind of messaging it puts out and the initiatives it takes for restoring a sustainable society.

Syed Rizwan Sr. Manger International Business Operations, Shan Foods, on this recognition by the FPCCI, said, "It gives us great pleasure to receive such a prestigious award. It is a symbol of pride for Shan Foods at global level in recognition of its consistent services. We will continue to keep up our efforts in serving our consumers' needs and making Pakistan proud across the globe."

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Founder Chairman FPCCI Standing Committee on Custom Agents and Ex-Chairman Pak UK Business Council of FPCCI, elected unopposed as Vice Chairman of All Pakistan Custom Agents Association. Having 46 years in the related field as Custom Agents in Pakistan, who have also been listed by HM Custom & Revenue, UK Government to operate and work, specially Post Brexit Implications, for Transit Trade to EU Countries. Tariq Sheikh having UK Registered Company developed Software through the World renown, SGS-Transit International, for movement of goods between 234 UK Ports to 26 EU Countries. Under new Transit Trade Agreement between UK and EU Countries.

In Pakistan, while oper-



ating as a Country Wide Licenced Holder of Pakistan Customs, as a Chartered Custom Agent, conducting clearance of all Commodities, including Plant Machinery and Raw material, Providing full assistance to Export Sector, Export Oriented Units and Special Economic Zones. Have full knowledge of Custom and Allied Laws.

While in a statement, he disclosed his priorities, to urge stake holders for ease of doing business, amendments in nineteen Century Shipping and Custom Laws.

PC Board briefed about privatisation of HBFCL

Privatisation Commission board meeting held

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairman Privatisation Commission Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo, chaired the 204th Board meeting of Privatisation Commission (PC). Federal Secretary Dr. Iram. A. Khan, Board members and senior officials of the Ministry attended the important meeting.

The PC Board was apprised about the current status of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSMC) and some unresolved matters regarding to its revival. The PC Board deliberated on those bottlenecks and proposed for early resolution of these matters involving all the stakeholders from the Federal government at the earliest.

The Board was also briefed about the privatisation of House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFCL), as Privatisation Commission along with Financial Advisors are engaged in marketing exercise of the entity. Fresh EOI/SOQ have been advertised with October 17th and 31st, 2022 as respective deadlines. The decision to advertise the EOI afresh was taken to make the transaction more competitive and transparent.

The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) had approved in 2019 the divestment of 20% GOP shares of Pak Reinsurance (PRCL) through Secondary Public Offering. The matter remained suspended on account of absence of consensus



among various stakeholders (MoC, PC, SECP, SLIC) pertaining to the maintenance of majority GOP shareholding even after the divestment of 20% shares of PRCL.

The Board unanimously endorsed that in order to maintain majority shareholding of the Government of Pakistan in PRCL, the Federal Government must reserve its majori-

ty in the company. Hence the proposal be placed before the coming meeting of CCoP for moving ahead.

The PC Board's approval was sought about the strategy to resolve different issues of Sindh Engineering Limited (SEL) and Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO) which have blocked their privatisation. It was briefed that the constitution of

SEL Board and appointment of a permanent MD will enable the implementation of necessary decisions with regard to its privatisation. The Board members proposed that the matter may be placed before CCoP in its upcoming meeting.

The Federal Minister/Chairman Privatisation Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo emphasized that the ongoing privatisation programme and transactions included in it is going to be successful with a robust coordination from the concerned Ministries and Divisions. He further added that unless we build a system of strong communication and cooperation among the stakeholders, the privatisation plan will not run on fast track.

EBM partners with Al Maya Group

To distribute products across UAE



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: English Biscuit Manufacturers (EBM), the leading FMCG Company in Pakistan, has collaborated with Al Maya Group to expand their international business to the United Arab Emirates. This marks one of EBM's largest expansions in the Middle East and promises to spread the joy of EBM's brands in the region.

EBM has a prolific international footprint in over 30 countries and a notable presence in the global market including the United States, Canada, the UK, the Middle East, and Africa. The journey of EBM's product to international markets reflects the company's commitment to R&D and innovation. For over 50 years, EBM has held the largest production capacity in Pakistan and this new endeavor enables the company to remain a leader of the FMCG sector both on a local and global scale.

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of EBM, Dr Zeelaf Munir expressed her views on the new journey: "Over the past years we have provided our customers and consumers, at home and abroad, with innovative high-quality products. Our increasing presence in the international market is a testament to our commitment of providing every consumer with healthy & affordable nutritious brands. By extending our supply chain to the UAE with the largest distribution network, we will be able to introduce our innovative product range to new consumers and provide overseas Pakistanis with a taste of their homeland."

Deepak Pagarani, CEO of Al Maya Group, said "Al Maya has introduced the finest food brands of the world within the Gulf region. It has also assured a seamless supply of brands to retailers and international supermarket chains.

Asia Cup

Pakistan beat Bangladesh by nine wickets to go on top of table

Pakistan will now face Thailand on Thursday

Spokesman Report

SYLHET: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by nine wickets to win their second match in as many outings in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS) on Monday morning.

Win against the defending champions Bangladesh put Pakistan at the top of the points table with four points. They will now face Thailand on Thursday, 6 October at the SICS Ground 1. The match will be broadcast live on PTV Sports, the first ball will be bowled at 0800 PKT.

Pakistan's Bismah Maroof decision to bowl first after winning the toss paid dividends in the first over like yesterday's match as right-arm fast Diana Baig dismissed Shamima Sultana for one. Spinners once again came into



play, Nida Dar (4-0-19-2), Omaima Sohai (1-0-4-1) and Sadia Iqbal (4-1-

11 runs from three overs to restrict the hosts to 70 for eight in 20 overs. The match was stopped for a while in the 18th over due to rain, but resumed shortly without losing any overs in the match.

In reply, the openers provided a solid 49-run partnership for the first wicket. The pair of Muneeba Ali and Sidra Amin scored 40 runs in the powerplay which included five fours. Muneeba was the only batter to return back to the pavilion, scoring 14 off 19, hitting one four.

The right-handed Sidra – who was included in the squad in place of Iram Javed, returned undefeated on a 35-ball 36, smashing four boundaries and was named player of the match. Bismah scored an unbeaten 12 off 20 and helped the side chased down the target in the 13th over.

PCB-Bank Alfalah enter school cricket partnership

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In order to revive school cricket across the country, the Pakistan Cricket Board and Bank Alfalah have entered a four-year partnership.

The signing ceremony between the two parties was held today at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. As per the partnership agreement, the PCB and Bank Alfalah will jointly organise a school tournament each year in which 120 schools (to be shortlisted by the PCB) will participate.

The PCB and Bank Alfalah will conduct nationwide school drives for making program-based interventions to harness and nurture youth with a strong passion for cricket.

With the growth of the partnership over the four-year period, the school participation will increase to 900 schools across the



country as part of PCB's grand plan of developing and sustaining a quality schools competition that will not only identify but will also nurture and groom future cricket stars.

A total of 105 PCB designated and approved grounds will be used for school cricket tournaments in this four-year period.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "We have entered another exciting partnership for the development of cricket. School cricket was one of our strengths

in the years gone by but unfortunately we were not able to sustain organised and effective school cricket systems in recent years. "As such, this partnership is monumental for us and I want to thank Bank Alfalah for aligning with us in the much needed initiative. Our aim is not only to revive school cricket but also to develop and sustain it for a long period.

"So many of our superstars of the 70s, and 80s were products of school cricket. This partnership

will develop and groom the superstars of tomorrow. In the last one year, we have made unprecedented investment in pathway and grassroots cricket and this investment will surely benefit Pakistan cricket for the next decade or two."

President and CEO Bank Alfalah Atif Bajwa: "Bank Alfalah stands proud of its longstanding partnership with PCB and together we've continued to support the shared passion for cricket in all these years working in collaboration.

"The current performance of the cricket team is a testament to the devotion and determination of Pakistanis taking the sport to newer heights. At the heart of our partnership lies the idea to help build future cricketers and provide them with the opportunities to shine at the national as well as international level."

Babar Azam among Adam Gilchrist's top five T20I players

DUBAI: With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup less than two weeks away, Australia legend Adam Gilchrist has chosen the first five players he would pick in a dream World T20I XI.

A man who revolutionised the game with his work with both bat and wicket-keeping gloves, Gilchrist enjoyed a legendary white-ball career for Australia, winning three Cricket World Cup titles. In the T20 game, Gilchrist showed his qualities in the format's infancy, boasting a strike-rate of over 140.

Now a Fox Cricket commentator, Gilchrist has overseen a wealth of T20 cricket, and named players from five different countries in his quintet.

David Warner (Australia)–ICC T20I Batting Ranking: 49th "He's at the top of the order," Gilchrist said. "I think just his attacking attitude, the way he kick-starts innings at the top, and the confidence he'll have from the previous T20 World Cup."

Babar Azam (Pakistan)–ICC T20I



Batting Ranking: 3th "His versatility across all formats, but also when it's getting down to T20 cricket, just across all conditions, I think he can play all conditions really well," Gilchrist noted.

Hardik Pandya (India)–ICC T20I All-Rounder Ranking: 4th "Pandya is just an awesome figure straight across the board," Gilchrist said.

"His ability to bat, bowl, field and entertain, he's definitely in there."

Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)–ICC T20I Bowling Ranking: 4th "He's just got to be there in any T20 team,

doesn't he?" Gilchrist said.

"Cricketer of the year in this format across the world. Over the last decade, Rashid Khan is in there." Jos Buttler (England)–ICC T20I Batting Ranking: 21st "It's a bit batting heavy I know, but Jos Buttler for me," Gilchrist added.

"He is just dynamic, his power and his courage to take it on. Simply a stroke of brilliance from him and its game over." Gilchrist is the most recent star of the game to list his first five players picked in a dream T20I XI, following in the footsteps of Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Shane Watson and Mahela Jayawardena as former greats to have given their view on the difficult task.

Fellow Australian Waugh only listed two players the same as Gilchrist–Rashid Khan and Jos Buttler–while Ponting had four players in common with his former team-mate when speaking with host Sanjana Ganesan on the ICC Review.

Central Punjab bowl out Balochistan for 185

Spokesman Report



LAHORE: Central Punjab's decision of not contesting the toss and electing to bowl paid dividends as their bowlers skittled Balochistan for 185 in 47.2 overs on the opening day of round two of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 and helped their side pocket six bowling points.

Fast bowlers Ahmed Daniyal, Mohammad Ali and Umaid Asif shared eight wickets between them. Ahmed returned the best figures of the innings three for 41, Ali took three wickets for 49 and Umaid's two wickets cost 39 runs.

Hussain Talat top-scored with 65-ball 43. Central Punjab were 91 for two – after the opening pair of Abid Ali (30) and Abdullah Shafique (36) put a 56-run partnership – at the close of play.

Southern Punjab also bowled out Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in their match at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Mohammad Ilyas took four wickets for 76 and Ahmed Bashir returned three for 31 as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, despite a fighting 134 not out from opener Waqar Ahmed were bowled out for 240 in 69.2 overs.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Arshad Iqbal and Arshadullah had provided their team a solid start with the ball as Southern Punjab were 48 for three by stumps.

Sindh captain Saud Shakeel made his 12th first-class century against Northern at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad.

The left-hander was unbeaten on 112 off 228 balls and had smashed 10 fours. He added 92 runs for the second wicket with opener Khurram Manzoor (58 off 113) and 88 with Omaid Bin Yousuf (36 off 105).

Sindh were 279 for four and Saud will be joined by Saad (11 not out) when the play resumes on Tuesday. Northern's Mubasar Khan pocketed three wickets for 91, accounting for Saim Ayub (35 off 37), Omaid and Fawad Alam (10 off 25).

Nine Pakistanis participate in London Marathon



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: On an exciting Sunday morning, nine Pakistani athletes participated in the London Marathon to fundraise for The Citizens Foundation (TCF) Flood Relief Appeal.

A large number of London Marathon runners raise money and awareness for a particular charity each year. The nine runners that backed the TCF Flood Relief Appeal include Adnan Gandhi, Kaukab Sarwar, Hira Diwan, Muhammad Affan, Nadir Shera, Shanzé Shah, Fahd Mukhtar, Salman Khan, and Ahmed Mustafa Khan. All runners were spotted wearing TCF t-shirts during the race.

The TCF team finished the race in less than 6 hours. Together, these socially responsible London Marathon participants were able to raise over PKR 2 Million from supporters globally for the TCF Flood Relief Appeal.

The TCF Flood Relief Appeal aims to provide 5 million meals and assist in the reconstruction of 9000 homes for flood-affected families in Pakistan once the flood waters recede. TCF is assisting communities in several ways to help stop school dropouts.

After the floods, many communities have become displaced and lost their source of income, making it likely that the number of out-of-school children in Pakistan will increase. Others can join the cause and support TCF in its mission to support flood-affected communities by donating to the TCF Flood Relief Appeal.

NC thoroughly concentrates on PFF elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Normalization Committee of the Pakistan Football Federation has highly concentrated on the process of elections which ultimately has taken up the speed of the club registration process under 'Pakistan Football Connect'.

Till now, more than 4,000 organizations have applied for registration in the 'Pakistan Football Connect' program of which 1077 are under verification whereas more than 2,100 has given response with additional information about their respective organization. Moreover, 1,455 organizations will be receiving connect IDs soon.

According to Normalisation Committee, "They are glad to see such an amazing response towards Pakistan Football Connect. The organizations will be given live access to the portal soon. The interest says all that how much they are influenced about football and the time is not so far when Pakistan football will enter into a new era."

They added that the PFF Normalisation Committee is trying its best to hold fair elections. "We believe the player who gets on board through this app will have a very bright future. They will be able to show their presence in international events as well as the world's one of the best football leagues," they asserted.

ECB thanks Pakistan for hosting its team after 17 years



LAHORE: The England Cricket Board (ECB) has thanked Pakistan for hosting its team after a long gap of 17 years.

The English side wrapped up the seven-match series 4-7, winning the seventh T20I against Pakistan by 67 runs. The ECB wrote on Twitter on Monday: "Thank you, Pakistan. After 17 years of waiting, a wonderful cricket series and the warmest welcome from the people of this country." In the pictures shared on the social media platform, fans could be seen holding posters and expressing their love for the English team.

The English cricketers also appreciated Pakistan for inviting the team and its security forces for providing a safe space.

English cricketer Dawid Malan on Twitter wrote: "Brilliant end to a well fought series! A huge thanks to Pakistan for having us and an even bigger thanks to the security forces that looked after us so well, was a great experience." "What a series! Thank you Pakistan," wrote Ben Duckett.

Ex-Austrian female judoka to train Pakistan athletes

ISLAMABAD: Four-time Austrian female Olympic judoka Sabrina Filzmoser has approached Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) to train judokas at the K2 base camp in July-August, next year.

The 42-year-old Sabrina, who owns two world bronze medals and as many European titles in judo in her division (-57kg), scaled Mount Everest (8,848.86-metre), the world's highest peak in May this year. Now she is planning to reach atop K2 (8,611-metre), the world's second highest peak in July-August, next year.

"Sabrina has contacted us and told us that she wants to realize a project in Pakistan next year to support judo here while cycling from sea level in Karachi to climb K2," Masood Ahmed, vice president of PJF told APP.

"We are in touch with her. She has also talked about the possibilities of



supporting Pakistani judokas by training them at the K2 base camp during her expedition. "We've told her that we'll be more than happy to welcome her and help her in accomplishing K2 mission," he said.

He said President PJF, Col Junaid Alam had assured all possible support to Sabrina. "Currently, we are working on the initial modalities of the project. "We've also informed Gilgit-Baltistan Judo Association about that and asked

them to make arrangements accordingly.

"Sabrina has also been world number 1, claiming two medals from the world championships besides lifting European champion title twice. Our promising athletes will be available to learn the skills and get valuable tips from her at the K2 base camp," he added.

According to Masood, Sabrina's expedition would be fully backed by IJF. "She is an IJF Climate Ambassador and has made it her mission to live true to that role. Through her activities she is contributing to educate people about the serious issue of climate change.

"Pakistan is among the countries, which are highly vulnerable to climate change. We hope her K2 mission will go a long way in educating communities about the gravity of the issue. We'll join her project," he added.

Swiatek to skip Billie Jean King Cup finals

WARSAW: Iga Swiatek will not play for Poland in next month's Billie Jean King Cup finals in Glasgow, the world number one said on Monday as she took issue with the sport's governing bodies and their handling of the tournament calendar.

Swiatek had helped Poland progress to the finals in April but the tournament will be held from Nov 8-13, just one day after the season-ending WTA Finals which will be held in Fort Worth, Texas this year.

"I was thinking it through a lot and discussing it with my team all over again, but I will not be able to play at the Billie Jean King Cup in Glasgow. And it makes me sad," the Pole said on Instagram.

"I'm very sorry, because I play for Poland whenever it's possible and I



always give it my best. Playing in Poland this year was an honour and I hoped to do this again at the end of the season. "I'm disappointed that tennis governing bodies didn't come to an agreement on something as basic as the calendar of

tournaments, giving us only one day to travel through the globe and changing the time zone."

While the WTA Finals are organised by the women's tennis body, the Billie Jean King Cup – previously known as the Federation Cup – is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

"This situation is not safe for our health and could cause injury. I'm going to talk to the WTA and ITF in order to change something," Swiatek added. "This situation is difficult not only for the players like me, but mainly for the tennis fans that support our sport."

The Billie Jean King Cup will have 12 teams competing in four round-robin groups of three teams each, with the group winners moving to the semi-finals. Poland are in Group D with the Czech Republic and the United States.