



Khar calls for climate change 'survival plans'

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar called on the need for comprehensive plans to equip the people in Pakistan to survive the disaster of floods and also to help them cope with future impacts of climate change. In her virtual address from Islamabad to the event on an upscale UN Flash Appeal for Pakistan floods held in Geneva, she said it was the collective responsibility of Pakistan and the world to provide assistance to the people affected by the country's massive flash floods.



Overseas Kashmiris' role vital in promoting Kashmir cause: AJK President

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said overseas Kashmiri and Pakistani communities settled in the USA can play a vital role to sensitize the world community about the early resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Nawaz will himself decide about his return: Maryam

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Vice President Maryam Nawaz said on Tuesday that she would soon fly to London to visit her father [Nawaz Sharif] — whom she hasn't seen in person for the last three years due to the confiscation of her passport.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore after receiving her passport, Maryam Nawaz said that she had received her passport and would soon visit London to meet her father and for surgery.

"I will leave for London soon to meet my father and for a surgery which could not be performed in Pakistan as it is a rare surgery," she added.

In response to a question, Maryam said that Nawaz will himself decide about his return to Pakistan as his way to return back to homeland is clear. "The way for Nawaz's return is clear. All we have to do is submit an application in the court."

Talking about Imran Khan's forthcoming long march, Maryam said the former premier was raising hue and cry after failing to get any relief from the powers. She claimed that Imran Khan was seeking an NRO by holding meetings at the President House.

The PML-N leader also called for dealing with PTI's long march with an iron fist, saying the party should not be allowed to hold a march towards Islamabad.

Talking about Ishaq Dar's return to Pakistan, Maryam Nawaz said that the PTI is not happy with Dar's coming back as he will "improve" the country's economy.

Expanding ties with Turkiye

A Turkish delegation comprising Ismail Hakki Turunc, Turkish Red Crescent Goodwill Ambassador and Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Pak devastating floods

EU scales-up flood assistance to Pakistan by Rs6.7b

People in Pakistan suffering the devastating consequences of unprecedented flooding emergency

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The European Union has announced to substantially scale up its financial assistance to PKR 6.7 billion (€30 million) to the flood-affected people in Pakistan.

The European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenaric, announced PKR 6.7 billion (€30 million) humanitarian aid for Pakistan during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a statement issued by the European Mission here on Tuesday.

The new funding aims to address the most urgent needs, such as basic shelters, clean

PM thanks Turkiye, UK for flood relief support

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday thanked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the people for sending trains loaded with supplies to the flood-stricken people of Pakistan. The prime minister, in a meeting with a Turkish delegation here, said the people of Pakistan greatly appreciated Turkiye's solidarity with Pakistan during the challenging times. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Right Honourable (Rt Hon) Angela Rayner, Deputy Leader of the British Labour Party, who was accompanied by Lord Wajid Khan, Member of House of Lords, who called on him, here on Tuesday. The PM also thanked the United Kingdom Government for its £16.5 million of humanitarian assistance, provided to Pakistan.

drinking water and sanitation, food and nutrition, and medical services.

The actions funded by the European Union would ensure that women, children, and other vulnerable people are protected from further harm and that children have access to education again as quickly as possible.

Cash assistance would enable people to cover their basic needs and rebuild their homes and livelihoods. Given the scale of the crisis, the psychological impact on flood victims would also be taken into account, it added.

During the visit to flood-hit areas, Commissioner Lenaric

said: "People in Pakistan are suffering the devastating consequences of an unprecedented flooding emergency. Our thoughts are with those who lost family members, friends, and their homes. What is more, many livelihoods have been lost.

With this new funding, the EU reaffirms its continued support to Pakistan and stands by the most vulnerable to help them fulfill basic needs. Once again, however, nature reminded us of the impact of global warming. Mainstreaming disaster preparedness and prevention in EU-funded projects will therefore remain our top priority within the provision of humanitarian assistance."

Dar lauds UK for supporting flood-hit Pakistan

Finance Minister also holds meeting with UAE envoy to discuss bilateral economic ties

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Leader of Opposition in UK Angela Rayner and Member of UK House of Lords Wajid Khan called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Tuesday. Bilateral relations as well as issues of regional importance were discussed during the meeting.

Ishaq Dar shared the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan and said that huge losses have been incurred to the economy of the country. Discussing Pak-UK bilateral relations, the Finance Minister expressed satisfaction at the level of friendship between the two countries and hoped that the existing cooperation between both the countries will further strengthen in the future. He also appreciated the contribution of Pakistani Diaspora toward economic development



Islamabad: Deputy Leader of Opposition UK Rt Hon'ble Angela Rayner and Lord Wajid Khan, Member of UK House of Lords called on Federal Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

of the UK and building bridges between the two countries. The Finance Minister thanked the visiting dignitaries for their support for the flood affectees.

Meanwhile, UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

ISI, IB DGs included in committee to probe audio leaks

Step taken after audios leaked from Prime Minister's House

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The government Tuesday announced the formation of a high-powered committee to probe the audio tapes leaked from the Prime Minister's House.

Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (DG ISI) and Intelligence Bureau (DG IB) have been included in the committee, a notification from the Cabinet Division said.

Interior Minister Rana

Sanaullah will head the committee, with members including federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Asad Mehmoood, Aminul Haque, and Azam Nazer Tarrar.

Cabinet Division's secretary, DG ISI or his representative, DG IB, National Telecommunication and Information Security Board's secretary, and technical experts from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Federal Investigation Agency, and ISI will also be included in the committee.

USAID contributes \$16.5m to WFP flood response

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has welcomed a US\$16.5 million contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its emergency response in Pakistan, where the lives of 33 million people have been upended by unprecedented floods.

"It will be a tough journey ahead for the millions of people devastated by the floods, but the United States will continue to stand by Pakistan's side," said Reed Aeschliman, USAID Pakistan Mission Director. "The depth and strength of the U.S.-Pakistan partnership is reflected in the immediate actions undertaken by USAID through its Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) to support the Pakistani people during this time of great need. Our assistance is saving lives and reducing suffering among some of the most heavily affected communities. USAID remains steadfast in our support to the Pakistani people, and we will continue to support them to recover

and rebuild for a brighter future."

The Government of Pakistan is leading the response through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is serving as the vehicle for cash-based transfers, and over 2 million people have received cash assistance across flood-affected districts in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab and Sindh so far.

To complement the Government response, WFP has ramped up its operations to provide food, nutrition, recovery and resilience support to 2.7 million people, including those in high levels of food insecurity across flood-affected districts. To date, WFP has reached close to 700,000 people with food and livelihoods support, and 23,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children with specialized nutritious foods to prevent and treat malnutrition and boost their immunity. Vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, transgender and households headed by children or women are at the centre of WFP's response.

"Pakistan, despite contributing far less to global warming than other nations, is now on the frontline of climate devastations," said Chris Kaye, WFP Country Director in Pakistan. "The unimaginable sufferings borne by the people here is a stark reminder that it is the poorest who are paying the heaviest price of climate change. We thank USAID for its solidarity with the Pakistani people. The funding will help WFP save hundreds of thousands of people's lives and provide them with the critical support needed to restore livelihoods and build resilience against future shocks."

Through WFP's field offices in the provinces of Balochistan, KP, Punjab and Sindh, WFP is coordinating with humanitarian partners to ensure an integrated response for affected communities. Working closely with USAID's BHA, WFP has received all its relief cargo of non-food items dispatched via an airbridge to Islamabad and also Sukkur and Karachi in Sindh and is supporting transport and temporary storage of these items before they are distributed to the affected population.

CPEC set to enter into 2nd phase; Senate told

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was informed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is set to enter the second phase with special focus on industrial cooperation, especially in the Special Economic Zones.

Responding to a question during Question Hour on Tuesday, Minister for Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain said several local and Chinese companies have shown their interest to invest in SEZs across Pakistan.

He said most of the early harvest projects under the first phase of CPEC relating to power and infrastructure have been completed. He further said that despite the decrease in Chinese investment in the last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic, China has the largest share of foreign investment in Pakistan.

Replying to another question, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik said the government is charging zero percent General Sales Tax on petroleum products.

ECP rejects Sindh govt's plea to postpone LG polls

A day earlier, Sindh govt has requested ECP to once again postpone local body polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday rejected the Sindh government's request to postpone the local body polls, directing provincial authorities to ensure law and order are maintained.

A day prior, the Sindh government had requested the ECP to once again postpone the local body polls, citing inadequate police resources to maintain the law and order situation in the province.

In its response, the ECP said that maintaining law and order during the election is the responsibility of the provincial government and the law enforcement agencies.

"Provincial government should ensure deployment of police personnel during elections in Karachi," the election commission said.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja further added that the election commission should contact the federal interior and defence ministry to ensure the deployment of rangers and army personnel in sensitive constituencies of Karachi.

During the meeting held on Tuesday under the chair of CEC, it was learnt that the by-elections in nine constituencies of the National Assembly and three provincial constituencies will be held on October 16, 2022.



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

United for flood victims

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman launches 2nd Humanitarian Appeal with the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland.



Photo: PID

Security forces kill 7 terrorists in Tank, Hassan Khel

Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Security troops killed four terrorists after observing their movement in Tank. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in target killing, kidnapping and extortion in the area.

Meanwhile, three terrorists were killed during exchange of fire with security forces in Hassan Khel. According to ISPR, weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Muhammad Pannah of Pak Army and Sepoy Shamas Ullah of Frontier Constabulary having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Agencies

Supporting flood victims

UN launches fresh appeal of over \$800m for Pakistan

To respond to the needs of people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The revised '2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan' (FRP) was shared with UN member states and humanitarian organizations today in Geneva. The revised appeal urgently seeks US \$ 816 million to respond to the growing lifesaving needs of the people – a jump of US \$ 656 million from the initial appeal of US \$160 million.

This increase is a reflection of the rising needs and the unprecedented scale of destruction caused by the current climate-induced disaster which has affected a population of 33 million, cost 1,600 lives and threatens hundreds of thousands more as a second disaster looms within the first one. Over 2 million homes have been destroyed or damaged, forcing people to live under open skies exposed to threats of dengue, malaria, and the biting cold of the fast-approaching winter. More than 1,500 health and support facilities are badly damaged and unable to respond to the growing needs. 13,000 km of roads are badly damaged, making it extremely difficult – and, at times, impossible – to reach families in need.

The focus of this appeal is on the provision of urgent and lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection to 9.5 million people until 31 May 2023, with a focus on the 34 most affected districts

The scale of flood catastrophe had gone beyond all previous climate disasters

in Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. This prioritization is based on the number of houses damaged and destroyed, available projections of water level changes, and the population of displaced people in the districts. It aims to enable a more cohesive response for people in areas that have been most severely affected, and to foster a focused, multi-sectoral approach.

The Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman headlined the unimaginable scale of loss and damage caused by unprecedented climate-induced floods in Pakistan. She highlighted that the scale

of catastrophe had gone beyond all previous climate disasters, affecting a population larger than the size of many countries. She referred to the continued inundation of large swathes of the country in pestilent water, pointing to the health risks such flooding posed.

She added that Pakistan had sustained a complex and multi-sectoral exogenous shock to its economic body, and should not be expected to struggle alone in the frontlines of this climate apocalypse, while contributing less than one percent to the total global carbon emissions. Calling for a 'coalition of the willing' to effectively respond to this calamity, she outlined specific and urgent requirements in the areas of health, food security and rehabilitation. Considering that it was a race against time to support the people affected by the floods, she echoed UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saying that it was not a question of solidarity but of climate justice.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths in his remarks said, "People in Pakistan are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, where catastrophic flooding has taken a devastating toll on the most vulnerable.

No GST on POL product prices: Musadik

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday said that the government has no plan to impose general sales tax (GST) on petroleum product prices to provide solace to the people.

Responding to Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, he said that the 17 percent GST had been withdrawn to minimize impacts of

increase in petroleum product prices and currently zero percent GST was being received from POL prices.

He said the government has inked an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to impose Rs 50 per liter petroleum development levy on all Petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) products gradually.

The petroleum prices were increased by 30 times, and decreased 19 times and maintained 28 times since the year 2018.

Govt finalizes plan to deal with PTI's long march

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government on Tuesday finalized a comprehensive strategy to deal with the long march of PTI towards Islamabad. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah okayed the strategy while chairing an in-camera meeting attended by Interior Secretary Yusuf Naseem, Frontier Corps Commandant Salahuddin Mehsud, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Usman Yunus and Inspector General of Police Dr Akbar Nasir, and representatives of law enforcement agencies. The meeting was told that around 20,000 people were expected to participate in the long march. It was decided to engage the Sindh Police, Rangers and FC to ensure law and order in the Federal Capital during the long march. It was also decided to hand over the security of public buildings and Diplomatic Enclave in the Red Zone to the Pakistan Army, which would be deployed under Article 245 of the Constitution. The meeting resolved that the long march would not be allowed to enter the Federal Capital at any cost, and authorized the relevant departments for taking action against the individuals and organizations which were providing logistical and financial support to the PTI for their march. Agencies

Through diplomacy

NA Speaker for addressing challenges of climate change

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Tuesday said that vibrant parliamentary diplomacy can harness the challenges of global climate change.

Pakistan-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group established in the National Assembly of Pakistan played a pivotal role in promoting parliamentary diplomacy and enhancing parliamentary relations through parliamentary exchanges, the NA speaker said this during a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins who called on him, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides also discussed means to enhance bilateral relations and devised a joint action plan for the prevailing climate crisis in Pakistan.

While expressing satisfaction over the cordial relations between Pakistan and Australia, the speaker remarked that both countries need to deepen the existing relations by increasing parliamentary interactions and economic cooperation that could benefit both countries in the fields of mutual interest.

He expressed his desire to develop contact between business communities of both countries to tap the massive economic potential in Pakistan.

Speaker while talking about the unprecedented calamity caused by recent deadly floods in Pakistan said



that National Assembly would move an emergency resolution in the 145th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Rwanda on Oct. 11-15.

He said the resolution aimed to present a forceful demand before developed countries to compensate for irreversible losses due to climate change in developing countries like Pakistan. He appreciated the Australian government's immense support for the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood affectees in Pakistan.

Australian High Commissioner said that Australia considered Pakistan one of its trusted friends and an important economic partner. He said that Australian investors were keen to invest in Pakistan's markets for the benefit of the people on both sides.

He assured to extend his country's leadership support to National Assembly's call for the global fund through IPU to address the ongoing climate crisis in Pakistan.

Who should be my boss?

In the game of throne, 'luck' always stands with most obedient

By Amjad Mehmood

The game has entered in an interesting phase where political leaders are scuffling over the appointment of the next army chief. Perhaps, Pakistan is the only country on earth where an appointment of a government organization's head matters a lot. A candid review of the overall scenario provides insight to discrete between the institution's power and the actual state of democracy in Pakistan.

According to the constitution of Pakistan, it is sole prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint Chief of Army Staff (COAS) amongst the nominations received from the Ministry of Defense consisting of the senior Generals in the chain of command. The President in this case acts on the advice of the Prime Minister to execute the nomination summary for the appointment of army chief. The constitution and process concerning this appointment are very well defined and practiced too without any ambiguity.

On March 20, 1972, the "Commander-in-Chief" (C-in-C) post was renamed as "Chief of Army Staff (COAS)". Before this date, six Commander-in-Chiefs served the Pakistan Army including two foreigners from the British empire named General Sir. Frank Walter Messervy (15 August 1947 to 10 February 1948) and General Sir Douglas David Gracey (11 February 1948 to 16 January 1951). Field Marshal Ayub Khan was the first native Pakistani to hold the appointment on 17 January 1951 and he remained in the position till 27 October 1958. The other three "C-in-C" were General Muhammad Musa Khan, General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan, and Lieutenant General Gul Hassan Khan. General Tikka Khan Janjua was the first Chief of the Army Staff appointed in March 1972 when the posi-

tion was renamed as COAS. The last appointment as COAS was made on 29th November 2016 when General Qamar Javed Bajwa assumed the charge as 16th chief of the Pakistan Army.

The love and hate stories between the political parties, their leaders, and the Pakistan Army have a long history since 1951 when the first Pakistani native General started to lead the institution. The chronicle includes the inception of new political parties, political alliances to make and break governments, and decade-long dictatorships. In the meantime, new political parties emerged by adopting catchy slogans to attract the public and a few of them were purely sponsored by the military establishment to cut the popularity index of unacceptable political parties in the name of religion or nationalism.

In early 1953, the Pakistan Army was involved first time in national politics in the name of restoring law and order situation when Governor-General Malik Ghulam Muhammad, dismissed the state government of Chief Minister Mumtaz Daultana in Punjab, Pakistan with the approval of the then Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin. This invitation to the army from political leadership opened the gateway to the unconstitutional role of the military in political affairs. The huddles between military and political leaders continued for years and left the afflictive memories of the 1965 war and the fall of Dhaka. Being a popular political leader of a democratic party and elected Prime Minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto established a political wing in the country's top spying agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) during his regime. Later, his government was toppled and he was hanged through a Supreme Court decision in the late 1970s. The charm of absolute power enabled the military Generals to rule the country for decades.

The historians noted that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto,

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Altaf Hussain, and Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi who became popular leaders in Pakistani politics started their journey from the nursery of the Pakistani military establishment. These obedient trainees later became public leaders and started popular politics to amaze their voters by giving an impression of being anti-establishment. Zulfikar Bhutto was supported and launched by General Ayub Khan, Mian Nawaz Sharif and Altaf Hussain are the finds of General Zia-ul-Haq and a chain of the military establishment has fostered Imran Khan over the years to reach the current zenith of Pakistani politics.

After 1999, General Musharraf's coup, the military establishment engaged actively in the political affairs of Pakistan when a political party known as Pakistan Muslim League (Q) was formed and later took the charge of civil government in 2002 under the direct command of General Musharraf. Since this successful experience, the military establishment learned the art to rule the country indirectly without being infamous publicly. Through a sustainable and gradual strategy, the military establishment remained successful to constitute their inevitable role as real 'government' in public minds. This impression is not only established within Pakistan but also internationally as the foreign governments and diplomats deem it appropriate to discuss bilateral matters with Pakistan Army's command considering them 'real' policymakers, influential, and authority in Pakistan.

Civil-military relationships and power division between the civilian government and military establishment always trend on top in TV talk shows, newspaper reports, social media discussions, and as part of casual gossip between laymen in Pakistan. Media gurus, defense analysts, and political representatives

express their intellectual might to decode this open secret.

In civilized countries, no one knows the names of their military chiefs and it never remains a priority topic of public debates. The countries having the world's largest armed forces including the USA, China and Russia never came across this discussion where the appointment of a military chief is discussed at public forums. This is not even the case in India and Bangladesh which has substantial military strength. The strategic importance of Pakistan and security challenges in the region due to inimical neighboring states have augmented the importance of military forces in Pakistan. The need and importance of armed forces in Pakistan is an established reality but at the same time, their role is well defined in the constitution which restricts them to remain within the ambit of security domains and safeguarding the country from internal and external threats. Since 9/11 and the post-Afghan-US war, Pakistan's armed forces have already faced critical phases and their sacrifices for the motherland are part of history written with the blood of thousands of martyrs. Their amusement for being called the 'real' government and experts of 'make & break' has diminished their unmatched sacrifices and the institution as a whole is being vilified publicly.

Conventionally, political parties in government keep their plans most secret regarding the appointment of COAS amongst potential nominees. At different tenures, the close aides remained unable to make a correct prediction of party leadership's decision. All such discussions were made behind closed doors by taking utmost care of secrecy. However, the charisma of recently ousted Prime Minister, Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi converted this top-class secret topic into an open public debate where a

layman is also commenting on the capacity and integrity of potential candidates. On the other hand, the current coalition government also accused Imran Khan for planning to appoint a 'selective' general as the next Army Chief by following his greater game strategy. The government and opposition both have geared the discussion about the army chief appointment to an extreme where a prediction meter and wish lists are rolling all around.

Recently, Mr. Khan in a public address while criticizing the government said, they want "a new army chief of their own choice" to protect their alleged corruption and ill-gotten wealth. Such statements from any political party are damaging to the repute of the possible appointee and the prestige of a disciplined organization. His statement was discussed and analyzed by political parties and media geeks that the former Prime Minister questioned the capability and integrity of potential nominees for the slot of army chief. The analysis also includes that Mr. Khan or his opponents just wanted support from the institution by appointing their favorite person for the country's most influential slot which is again a surrender before the establishment at the cost of civilian supremacy. The internal difference between politicians always provided a vacuum for the military establishment to remain inevitable and relevant.

History is full of bitterness where both sides made blunt mistakes by protecting their vested interests. Resultantly, socio-economic development in Pakistan either ceased or progressed at a snail's pace. Perhaps, this is a defining moment for all stakeholders to decide in the best interest of the country by affixing their role and participation as narrated in the constitution of Pakistan. Part-time loyalties or any act beyond the mandate would bring more gloom to the country in future.

Overseas Kashmiris' role vital in promoting Kashmir cause: AJK President

Says voice of protest against India raised by Kashmiris is being heard all over world

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said overseas Kashmiri and Pakistani communities settled in the USA can play a vital role to sensitize the world community about the early resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

The president said this while addressing the reception held in his honour by the Kashmiri community at a local hotel in Brooklyn here on Tuesday. The reception was attended and addressed by Qazi Mushtaq, Chaudhry Akhtar, former member Kashmir Council Sardar Sawar Khan, Chaudhry Zahoor, Aftab Shah, Sardar Imtiaz Khan and others.

In his address the AJK president said that he had been promoting the Kashmir cause at international level for the past several decades but the Kashmiri community settled in the USA can play an effective role to highlight the Kashmir issue before the international



community. Referring to Kashmiri diaspora community's commitment to Kashmir cause, he said, "Wherever I visited, I found overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris very enthusiastic about Kashmir".

"The commitment of the overseas Pakistani and Kashmiri community based in America regarding the issue of Kashmir is not a new thing", Barrister Chaudhry said adding that their commitment and allegiance to Kashmir cause was growing stronger and stronger with each passing moment.

He expressed the hope that Kash-

miris and Pakistanis settled in the United States would raise their voice before the international community for the solution of the Kashmir issue besides exposing Indian brutalities at the world level. Terming New York as the nerve center of world politics, the AJK president said, "The voice of protest against India raised by Kashmiris from America is being heard all over the world and it has a lot of importance in diplomatic circles".

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry

further said that during his visit he had attended a series of important meetings with top officials of the UN, OIC as well as the US state department officials in New York and Washington and briefed them about the latest situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

Apart from the high-level meetings, the president said that he also addressed the OIC's Kashmir Contact Group meeting and Foreign Ministers summit, in which he drew the forum's urgent attention towards the ongoing Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

National Group's 25 years of success is continuing: Atif Munir

M.A Rashid

FAISALABAD: The National Group's 25 years of success is continuing, which will be carried forward by the newly elected President Dr. Khuram Tariq.

This was said by President Atif Munir Sheikh while addressing the annual general meeting of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in which the newly elected officials and 15 newly elected members of the executive were also officially announced.

He said that the performance of the retiring president is judged by the results of the election and I am proud that a large number of the business community showed full confidence in the leadership of the National Group in these elections. He said that there are 122 people from different trades in the chamber while the population of this city is 80 lakhs and the number of members of the chamber is 8,000. It was a difficult phase to balance but I represented the chamber effectively in every forum and everywhere tried to ensure presence.

The associations of the city have also extended their full cooperation in carrying forward the affairs of the Chamber, for which they are very grateful. He said that when he assumed the presidency on October 1, 2021, it was Friday and today, September 30, 2022, when he is retir-



ing, Friday is still a blessed day.

He said that various challenges were faced throughout the year, which his wingers and executive gave all possible support to overcome. He said that soon after assuming office of the President, when many things started to mature, the government changed. After that, for one and a half months, the business community was sandwiched between the federation and the provinces. The following months were devoted to floods and elections.

Despite this, he fought hard to solve the problems. He said that Faisalabad Chamber was not represented in many institutions. His efforts have led to ex-officio representation of the President in many departments. He also mentioned his appointment in the Export Development Fund and said that it is the money of the exporters but we were not getting any share in it, however after the representation the project of cargo terminal was presented which will cost 5 crore rupees.

And work on it is expected to start soon. He said that Faisalabad is the only chamber in the country on the request of which the Federal Tax Ombudsman established an advisory committee and only on our request the practice of stopping goods along the way with the GD ended. He said that during his tenure, exporters as well as local industry also benefited from electricity and gas at subsidized rates, but now it has been abolished, for which the newly elected president will have to work hard. He said that the leadership gave him full opportunity to work due to which he focused on uniting the business community.

He gave a presentation about his performance and said that NADRA desk will be functional in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry very soon. He also mentioned the visits of important personalities and said that a delegation of 26 commercial consuls posted in other countries visited the Faisalabad Chamber to make this meeting fruitful.

KSA's KSrelief distributes over 1,300 food packages in flood-hit areas

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) continued its relief activities and distributed more than 1,300 food packages in flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

Deadly floods, triggered by unusually high monsoon rains, have killed at least 1,696 people, including 630 children and 340 women, and affected more than 33 million in Pakistan since August. The deluges have inundated a third of the country, causing damages up to \$30 billion.

On Monday, the United Nations humanitarian agency warned that outbreaks of vector-borne and water-borne diseases were a growing concern in the southern Sindh and southwestern Balochistan provinces, where many districts remain inundated by flood waters.

A number of countries, including

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, as well as UN agencies have sent more than 130 flights carrying aid for flood survivors in Pakistan.

"The team of King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) continued to distribute various relief aid to people affected by the floods in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," Arab News reported Tuesday.

"As many as 1,360 food baskets were distributed yesterday in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, benefiting 9,520 people."

KSrelief last month launched a campaign to support flood-affected people in Pakistan as the government called for more international aid to deal with the situation.

In recent weeks, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki and KSrelief Director Dr. Khalid Al-Thmani also visited the flood-hit area of Sehwan, Sindh, and distributed rations and other necessary items among people.

Meanwhile, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said UN agencies and their humanitarian partners "continue to scale up the response and have reached to more than 1.6 million people directly affected by the floods".

According to the UNOCHA, some 598,000 Pakistanis are currently living in temporary relief camps at more than 7,000 schools.

"Over 2 million houses have been impacted by the heavy rains and floods, with more than 1.2 million houses partially destroyed and nearly 825,000 fully destroyed," the UN humanitarian agency said.

International aid continues to pour into Pakistan since August, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE establishing air bridges to deliver relief goods to affected people in the South Asian country.

At least 10 planes carrying Saudi humanitarian aid have arrived in Pakistan since last month.

Lucky Cement selects Zong 4G as its telecom partner

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication network, has partnered with one of the largest producers and leading exporters of quality cement in Pakistan, Lucky Cement, for all of the latter's communication needs. Through this partnership, Zong 4G will be providing tailored enterprise solutions to the Lucky Cement which would enhance its corporate voice and data needs.

The contract was signed to confirm the new partnership between the management of both companies. The collaboration will address connec-



tivity and communications needs, which will enhance the operationality of the business.

Zong has been offering tailored solutions to address the needs of businesses and equipping them with technologies that streamline their operations and enable them to continue on their

digital transformation journey.

Commenting on the partnership, the spokesperson of Zong 4G said, "As part of our mission to bring innovative digital technologies and solutions to the corporates we have, today, on-boarded Lucky Cement. Through our strategic partnerships,

together we can turn the challenge of digital transformation into an opportunity for all businesses. Our partnership with Lucky Cement is a testament to providing them with solutions to move forward and adapt new ways of communication."

The executive director of Lucky Cement, Noman Hassan, acknowledged the significance of digitalization in Pakistan and said, Zong 4G's corporate solution will complement our business needs for connectivity. By harnessing the power of widest connectivity, we can identify opportunities to enhance our business operations."

Security forces kill four terrorists in Tank: ISPR

Raja Furqan Ahmed

TANK: Security forces killed four terrorists during an exchange of fire in the general area Tank of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), "Security troops observed and engaged terrorists' movement in general area Tank. During intense exchange of fire, four terrorists got killed." Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, the ISPR said. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in target killing, kidnapping, and extortion in the area. According to sources, terrorists belonging to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Last week, security forces killed two terrorists during an exchange of fire in district Lakki Marwat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces.

UBL, NayaPay partner for fast int'l remittances



Bureau Report

KARACHI: As the demand for fast, secure and simple digital payments across borders continues to grow, UBL and NayaPay have collaborated to enable users in Pakistan to receive international remittances from over 100 money transfer agents (MTOs) directly in their NayaPay accounts.

NayaPay, a leading E-Money Institution in Pakistan, enables users to open E-money accounts on their smartphones in a few simple steps and take control of their finances. The bank with the highest volume of home remittances to Pakistan, UBL will further expand its reach by facilitating real-time cross-border transactions into NayaPay account holders. Recipients can also enjoy the convenience of making all their everyday payments through the NayaPay app and associated Visa debit card, accepted at ATMs and retailers worldwide.

During the ceremony, Mr. Zia Ijaz, Group Executive Branch Banking and International, UBL expressed his thoughts, "UBL is a flagbearer in developing the digital ecosystem of Pakistan and this partnership is another step towards it. We are focused on enabling the enablers of the ecosystem, and NayaPay has already tapped the right sector where UBL is aligned."

Speaking on the occasion, Danish A. Lakhani, CEO NayaPay, said, "We are delighted to partner with UBL, the market leader in home remittances, to bring 100+ money transfer operators on our platform and serve our mutual customers. This remarkable collaboration will enable people across the globe to remit funds with speed and ease to NayaPay users in Pakistan. This service is in line with our mission to connect underserved Pakistani citizens and businesses to the global financial ecosystem."

PTCL Group, Akhuwat deliver food packages to flood affectees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation has delivered food packages to flood-affected communities in Balochistan that have been facing food shortages in the wake of recent monsoon floods.



The food assistance initiative is part of PTCL Group's PKR 1.75 billion pledge towards relief and rehabilitation of the devastated communities across the country.

Sharing his thoughts, Head of PR & Corporate Communication, PTCL & Ufone, Amir Pasha, said, "PTCL Group collaborated with Akhuwat to provide food assistance to the people, especially women, children, and the elderly. As nutrition is the most fundamental need at this time, the support will provide relief to the communities. I, sincerely believe that relieving the communities of the worry for basic commodities will help them focus their energies on rehabilitation and return to normalcy."

Peshawar Corps Commander meets tribal elders

RAWALPINDI: Corps Commander Peshawar Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat on Tuesday met tribal elders part of grand Uthman Zai Jirga in Miran Shah, North Waziristan District.

The Corps Commander lauded the sacrifices rendered by tribesmen in achieving peace in the area and assured that Pakistan Army would provide all possible assistance to the locals.

The Malaks & Mashrans (tribe chiefs) thanked Pakistan Army for restoration of peace in the area and ongoing efforts for socio-economic development. They also assured the Corps Commander for their unflinching support to the security forces.

Renowned surgeon from UAE visits TDC Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Dr Badarzman from UAE accompanied with his better half visits The Diabetes' Centre, Islamabad.



Dr Asjad Hameed, Chairman, The Diabetes Centre along with senior staff gave them a warm welcome on arrival. They were taken on a round of hospital where in guests witnessed and were briefed about various state of the art departments and it's subsequent operations Dr Badarzman lauded TDC's leading role in spreading awareness among masses about Diabetes and treating patients thought world class treatment.

PM AJK holds meeting with Ambassador Donald Bloom



Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALAKOT: American Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom and Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilayas Khan on Tuesday held a detailed meeting with a wide-ranging agenda here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, which took place at AJK Premier's residence in Rawalakot, wide-ranging discussions were held on the issue of Kashmir as well as the development of the liberated territory. On this occasion, a proposal to the American ambassador was presented regarding the establishment of a special economic zone, dry port, investment in tourism and the hydel sector in Azad Kashmir. The proposal stated that there was a large scope of human resources in Azad Kashmir, which can be utilized to provide outsource services, consultancy and IT services.

The proposal further mentioned the role of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and Arts and Crafts in improving the region's economy. The ambassador was told that SMEs account for the majority of business around the world. "Azad Kashmir has a huge scope within this sector (SMEs), which if implemented can be very effective for increasing the GDP of the state", the proposal said.

FrieslandCampina, WWF partner to regenerate environment



Our Correspondent

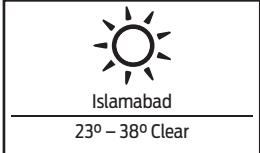
KARACHI: FrieslandCampina is partnering with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan) on a tree plantation initiative to increase local resilience to the impact of climate change and increase tree cover.

The collaboration will focus on the plantation of indigenous trees to help combat pollution, deforestation, and urban flooding. Under the partnership, FCEPL team planted mangrove saplings at the WWF Wetland Center in Karachi. Additionally, WWF held a training for FCEPL's employees to educate them on plantation techniques and post-care.

Highlighting the partnership, Sania Sattar Head of Sustainability, FrieslandCampina Pakistan, stated: "Regeneration is a core pillar of FCEPL's local sustainability strategy. There is a pressing need to address the ongoing effects of climate change, and only through a cohesive, concentrated and collaborative effort can we hope to mitigate them."

Speaking on the occasion, Faisal Razi, Director Marketing at FCEPL said, "We remain committed to nourishing Pakistan sustainably while working in balance with nature. All of us have collective responsibility towards our planet and we must leave a better one for the generations to come."

Emphasizing the need for climate action, Hammad Naqi, Director General of WWF-Pakistan said: From heat waves to forest fires and the worst floods in recent memory, Pakistan is facing a climate catastrophe. It is therefore imperative that we come together; governments, businesses, and non-profit and development organizations; to work towards climate adaptation. Mangrove plantation is a part of this solution. As the first line of defense against cyclones, strong surges, tsunamis and other natural calamities impacting the coast and deltaic region, mangroves support a healthy and productive ecosystem that benefits not only our communities, but biodiversity as well.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:41 am
Zohr 11:57 am
Asr 4:07 pm
Maghrib 5:49 pm
Isha 7:11 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

PM vows complete rehabilitation of flood-victims

PRCS Chairman calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that the recent rains and floods have caused huge destruction across the country but the government will not rest until complete rehabilitation of flood victims.

He said Pakistan Red Crescent is reaching flood-affected families and its efforts and services to humanity during these testing times are highly commendable. The Prime Minister expressed these views when Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari called on the PM at Prime Minister's Office here on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Special Assistant to PM Syed Tariq Fatemi, Khawaja Ehsan, Ambassador of Turkey Mehmet Paçacı, Advisor of Turkish Red Crescent to President Tayyip Erdogan Ismail Haqi were also present.

While congratulating Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari on assuming charge as PRCS chairperson, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that PRCS is serving the affected people without any discrimination and the National Society is moving forward under his dynamic leadership. "I am pleased to see the efforts of PRCS highlighted in international and national media", he added.

On this occasion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari apprised the Prime Minister about the actions taken by the Red Crescent in the flood-affected areas. He said the management, staff and the volunteers are working tirelessly and round the clock to deal with the flood disasters, providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the affected families. He said PRCS through its multi-faceted interventions has so far given humanitarian aid to more than 266,275 victims, 12,141 tents have been distributed, medi-

cal assistance have been provided to more than 23 thousand victims. Regarding the health interventions, he said PRCS medical camps are operational at 17 locations in addition to seven mobile health units.

Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that PRCS has provided food items and cooked food to 191,704 flood victims. He said 16,000 mosquito nets, over 14,000 hygiene kits, over 54,000 non-food items (blankets, jerry cans, tarpaulin sheets, kitchen utensils, etc.) have been distributed and counting. He said 5 million liters of clean and potable water have been provided in the affected areas in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The water treatment plants on daily basis producing over 80,000 liters of clean water per plant.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the efforts of Red Crescent and assured all possible support from the government.



ISLAMABAD: Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador of Tajikistan calls on Federal Secretary for Commerce Muhammad Sualah Ahmad Faruqi here on Tuesday.

IIUT'S electrical, mechanical engineering programs re-accredited by PEC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The programs of BS Electrical Engineering, BS Mechanical Engineering and BS Civil Engineering of Faculty of Engineering & Technology of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) have been re-accredited by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). The Council granted permission for intake Fall 2018 batches on OBE (Level-II).

The decision was taken by PEC in its 107th EAB meeting for engineering programs of International Islamic University Islamabad.

IIUI President, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi has congratulated the IIUI community on this achievement, while he also hailed the efforts of the team that worked hard for the accreditation process of three Technology programs. The IIUI community has thanked President IIU for his untiring efforts for re-accreditation of the programs.

Moreover, PEC has also granted green signal to launch BS Computer Engineering program in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Technology has welcomed the pioneering batch of BS Computer Engineering.

BEL inaugurates new corporate office in DHA-II Islamabad



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Beacon Energy Limited (BEL), a company of the Beaconhouse group, has inaugurated its new state-of-the-art corporate office at DHA Phase 2, Islamabad. Mr. Nassir Kasuri, Chief Executive Officer of BEL, cut the ribbon at the ceremony. The event was attended by Beaconhouse's management, employees and esteemed customers.

Nassir Kasuri, Chief Executive Officer, said at the ceremony "I am pleased and happy to open our 4th office (corporate location) in DHA-II, Islamabad, in just 2 years of operations. At Beacon Energy Limited, we are helping to make Pakistan a more sustainable nation by offering smart solar solutions and alternatives for all industrial, commercial and residential sectors. I invite you to join us on this journey because together, we can make Pakistan cleaner than ever!"

The new office will house various departments including sales, marketing, human resource, finance, R&D, and administration who will be working towards benefiting and helping the customers.

PAC holds Naatia Mehfil-e-Mushaira



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized holds Naatia Mehfil-e-Mushaira in connection with Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatulil Alameen.

The Mushaira was presided over by renowned orator Naseem Sahar while Abdul Qadir Taban and Dr. Farhat Abbas participated as special guests. Ms. Jaya Qureshi was the guest of honor at the Mushaira. Ali Asghar Samar, the president of Bazm Ahab Qalam Pakistan, performed the duties of host. Muhammad Zubair had the honor of reciting the Holy Quran in the program. Naseem Sahar said in his presidential speech that reciting Naat is also an act of worship. The chain of remembrance of the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) will continue until the Day of Judgment, because our Messenger (S.A.W) is the last prophet, there is no need for a messenger or a prophet anymore.

UPGP fostering ties through academic and professional partnerships

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Funded by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan and administered by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, University Partnerships Grants Program 2020-2023 (UPGP) is envisaged to foster bilateral relationships through academic and professional partnerships between Pakistani and American universities.

This program follows the success of the original University Partnerships Program (2012-2015) in which American universities in 20 partnerships with Pakistani universities received grants to establish three-year bilateral relationships. The aim was to enhance peer-to-peer relationships between U.S. and Pakistani universities in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. QAU-BSU 2012-2015 Partnership was one of these collaborations that focused on strengthening the American Studies program at Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University through faculty and student exchange, curriculum development, and research training. In late 2021 Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Ball State University (BSU) received a follow-up grant to extend the best practices of the previous program to other universities in Pakistan.

In this partnership, the two universities collaborated with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar; Women University Swabi, and University of Swat to strengthen their humanities and social sciences programs. In 2022, QAU and BSU received a second grant to further expand the program as part of which they started collaborating with 7 more universities from the Federal Capital, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan: International Islamic University, Islamabad; University of Swabi; FATA University; Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan; BUTTEMS; University of Turbat, and National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad.

Federal Ombudsman directs to facilitate overseas Pakistanis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi taking cognizance of numerous complaints of citizens against management of Islamabad International Airport constituted a team of senior officers comprising Ahmad Farooq, Senior Advisor, Dr. Inamul Haq Javeid, Grievance Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis, Pervez Haleem Rajput, Consultant (Implementation) and M. Javed Chaudhary, Director Media to investigate the issues at Islamabad International Airport and submit report to check the performance of One Window Facilitation Desk; delay in Immigration; unnecessary checking by Customs and to review the progress on the recommendations of his earlier team's visit on 27-4-2022.

The committee has submitted its preliminary report after making inspection, listening to the complaints of the general public, witnessing the working of different counters, One Window Facilitation Desk and holding meeting with the management of the Airport and other Federal Government agencies responsible for handling the passengers. The Team also inspected the One Window Facilitation Desk where representatives of 12 agencies remain present round-the-clock. The Ombudsman said that Islamabad International Airport is the airport of federal capital; therefore, its services must be of international standards.

The Airport Manager informed that under the directions of Wafaqi Mohtasib, separate counters for senior citizens, business class passengers and ladies have been established, however senior citizens complained to the team regarding improper functioning of their counters.

Contract signed to promote STEAM education

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: While transitioning from the exam-centred to learning based approach, the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training's (MoFEPT) STEAM Pakistan program is focused on improving conceptual understanding and analytical skills of school children across the country, with a specific focus on girls' education. Launched in early 2022, the program has already started its interventions in middle and high schools in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

As part of the program, MoFEPT signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) today with the Federal Government Educational Institutions (FGEI) for a roll-out of STEAM interventions across all of its high schools.

FGEI's Director General, Major General Muhammad Asghar, HI (M), stated that "STEAM Pakistan project will complement the various measures taken by FGEI to attain the objective of quality education and promote the conceptual learning and development of soft skills in youth".

The LoU intends to support FGEI's efforts on targeting students in middle schools across its network, with MoFEPT providing technical support for systems, teacher training, and STEAM content.



Additional Secretary Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry at the signing ceremony remarked, "It is important that we focus on our children's learning, and today is a great opportunity for the Ministry of Federal Education to collaborate with another Ministry for this purpose. The Ministry looks forward to providing similar technical support to provinces on STEAM".

FGEI currently manages 190 high schools in 45 districts across all provinces and AJ&K, and a total of 311 schools

(including 13 higher secondary schools) and 47 colleges across Pakistan with over 8,000 teachers and 200,000 students. FGEI operates under the aegis of Ministry of Defence.

STEAM Pakistan is a collaborative project through which Malala Fund and partners are providing support to the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training to advance secondary school-aged girls' access to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics education in Pakistan.

German Unity Day celebrated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad celebrated German Unity Day to commemorate German reunification on October 3, 1990.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Guest Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, congratulated Germany on its national day and said, "it is my privilege to be here to represent Pakistan at the German Unity Day."

The Minister underlined the strong bilateral and economic ties between both countries and said Germany had made a €3.8 billion investments in Pakistan since our relations were established. Both countries are also working to expand further economic cooperation, educational collaboration and people-to-people exchanges.

The Minister also thanked the German Ambassador for providing financial assistance of



€56 million for families affected by floods.

Addressing the audience, the German Ambassador to Pakistan, Alfred Grannas, reiterated

Germany's strong support for Pakistan in the aftermath of this year's tragic monsoon floods.

He said Germany and Pakistan are working together to

enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields. The event was attended by federal ministers, Ambassadors, bureaucracy, and the business community.

Afghan envoy calls on CG COMSTECH

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Sardar Ahmed Khan Shakeeb, met with Coordinator General, OIC - Ministerial Committee of Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhary, at COMSTECH Secretariat on Tuesday.

Prof. Chaudhary highlighted the role of COMSTECH to strengthen the science and technology in 57 Muslim Countries. He informed about the ongoing joint programs with Palestine, Yemen, and Somalia. Coordinator General highlighted that the President of Pakistan, who is chairman of COMSTECH has emphasized the need of supporting high education and skill development in Afghanistan. In this regard various programs for the academic and research trainings of Afghan students and researchers in CCoE universities of Pakistan will be started.



The second part of the program will incorporate Afghanistan includes food security which is the dire need of the community. The Islamic organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan and Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, Ministry of National Food Security and Research are organizing a workshop during February, 2023.

This 3-Day joint IOFS-COMSTECH-PARC workshop on "Climate Resilient Wheat Crop Improvement for Food Security" will dedicate oen day for the

problems of wheat growing in drought conditions in Afghanistan under the theme of "Afghanistan Wheat Issue : Breeding Nutritious and Climate Resilient Varieties".

In the third part of the program COMSTECH in collaboration with Health Services Academy and University of Lahore will help health sector in Afghanistan. He said we can work together in Public Health in primary health settings, disease surveillance, medical technologies, ventilator, medi-

cines and regulatory affairs to train Afghan healthcare workforce. Sardar Ahmed Khan Shakeeb, Ambassador of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan thanked Prof. M. Iqbal Chaudhary and appreciated the outstanding work of COMSTECH for Muslim Ummah. He said that there are strong indications from leadership of Afghan government for people and government of Pakistan and OIC member states and COMSTECH close liaison.

Shakeeb said that the Afghan students desire to study in Pakistan and other OIC member states and avail the opportunities. He assured that the embassy of Afghanistan is strongly committed to follow up proposals, programs and initiatives for the benefit of Afghan people.

Consultant Health initiatives COMSTECH, Dr. Abdur Rashid and Head of Political, Cultural and Education, Embassy of Afghanistan, Mr. Ali Mansoor Khaliqyar, were also present at this occasion.

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The high stakes of climate-risk accounting

Gernot Wagner & Tom Brookes

Economists are supposed to be good at understanding risk. Decision-making in the face of uncertainty, after all, is the discipline's bread and butter. Yet at a time when real-world risks – geopolitical, macroeconomic, financial, public-health, and environmental – are piling up, many economists seem to be at a loss. Although businesses and investors stand to make a lot of money if they can properly assess and navigate the current risk environment, no one seems to have a good explanation for why we are where we are. This is especially true in the case of climate change: It is now clear that the risks have been systematically underestimated, and thus mispriced, all along. One explanation for this is that market participants have failed to understand the size and the probability of the risk, because they have been thinking about the issue in the wrong way. The climate system is not like a casino with well-defined

outcomes and probabilities. As a 1987 comment in Nature put it, changes within our planet's systems may bring all kinds of "unpleasant surprises." It is as if we were playing with decks of cards that include some unknown number of jokers. Moreover, one also must account for the inherent conservatism of the science. Climate researchers, especially, tend to err on the side of caution. That omission has long since been corrected. But it is now economists who are lagging behind in quantifying the economic damages associated with rising seas and the many other interlinked risks and uncertainties accompanying climate change. Quantifying climate-related damage is painstaking work; and in an academic environment that prizes new ideas over what might seem like a mere "accounting" exercise, it is not the kind of work that brings much reward or recognition. Nonetheless, economists going back to Simon Kuznets, the "father" of the gross domestic product, have been some of the leading critics of economic metrics that purport to represent overall well-being. GDP is central to macroeconomic anal-

ysis, but it leaves out many other important indicators, such as those measuring human and planetary health. Standing forests and clean air and water have no value in national-income accounting unless they enter the economy directly as factors of production. Fortunately, an initiative by US President Joe Biden's administration aims to correct this shortcoming by developing a new set of "statistics for environmental-economic decisions." While this effort is not the first of its kind in the world, it is among the most ambitious. The goal is to supplement GDP with a far more comprehensive set of accounts, and then to use this new metric to guide policy decisions. Such a change is long overdue. Climate change might not have grown into the problem that it has become if its damages had been incorporated into national accounts all along. This points to a second, equally important reason why climate and other risks have been mispriced. It is one thing for scientists, economists, and informed members of the public to recognise that many risks and uncertainties are not priced; it is quite another to adopt policies

that discourage businesses from pushing those risks onto society. For business leaders, the top climate risk, according to a recent Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco survey, is that climate change will influence "rules and regulations related to our business." Executives correctly anticipate that policymakers will want them to pay for greenhouse-gas emissions and other negative externalities instead of being permitted to socialise those costs. Such measures inevitably will fall into the realm of politics, but economists must not confuse their political preferences with sound policy. Those who are ideologically inclined to look to the "free" market as a guiding principle for organising society must recognise that a market can function well only when no externality is left unaccounted and unpaid for. Another Biden administration accounting initiative could help here. The US Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed rules for climate-related disclosures would compel companies to standardise and report both the impact of their operations on the climate and the risks that climate change poses to those operations. The

SEC's effort stops short of asking all polluters to pay for their own pollution; instead, it leaves it up to investors to decide what to do with the new information. Economists must defend the pivotal role their advice plays in policymaking. The political forces and special interests that bear on this issue will skew their advice and skewer the advisers. But that must not become an excuse for inaction. Intellectual honesty demands that economists and policymakers grapple with how new risks and uncertainties can and will affect outcomes. Tallying what's known is hard enough. Accounting for hard-to-price risks and uncertainties like climatic tipping points is harder still. But recognising those risks and uncertainties makes clear that political action must come sooner rather than later. Gernot Wagner, a climate economist at Columbia Business School, is the author, most recently, of *Geoeconomics: The Gamble* (Polity, 2021). *Tom Brookes is Executive Director of Strategic Communications at the European Climate Foundation. Courtesy: Gulf Times*

UN, Pakistan's fresh flood appeal

Significantly, this point is quite valid that we are not adding any pollution into the environment by emitting carbon emissions. But it is unfortunate that we are facing the worst of consequences of climate change. The incumbent government has effectively highlighted the issue at the world stage and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to the UN General Assembly session pointed out the plight of developing countries that are at the forefront of climate related disasters. The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also called for massive global support to Pakistan to cope with the challenge of devastating floods. As developed countries are major carbon polluters, they have a responsibility to pay their share in the form of financial assistance to the developing countries.

Climate Change is an international issue and we cannot overcome it immediately. The main reason for these climate related changes is carbon emissions as most of our industries use fossil fuels. We have researched about various energy production systems and found that only way out is promoting renewable energy. There is a dire need to bring change in the production systems of the business industries. Many measures have to be taken on infrastructure as well as in our agricultural sectors. New nature based solutions need to be promoted for energy and other productions. The West, despite having more resources and stable economies, is not opting for renewable energy. No one is serious in readapting to new procedures for generating electricity.

The flood situation across the country has become normal and there are no reports of flooding anywhere. We are now in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. The main focus will be on the areas of Sindh and Balochistan in particular where the flood water will take time to dry. The Federal Minister for Water Resources is holding meetings at regular intervals and with the consensus of relevant authorities decisions are being taken. Pakistan has been badly affected by the impacts of climate change and there is a dire need to devise new policies to face these threats. Today it is Pakistan that is affected and tomorrow there could be any other country. The international community has supported the flood affected people to a great extent and food and other items are being provided to them.

UN Secretary General is very well aware of the current situation in Pakistan caused by devastating floods. During his recent visit to Pakistan, he himself visited and monitored the catastrophic situation in different parts of the country. The Secretary General urged the world to support Pakistan in this critical juncture. The big countries are focusing on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the need of the hour is to divert their attention towards our problem. The speech of the foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the UN General Assembly session has motivated the international community to provide assistance to the flood affected families. Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The government needs to focus on managing the water resources in order to stay safe in future from such disasters.

China's six-point proposals can help solve global issues

Dawid Wiktor

The 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) focused on subjects on the theme of creating and applying "transformative solutions to interlocking challenges". Many country representatives attended this General Assembly to discuss the current and future challenges and ways to solve them. There were many proposals, thoughts and ideas. Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the General Debate and unveiled China's proposal on principles regarding facing challenges.

We live in a hard but decisive time

It is true that we are living in a time full of challenges, turbulence and tensions. We can observe that our world is moving into a dangerous direction that works against peace, equity and development. We are facing many significant issues that are not easy to solve.

In this hard time, it is always good to praise wise ideas and concrete actions. China's six-point proposals are example of such ideas. In fact, we can call these proposals as principles that are ready to meet and answer current and future challenges.

Peace instead of war

During his speech, Wang Yi proposed the first principle of choosing peace instead of war. As humanity, we should resolve disputes through peaceful means such as dialogue, mediations, consultations, expressing and understanding each other's concerns and views.

Development instead of poverty

There are many efforts for development

and reducing poverty across the world. Some of them partially succeeded, some failed.

It is important to acknowledge that we need to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Global Development Initiative will absolutely play an essential role in this and in putting people at the center of all efforts. It is important to address crises such as the food and energy crisis, supply chain issues, global hunger and debt. We cannot anymore accept excuses like "this is normal, some people live in poverty" or "we have time", we have to act now and support initiatives that can make a positive impact.

Openness instead of closeness

During his speech, Wang Yi also noted that it is essential to build an open world and open economy. It is fact that protectionism will never work as it can only hurt communities across the globe. It is in our nature, as humans, to be open to each other, share fruits and live in an open world with open economy.

Cooperation instead of confrontation

We already live in hard times and see many tensions. In fact, these tensions are related to blocs and political groups confronting each other. What we need are consultations, dialogue, to work together towards better future and cooperate to ensure that everyone wins. Confrontations will lead only to conflicts and wars, new crises, and human suffering. No one can win such confrontation and we do not need it. It is good that Wang Yi called for cooperation, without which it is not possible to build a peaceful and prosperous world.

Unity instead of division

Ideological blocs and divisions are not good for our world, as Wang Yi expressed while calling for unity.

It is easy to divide and weaponize many tools to cause harm to other countries. However, this creates more problems and tensions. Treating others unfairly and unjustly can only lead to polarization, more conflicts and escalations of such conflicts. We should think how to connect societies and countries, how to build bridges instead of tearing down them. There will be disagreements, but by acting together in dialogue and mutual understanding we can find common ground.

Equity instead of bullying

The sixth proposal is to choose equity instead of bullying. From history we know what happens when one country or one bloc is using its position of power or strength against other countries. This can cause tensions that will cause conflicts and even full-scale wars and reverse already made development progress. What we need is a multilateral approach with equal rights and rules for all countries. With international organizations such as the United Nations and WTO at heart of multilateralism, we can work towards ensuring that these rights and rules will be respected.

In fact, we do not have much time. There are many countries that were discussing challenges and issues at the UNGA, some of them proposed ideas and solutions and we should consider them. Among those countries is China whose State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi laid out practical proposals. It is time to override ideological differences and move forward to face challenges and confront them. Only together we can make our world better for all.

The author is chief executive officer of Media Scope Group. Courtesy: China Daily

Europe's far-right populists are on the march again

Baria Alamuddin

Each time the tsunami of populism engulfing the Western world appears to have been discredited and defeated, a new wave of far-right victories compels liberal pundits to eat their words.

Scarcely a country in the democratic West has remained unscathed, as these radical hooligans scale the walls and seize the seats of national power. Now Sweden and Italy are their latest two scalps.

I was a regular visitor to Sweden through my role in the Tallberg Forum, an annual discussion series that explored the question: "How on earth can we live together?" Sweden's liberal traditions enjoy worldwide respect and emulation. Is all this now to be tossed into the dustbin of history? The radical anti-immigration Sweden Democrats won over 20 percent of the vote in last month's general election, making its 73 MPs a central force in any new administration. This is a party founded by Nazi sympathizers (one of them was a member of Hitler's Waffen-SS!) and just a decade ago it was perceived as being too far outside the political mainstream to be taken seriously.

Britain's Conservative Party under Boris Johnson and now Liz Truss has also flirted with the culture wars and xenophobia of alt-right populism. In her latest concession to the reactionary right, Truss is now speculating about moving Britain's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Somebody who has been foreign secretary should understand that such a step would be a further knife in the back for Middle East peace. How could she challenge Vladimir Putin's annexations, when such a decision would give tacit blessing to an equally blatant occupation, condemned repeatedly by the UN?

Truss's judgment is equally in question after radical tax cuts that disproportionately benefit multimillionaires, leaving inflation-hit citizens to foot the bill. Markets panicked and sterling plummeted in reaction to this kamikaze economics.

I am writing this from the US, where Donald Trump

and his MAGA supporters embrace the lunacy of QAnon conspiracy theories with ever more impassioned abandon. The interminable scandals and investigations around Trump further entrench America's polarization. Are Republicans rendering themselves permanently unelectable, or creating new, perniciously resonant narratives of grievance and resentment that will pave their way back to power in the 2024 elections? Only time will tell.

Until relatively recently, all that was required to keep extreme-right tendencies in check was to ignore them. The Second World War left such a mark on the Western psyche that for several generations far-right fascism was rightly synonymous with the worst forms of evil.

Perhaps new generations with no personal experience of such horrors must witness for themselves how truly terrible such tendencies are in the flesh, before this populist fever can break. Citizens must witness that the snake-oil bags of tricks sold by populists such as Trump, Orbán and Meloni will only make their lives worse. The kind of leadership the world has at this moment of manifold crises is the opposite of the kind of leadership we desperately need!

Britain's latest economic meltdown has shattered the Conservative Party's decades-long reputation for economic rectitude, with a succession of disastrous missteps leading to talk of the party rendering itself unelectable. This is how populism becomes unpopular!

Similarly, we can only hope that the excesses and self-inflicted calamities of populism reawaken the appetite for competent and conscientious politicians — leaders who don't breathe fire or threaten to burn down entire political systems, but rather offer a credible path for leading the Western world out of chronic dysfunction and back to a status quo in which good governance, the rule of law and social justice are considered values worth fighting to defend.

Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state. Courtesy: Arab News



Volodymyr Zelenskyy decree rules out Ukraine talks with Putin as 'impossible'

Russia's Federation Council ratifies annexation of four Ukrainian regions

KYIV/ MOSCOW: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree on Tuesday formally declaring the prospect of any Ukrainian talks with Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin 'impossible', but leaving the door open to talks with Russia.

The decree formalised comments made by Zelenskyy on Friday after the Russian president proclaimed four occupied regions of Ukraine to be a part of Russia, in what Kyiv and the West said was an illegitimate farce.

"He (Putin) does not know what dignity and honesty are. Therefore, we are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but with another president of Russia," Zelenskyy said on Friday.

Ukrainian forces have broken through Russian defences in the south of the country and expanded a rapid offensive in the east, seizing back territory in areas annexed by Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February.

Putin, who turns 70 this week, has dominated Russia's political landscape for more than two decades and could run for office two more times under constitutional reforms he presided over, potentially remaining in power until 2036.

The upper house of Russia's parliament voted on Tuesday to approve the



incorporation of four Ukrainian regions into Russia, as Moscow sets about formally annexing territory it sized from Kyiv during its seven-month conflict.

In a session on Tuesday, the Federation Council unanimously ratified legislation to annex the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, following a similar vote in the State Duma, Russia's lower house, yesterday.

The documents now pass back to the Kremlin for President Vladimir Putin's final signature to complete the process of formally annexing the four regions, representing around 18 percent of Ukraine's internationally-recognized

territory. Russia declared the annexations after holding what it called referendums in occupied areas of Ukraine. Western governments and Kyiv said the votes breached international law and were coercive and non-representative.

Russia does not completely control any of the four regions it says it is annexing—Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson—and the Kremlin has said it has yet to determine the final borders of the annexed territory.

Russian forces in the eastern Donetsk and southern Kherson regions have been forced to retreat in recent days and

appear to be struggling to halt an increasingly Western-equipped Ukrainian army.

Moscow is hoping a "partial mobilisation" it announced two weeks ago could help turn the tide. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu was cited by the RIA news agency on Tuesday as saying that Russia had so far called up more than 200,000 reservists out of a planned 300,000 men.

The Kremlin said what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine would not end if Kyiv ruled out talks, adding that it "takes two sides to negotiate".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said Moscow did not want to take part in "nuclear rhetoric" spread by the West, after Britain's Times newspaper reported that NATO had warned members Putin might test an atomic weapon on Ukraine's border. The newspaper said Russia had moved a train thought to be linked to a unit responsible for nuclear munitions.

The Kremlin had more time however for a potential peace plan floated on Twitter by billionaire Elon Musk, whereby Ukraine would cede Crimea, allow new referendums on Russian-occupied land and agree to neutrality.

Blackouts hit 130 million in Bangladesh after grid failure

DHAKA: At least 130 million people in Bangladesh were without power on Tuesday afternoon after a grid failure caused widespread blackouts, the government's power utility company said.

Bangladesh has suffered a major power crisis in recent months as a result of higher global energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and has imposed regular service cuts to conserve electricity.

But it remained unclear what caused Tuesday's unscheduled blackout, which hit more than 80 percent of the country shortly after 2 p.m. local time (0800 GMT), according to the Power Development Board.

Apart from some locations in Bangladesh's northwest, "the rest of the country is without power," Power Development Board spokesman Shamim Ahsan told AFP.

Ahsan said 130 million people or more were without



electricity and it remained unclear what had caused the fault.

"It is still under investigation," he said, adding that a technical malfunction was the probable cause.

Junior technology minister Zunaid Palak said on Facebook that power would be restored by 8 p.m. in the capital Dhaka, itself home to more than 22 million people.

Soaring energy prices have wrought havoc on the South Asian nation's electricity grid in recent months, with utilities struggling to source

enough diesel and gas to meet demand.

A depreciating currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves left Bangladesh unable to import sufficient fossil fuels, forcing it to close diesel plants and leave some gas-fired power stations idle. The government imposed lengthy power cuts to conserve existing stocks in July, with outages lasting up to 13 hours each day at their peak.

Tens of thousands of mosques around the country have been asked to curtail

the use of air conditioners to ease pressure on the electricity grid.

The blackouts sparked widespread public anger and helped mobilize large demonstrations on the streets of the capital Dhaka.

At least three protesters were killed by security forces during the rallies, partly motivated by rising cost-of-living pressures.

Around 100 others were injured during a police crackdown on one demonstration, according to the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Consumer inflation has hit household budgets hard and the government recently pledged to cap the price of several staple foods, including rice, to quell public discontent.

Bangladesh last witnessed a major unscheduled blackout in November 2014, when around 70 percent of the country went without power for nearly 10 hours.

Merkel wins UN refugee agency award over welcome of Syrians

GENEVA: The UN refugee agency said Tuesday it's giving its highest award to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her efforts to welcome more than 1 million refugees — mostly from Syria — into Germany, despite some criticism both at home and abroad.

Matthew Saltmarsh, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said Merkel had been selected as the latest recipient for the Nansen award, which is handed out annually by the Geneva-based UN agency.

"Under the then-Federal Chancellor Merkel's leadership, Germany welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016, which, as you will remember, was the height of the conflict in Syria, and there was deadly violence in other parts of the world," Saltmarsh told reporters. "Dr. Merkel helped to highlight the plight of refugees globally."

WHO warns Haiti cholera toll likely to rise

GENEVA: Haiti's cholera outbreak death toll is likely "much higher" than reported and cases are expected to rise, the WHO said Tuesday, warning the country's multiple crises would complicate response efforts.

The crisis-wracked Caribbean nation said Sunday that at least seven people had died from cholera, raising fresh fears of a resurgent epidemic nearly three years after Haiti's last confirmed case.

Multiple suspected cases have been detected in Carrefour-Feuilles on the edge of the capital Port-au-Prince, and in the coastal neighborhood of Cite Soleil.

The areas are entirely controlled by gangs and access to them has been very difficult since the end of July. Conditions in Haiti have worsened in recent weeks with blockades, fuel shortages, protest marches, looting and general strikes.

"This situation greatly complicates the humanitarian response," World Health Organization spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.

"The situation is evolving rapidly, and it is possible earlier cases have



been undetected." He said the death toll figures could be "much higher." "With the humanitarian situation as it is, the sanitary situation, and the gang-controlled areas where there's hardly any access to control, to test or even to bring in assistance, we should expect, unfortunately, cases to be higher, and to rise," he said.

Lindmeier said a request was being

prepared to be submitted to the international coordination group for the procurement of oral cholera vaccines.

However, global vaccine availability is limited with demand outstripping supply. Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection in the small intestine causing sometimes fatal dehydration. It is generally contracted from food or water contaminated with vibrio cholerae bacteria.

In February this year, Haiti celebrated three years without a single confirmed cholera case and was preparing to submit its case for cholera-free status certification at the end of 2022.

Cholera killed nearly 10,000 people in the wake of Haiti's 2010 earthquake, when United Nations workers helping with the response introduced it to the country.

The outbreak affected at least 820,000 people, the WHO said.

The first infections were detected around the Artibonite River, where UN peacekeepers had dumped fecal matter. It was not until August 2016 that the UN officially acknowledged its role in the epidemic.

Lindmeier said there was no information yet on where the current outbreak originated, but said roughly 80 percent of people carrying vibrio cholerae could be asymptomatic, making it difficult to detect.

The United Nations said it stood ready to deploy emergency response teams as soon as safe access is assured and fuel supplies are unblocked.

Indonesia stadium disaster death toll rises to 131

MALANG: The death toll from an Indonesian football riot that turned into a stampede rose by six to 131 on Tuesday, a local health official said.

The six additional victims who succumbed to their injuries "have been sent home to their families," said Wiyanto Wijoyo, head of the health agency in Malang Regency where the tragedy took place.

The police chief in Indonesia's East Java province where a stadium tragedy left 131 dead at the weekend apologized Tuesday for the disaster. "As the regional police chief, I am concerned, saddened and at the same time I am sorry for the shortcomings in the security process," Nico Afinta told a press conference in the city of Malang.

Belarus's Lukashenko accuses Ukraine of border provocations

LONDON: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko accused neighboring Ukraine on Tuesday of sending 15,000 troops to the border area to build defenses and conduct reconnaissance, actions that he called "provocations."

Lukashenko allowed his close ally Russia in February to use Belarus as a staging post for its invasion of Ukraine. However, he has said Belarus is not a party to the conflict and that its own forces are not involved.

In comments carried by the state news agency BelTA, Lukashenko said the Ukrainian unit brought up to the border had blocked roads and was setting up checkpoints and firing positions.

"In a word, has not only barricaded itself, but built a wall. Constantly conducting optical, radio-electronic and radio-technical reconnaissance of our territory, troops and objects," Lukashenko said.

IIOJK to observe complete shutdown against Amit Shah's visit today

SRINAGAR: Complete shutdown will be observed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, today, against the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the territory.

Call for the strike has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to convey a strong message to India and the international community that people of Jammu and Kashmir are not ready to accept anything short of right self-determination as pledged by the United Nations. The shutdown call has been supported by other parties and leaders.

Indian police detained an activist while he was protesting in front of UN office in Srinagar against the Amit Shah's visit to Kashmir valley.

Responding to Amit Shah today's address at Rajouri wherein he said that post abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the 'most secured place', the All Parties Hurriyat Conference ridiculed the statement saying that the killing of the Director General Jail belies Indian Home Minister's claim. The chief of the prison service in India-occupied Kashmir has been murdered, police said on Tuesday, as the powerful interior minister visited the disputed Himalayan region.

It is worth mentioning here that the body of Hemant Kumar Lohia, 57, the IIOJKI's director general of prisons, was found at his home in Jammu when Amit Shah had arrived a few hours ago in the region.

North Korea sends missile soaring over Japan in escalation

SEOUL: North Korea on Tuesday conducted its longest-ever weapons test, a nuclear-capable ballistic missile that flew over Japan and could reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and beyond, forcing the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and halt trains.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries responded by launching fighter jets which fired weapons at a target off South Korea's west coast in a show of strength against North Korea.

The North Korean missile launch was its most provocative weapons demonstration this year, as it pushes to develop a fully fledged nuclear arsenal capable of threatening the U.S. mainland and its allies with the goal of wresting concessions from those countries, some experts say.

North Korea has test-fired about 40 missiles over about 20 different launch events this year as its leader, Kim Jong Un, refuses to return to nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

"The United States will continue its efforts to limit (North Korea's) ability to advance its prohibited ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programs, including with allies and U.N. partners," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement.

3 physicists share Nobel Prize for work on quantum science

STOCKHOLM: Three scientists jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for their work on quantum information science that has significant applications, for example in the field of encryption.

Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F. Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for discovering the way that unseen particles, such as photons or tiny bits of matter, can be linked, or "entangled," with each other even when they are separated by large distances.

"Being a little bit entangled is sort of like being a little bit pregnant. The effect grows on you," Clauser said in a Tuesday morning phone interview with The Associated Press.

It all goes back to a feature of the universe that even baffled Albert Einstein and connects matter and light in a tangled, chaotic way.

Clauser, 79, was awarded his prize for a 1972 experiment that helped settle a famous debate about quantum mechanics between Einstein and famed physicist Niels Bohr. Einstein described "a spooky action at a distance" that he thought would eventually be disproved.

Clauser said his work on quantum mechanics shows that you can't confine information to a closed volume, "like a little box that sits on your desk" — though even he can't say why.

"Most people would assume that nature is made out of stuff distributed throughout space and time," Clauser said. "And that appears not to be the case."

Burkina Faso coup supporters gather near regional mediation

OUAGADOUGOU: Protesters waving Russian flags gathered in Burkina Faso's capital where West African regional envoys were meeting Tuesday to press the country's latest coup leaders to swiftly return the country to civilian rule.

The meeting Tuesday in the capital, Ouagadougou, comes amid fears that the second coup to hit Burkina Faso this year will further delay democratic elections and a return to constitutional order.

Mediators from the West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS have already spent six months this year trying to persuade the previous junta

regime which seized power in January to commit to a timetable for new elections. Then last week a group of soldiers led by Capt. Ibrahim Traore overthrew the interim leader and declared themselves in charge.

ECOWAS has also been pushing for a return to democracy in neighboring Mali for more than two years. The regional bloc imposed stiff financial sanctions but later lifted them even though new elections have not yet been held.

"ECOWAS has little leverage or credibility now after the failure of its hardline approach toward Mali," said Michael Shurkin, senior fellow at the Atlan-

tic Council and a director at 14 North Strategies. "It was and is clear that the threat of sanctions gave neither Damiba nor Traore pause."

The same is true too for Guinea, the third ECOWAS country hit by a coup in recent years, he added.

"Part of the problem is the wide perception that ECOWAS serves French interests, which makes it easy for leaders to resist in the name of "pan-Africanism" and "sovereignty," Shurkin said.

After an ECOWAS delegation arrived Tuesday in Ouagadougou, an armored personnel carrier guarded the government building where they met as crowds

waited nearby. Journalists were not allowed inside.

Burkina Faso's capital remained tense after a weekend of unrest when demonstrators attacked the French Embassy in Ouagadougou after leaders of the new junta alleged that the ousted interim leader was sheltering at a French military base. France vehemently denied it and Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba later arrived in the neighboring country of Togo after agreeing to resign.

France's ambassador to Burkina Faso, Luc Hallade, put out a statement advising the 4,000 registered French citizens in the country to continue sheltering



at home. "I would like to salute the composure you have shown

throughout these days of crisis," Hallade said. "Of course, we all hope that the return to normal-

cy that seems to be taking shape in the last few hours will be confirmed. But until the situation becomes stable again, I invite you, once again, to stay at home unless there is a compelling reason or an urgent need for supplies."

Traore, Burkina Faso's new coup leader, has said he plans to keep the commitments made by the previous junta to ECOWAS, including holding new elections by 2024.

"We hope that the return to normal constitutional order will take place even before that date, if the situation allows it," Traore told Radio France International in an interview that aired Monday.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,350.43	41,211.70
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,587.73	41,211.70
Index Value	Change
7,140,440,832	+138.73
Percentage	Time
+0.34%	4 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,086.46	+177.70
Percentage	Time
+2.57%	4 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,218.71	+727.82
Percentage	Time
+2.47%	4 Oct, 11:55 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,992.21	+776.42
Percentage	Time
+2.96%	4 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	164.67	166.02
China Yuan	32.09	32.34
Danish Krone	30.05	30.4
Euro	223	225.5
Hong Kong Dollar	29.04	29.39
Indian Rupee	2.79	2.87
Japanese Yen	1.3	1.35
Kuwaiti Dinar	734	739
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	60.4	61
Singapore Dollar	159	160.3
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	257.5
US Dollar	226.5	229

Asad Umar urges govt to support ICCI for new industrial zone

Umar says establishment of new industrial zone in Islamabad was priority of PTI govt

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Asad Umar, Secretary General PTI and Ali Nawaz Awan President Islamabad Chapter of PTI visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to congratulate the new Office Bearers of ICCI. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Mian Akram Farid, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI, Waqar Bakhtawari President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tahir Abbasi, Ch. Nadeem ud Din Gujjar, Nasir Mahmood Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

Addressing the business community, Asad Umar said that the establishment of a new industrial zone in Islamabad was a key priority of the PTI government and urged that the current government should fully support ICCI for setting up this important project that would create jobs, boost industrialization and improve the economy. He said that the population of Islamabad was increasing at 6%, which was



the highest rate in the country and promoting industrialization was important to absorb youth in jobs. He said that ICCI was bringing young talent to lead the business community from the platform of ICCI, which was laudable.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce & Industry said that revival of the economy should be the top priority of all stakeholders and stressed that all stakeholders should play a role to create a conducive environment for the businesses to flourish. He said that ICCI was ready to play role as a bridge between the government and the opposition for dialogue

in order to promote political and economic stability in the country that was important for better growth of business and investment activities. He thanked Asad Umar Secretary General PTI and Ali Nawaz Awan President PTI Islamabad Region for visiting ICCI to congratulate the new office bearers.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Vice President ICCI said that making Pakistan a strong economy was the key to improve the future of our generations and all political parties should play a role to achieve this goal.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Mian Akram Farid, Zafar Bakhtawari and Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI also spoke at the occasion and thanked Asad Umar for his role in passage of an amended bill of rent control act during PTI government that resolved the 40 years old issue of business community. They said that all efforts should be made to promote economic stability in the country to pave way for a prosperous Pakistan.

Waqar Bakhtawari takes charge as President CCCI

Our Correspondent

CHAKWAL: Newly elected President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari on Tuesday took charge as President CCCI for Year 2022-23.

On the occasion, he said that Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industries will always strive for technology and innovation in tune with the modern world and will do everything possible to develop the trade and tourism sector.

The President CCCI said that in the international competitive economic environment, the requirements of trade and tourism have completely changed and now the businessmen of Chakwal will have to follow the modern requirements in the international competitive market. The newly elected President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari is taking charge of his office from the outgoing president Sheikh Haroon.

Senior vice President Umer Sami, Vice President Ahmed Farooqui, Group leader Chakwal Qazi M akber, chief coordinator Khawaja Arif, former presidents Khuram Kamran Haji Nazir Sultan, Khalid



Mirza, Aamir Najeeb Bhatta, and Zafar Bakhtawari are also present.

Waqar Bakhtawari said that "we will play our full role to make Chakwal Chamber an international level chamber."

On the occasion, he announced that he would organize a photo exhibition soon to bring the tourism potential of Chakwal to an international level. In this photo exhibition, the tourism potential of Chakwal should be highlighted and promoted at the international level, he said.

Bakhtawari said Chakwal has immense potential for tourism as it has Katas Raj Temples, Kalar Kahar and a number of beautiful lakes and small dams. There are unlimited tourism opportunities which need to be developed, he added.

He reiterated that the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce will organize an industrial exhibition in the near future to highlight the industry in Chakwal. He said that local industry will get benefits by organizing such industrial and commercial exhibitions.

Google for Startups Accelerator

Circular Economy launches in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Google is launching Google for Startups Accelerator: Circular Economy for startups and non-profit organizations in Pakistan, Asia-Pacific and North America. The program will select organizations that use technology to solve circularity challenges including reuse, refill, recycling, composting, fashion, food, safe and circular materials, and the built environment.

Asia-Pacific is a good starting point to innovate and create circular economy solutions. It is the world's most vulnerable region to climate change's impact. Only ten

teners contribute 90% of all river-borne plastic in the ocean, eight of which are in APAC. By 2040, Asia is expected to account for 40% of global consumption. Humanity consumes far more than what the planet can naturally replenish. In 2022, global demand for resources is projected to be 1.75 times what the earth's ecosystems can regenerate in a year. And most of the resources that we extract and use eventually become waste — adding to the more than 2 billion tons of solid waste created each year. The programme hopes to support startups that will help create a circular economy that is safer, sustainable, and more equitable for everyone, which will rebuild our relationship with physical resources and solve circularity challenges.

Through a mix of 1-to-1 and 1-to-many learning sessions, the accelerator offers ten weeks of virtual programming that includes technical assistance and mentoring from Google engineers and external experts.

MPCL green on wheels climate change initiative

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Ltd (MPCL) organized an event to launch its Flagship Green on Wheels Initiative to support CDA in developing Islamabad's largest Miyawaki Forest.

The event held on Tuesday at H-12, Srinagar Highway in Islamabad. The event was attended by senior management of CDA, District Administration and MPCL. The function was also attended by media personnel.

Brigadier Asad Raza (Retired) comprehensively briefed the audience about company's broader CSR commitments and Sustainability goals. The social impact of various CSR initiatives was also apprised wherein MPCL has shown the resolve and commitment towards sustainable development in all of its

areas of operation. The determination exhibited by MPCL during its flood relief mission resulted in early restoration of its all business operational sites, while providing immediate humanitarian assistance to communities affected by floods.

Mr. Irfan Azeem, DG Environment CDA explained the concept of "Miyawaki" as one of the most effective tree planting methods for creating forest on degraded land in an earlier timeframe. It is effective because it is based on natural reforestation principles, i.e. using trees native to the area and replicating natural forest regeneration processes. It has some significant benefits over more traditional forestry methods when used in smaller afforestation projects and is particularly effective in the urban environment. The trees planted by this method grow much faster, jump starting the forest creation

process and capturing more carbon.

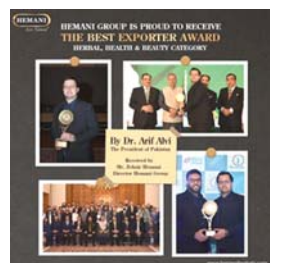
Managing Director MPCL, Mr. Faheem Haider expressed the dire need to develop climate resilient policies in wake of recent floods in Pakistan and focus on participating in clean and green environmental initiatives. He eulogized CDA's initiative of aligning their green initiatives with the MPCL's "Green on Wheels" and developing the largest Miyawaki forest in Islamabad with the support of MPCL. MPCL's Green on Wheels initiative is an extension of company's commitment towards fostering a healthy environment. Towards the end, he reiterated on the importance of our company's goal towards carbon neutrality and its true reflection through Miyawaki plantation in Islamabad. The project will always remain a landmark green project of CDA and MPCL.

Hemani Group of Companies win best exporter award

KARACHI: Determined to provide natural and healthy lifestyle solutions, Hemani Group of Companies has successfully built a robust empire of natural and herbal products that continues to become an exemplary benchmark in the beauty and wellness industry.

It has been seven decades since the company has been striving to make modern living more organic and chemical-free with its innovative lifestyle ideas. Captained by the most dynamic CEO Mr. Mustafa Hemani, the brand has reaped multiple accolades including achieving the Brand of the Year Award seven times and the Businessman of the Year Award 2020 by the CEO himself for his exemplary leadership.

He along with his son, Zohair Hemani, Director of Hemani Group, and a trail-blazing entrepreneur has steered the company towards an era of success and accomplishments. A 2009 graduate from Australia, Zohair returned to his homeland to drive his company to heights of prosperity. Consequently, it was no less than a surprise when Hemani added yet another feather in its cap by bagging 'The Best Exporter Award' under the category of herbal, health, and beauty.



50 women graduate from Tech Hub in RYK launched

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: A graduation ceremony for 50 women who have been trained in digital skills at Unilever Pakistan and CIRCLE Women Association's Technology Hub was organized in Rahim Yar Khan on Monday, 3rd October 2022. This tech hub was initiated by the two organizations to promote women's digital literacy and inclusion in the city of Rahim Yar Khan.

The organization behind the program, CIRCLE Women Association (CWA) is a tech non-profit working on imparting digital and financial literacy and startup support to women startups, including micro and small enterprises.

During the two-month long program, 50 female students aged between 18-30 received training on core digital concepts, platforms and tools such as Google Suite, Canva, and social media marketing as part of an



effort to increase their employability.

Unilever Pakistan and CIRCLE's vision behind this program is to promote financial inclusion and bridge the growing gender gap in the country by empowering young women in Rahim Yar Khan. In the next stage of the program, Unilever Pakistan and CIRCLE have pledged to train 400 more women in 2023.

Amir Paracha, Chairman & CEO, Unilever Pakistan congratulated the students on completion of the training and said, "The city of Rahim Yar Khan has so much to offer to Pakistan's future. I am certain

through freelancing. We are proud to announce that some of these women will be working on data analytics assignments for us and we are excited for the future of this partnership with CIRCLE".

Sadaf Abid, CEO of CIRCLE Women Association, addressing the participants said, "The young women in Rahim Yar Khan have proven that there is nothing they cannot do if given the right opportunity. Digital literacy and digital skills offer tremendous potential to boost financial growth and it is critical for stakeholders to invest in ensuring access for women and girls. I would like to extend our gratitude to Unilever Pakistan for partnering with us on this empowering initiative. I am eagerly waiting for the next batch to start in the Rahim Yar Khan Tech Hub and meet the young, bright minds of the future who will contribute to Pakistan's economy!".

Bringing down dollar laudable

Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt says public wants to see currency mafia in jail

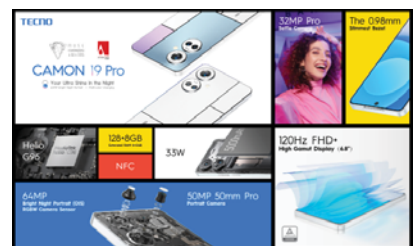
Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said intention of the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar are good which is improving the confidence of the business community.

His announcement to push the dollar below Rs200 is commendable and he will succeed in his aim soon, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that bringing down the dollar is laudable and the public wants to see the currency mafia behind bars. In a statement issued here today, he said that Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where the local currency is thrashing the dollar. He said that currency dealers, Hundi mafia and banks have turned the currency market into a stock market where they continue to destroy the country's economy by collusion, speculation and rumours. In other countries, strict action is taken against such mafias who destroy the economy for personal interests, but in Pakistan, the central bankers feels comfortable after issuing show-cause notices, he observed.

Collaboration with BTW

TECNO Mobile joins Fashion Industry



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: TECNO Mobile Pakistan is doing an exciting fashion-style collaboration with BTW Pakistan. BTW is a fashion-forward brand, popular for chic western and Ethnic clothing. The Mondrian variant is the inspirational muse for this style collaboration between the two leading brands. The handset becomes an instant hit from its launch and was on trending on Twitter with #ColorChangingMobile.

BTW's renowned designer Hamza Vaince has designed Mondrian art-inspired costumes for this amazing design collaboration. The brand will feature Five exclusive winter collection shirts based on the Mondrian art theme. All articles will be on display soon and available for sale in all BTW outlets. These designer shirts will be in vogue with the incredible fashion shoot of popular names like Sachal Afzal, Zahib Malik, Laiba Khan, and Momina Tariq. All these artists are known for their high-end style statements.

Canon 19 Pro Mondrian itself is a style statement with the industry's slimmest bezel and sleek design. Combining "sunshine drawing" technology with aesthetic design, the phone's back produces a multicolored glow when exposed to sunlight. This first-ever color-changing handset has recently won two global design awards, the 2022 MUSE Design Award from the US and the A' Design Award from Italy, for its superb workmanship and creative aesthetic appeal.

Kelvin Zheng, the CEO of TECNO Mobile Pakistan stated, "We are excited to announce this fashion collab with BTW which will give a new dimension to art and style in Pakistan. Canon 19 Pro has been praised globally for its amazing design and style."

PCB and Beaconhouse join hands for Pathway Scholarship Programme

PCB Chairman says Pathway Programme has potential to change fortunes of Pakistan cricket

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board and Beaconhouse, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutes, have entered a three-year partnership for the PCB Pathway Scholarship Programme.

Through this alliance, Beaconhouse will provide 100 academic scholarships annually to the players enrolled in PCB's Pathway Programmes. The initiative is aimed towards the education and development of the future stars of Pakistan cricket who will be provided access to free education at the Beaconhouse campuses across the country enabling them to ultimately become well rounded professional cricketers.

The partnership will provide invaluable support to PCB's mission of providing young players from all socio-economic backgrounds the necessary education to reach their full potential of becoming wholesome individuals through the creation of pathways from PCB's entry-level programmes, schools and clubs to repre-



sentative competitions leading up to the national team.

The initiative will also help trigger the sustainability of school cricket and will consequently open up the supply chain of cricketing talent in the country, whilst also increasing the talent pools for junior cricket leagues.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "The PCB Pathway Programme has the potential to change the fortunes of Pakistan cricket. The investment we have made for our upcoming stars will reap rich rewards in the years to come. The partnership with Beaconhouse is another major milestone in our quest of providing a holistic plat-

form to our players for their cricketing and educational needs and requirements.

"We hope to make them well-rounded ambassadors for Pakistan who can represent the country at international platforms with dignity and pride.

"The partnership will also provide comfort to the parents and families of the players involved in the PCB Pathway Programme as the players will have quality education in tandem with their cricket coaching and training, it is an investment that will positively shape the lives of the players."

Chief Executive Beaconhouse Kasim Kasuri: "We are delighted to work with the PCB in this important initiative. Beaconhouse strongly promotes sports at all its schools and believes in encouraging young people to explore their unique interests. Through this partnership, we hope to offer talented young cricketers the opportunity to pursue their passion and talent for cricket while also becoming accomplished individuals, equipped to take on the unique challenge of becoming future ambassadors of Pakistan."

Southern Punjab forced to follow-on by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Southern Punjab were forced to follow-on by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the former were dismissed for 168 in response to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first innings score of 458 all out on day two of the second round of Cricket Associations Championship on Tuesday.

Four wickets from Raza-ul-Hasan and Nasir Khan's half-century in the second innings helped Balochistan end the second day's play with a 185-run lead over Central Punjab at the KCCA Stadium in Karachi.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa v Southern Punjab
At the NBP Sports

Complex, resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 391 for three, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were bowled out for 458 in 100.4 overs. Aamer Azmat added 17 to his overnight score and was dismissed for 150 facing 141 balls, hitting 15 fours and four sixes.

Southern Punjab's Rahat Ali was the pick of the bowlers, bagging five wickets for 96. Tahir Hussain and Faisal Akram grabbed two wickets apiece.

In return, Southern Punjab were dismissed for 168 in the 51st over. Waqar Hussain scored 51 for Southern Punjab. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mohammad Abbas Afridi was the most successful bowler, picking

four wickets for 49. After being enforced a follow-on, Southern Punjab were 35 for one in 12 overs, when stumps were drawn.

Balochistan v Central Punjab
Resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 33 for one, Central Punjab were bowled out for 125 in the 43rd over against Balochistan. Balochistan's Raza-ul-Hasan grabbed four wickets for 44, Mohammad Junaid and Jalat Khan took three and two wickets, respectively.

With a 60-run first innings lead, Balochistan were 125 for three in 59 overs when stumps were drawn. Nasir Khan top-scored with a 146-ball 57, hitting four

fours and one six.

Northern v Sindh
At the UBL Sports Complex, Northern were 105 for one in 25 overs, in their second innings, with 160 runs lead at stumps on day two against Sindh. Northern's Ziad Khan returned undefeated on 51 off 75 balls, which included seven fours and one six.

Earlier, after resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 35 for three, Sindh were dismissed for 202 in 78 overs. Mohammad Hasan top-scored with 70, while Hasan Mohsin and Tabish Khan scored 40 runs each. For Northern, Munir Riaz bagged five wickets for 32 and Umer Khan took three wickets for 45.

Sebastien Loeb notches vital stage win to lead in Morocco rally

AGADIR: Sebastien Loeb powered his way to a vital stage victory for Bahrain Raid Xtreme to take the lead in the Rallye du Maroc, as the Prodrive Hunters dominated proceedings in the Western Sahara.

The nine-time World Rally champion won the 315 km competitive section from Agadir to Tan-Tan on Monday by 10 minutes 15 seconds from BRX teammate Orly Terranova, with Guerlain Chicherit in another Hunter completing the top three on a dramatic day in Morocco.

The result lifted Loeb from seventh overnight into an outright lead by eight seconds from Terranova, with Chicherit just 4:12 away in third place overall.

Most significantly, the French star finished the day with a massive 33:18 advantage over Qatar's Nasser



Al-Attayah, his fierce rival in the battle to become the first World Rally-Raid (W2RC) champion.

While the trio of Prodrive Hunters had all lost ground through a combination of mechanical, tire and navigational problems on the previous leg, this time it was Al-Attayah and Saudi Arabia's overnight leader Yazeed Al-Rajhi who found trouble.

It was then Loeb's turn to increase the power and take the stage lead before the half-way point, with Terranova also making good progress to take the Hunters to the top three positions, before the Argentine moved ahead of Chicherit.

Monday's leg had begun with a 119-km journey from Tan-Tan to the start of the rally's second desert stage, which included a variety of terrain up to a large plateau at the midway point, followed by a succession of dunes.

The stage finished at the new Laayoune bivouac, located on an imposing site overlooking a wadi, where the Rallye du Maroc set up camp for two nights. Tuesday's 299-km third desert stage follows, with another two set to take place before the finish in Agadir on Thursday.

Tennis star Kyrgios to fight assault charge on mental health grounds

CANBERRA: Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios will apply to have an assault charge dismissed on mental health grounds, his lawyer told an Australian court on Tuesday.

Lawyer Michael Kukulies-Smith appeared on behalf of Kyrgios in a court in the tennis star's hometown of Canberra and asked for an adjournment so forensic mental health reports could be prepared. Magistrate Glenn Theakston adjourned the case until Feb. 3, when Kyrgios' lawyers are expected to apply to have the charge dismissed under a section of the local crimes law.

The 27-year-old Australian tennis star will appear in court in person on that date for the first time since he was charged by police by summons in July. The law gives magistrates the

power to dismiss a charge if they are satisfied an accused person is mentally impaired, and dealing with an allegation in that way would benefit the community and the defendant.

The common assault charge, which has a potential maximum sentence of two years in prison, relates to an incident in January 2021 that was reported to local police last December. The charge reportedly relates to an incident involving his former girlfriend.

Kukulies-Smith told the court his client's mental health history since 2015 made the application appropriate, citing a number of public statements made by Kyrgios.

In February, Kyrgios opened up about his performance at the 2019 Australian Open, saying what appeared to be a positive



time in his life had been "one of my darkest periods."

"I was lonely, depressed, negative, abusing alcohol, drugs, pushed away family and friends," he wrote on Instagram. "I felt as if I couldn't talk or trust anyone. This was a result of not opening up and refusing to lean on my loved ones and simply just push myself little by little

to be positive."

Kyrgios made further references to his mental health struggles during his runs to the final at Wimbledon and the quarter-finals at the US Open. After ending Daniil Medvedev's US Open title defense last month to reach the quarter-finals, Kyrgios expressed pride at lifting himself out of "some real-

ly tough situations, mentally" and "some really scary places" off the court.

Theakston questioned whether Kyrgios would need to appear in court for the February hearing, but Kukulies-Smith said his client wanted to attend.

Kyrgios was scheduled to play at the Japan Open later Tuesday against Tseng Chun-hsin of Taiwan. Speaking in Tokyo before his matter returned to court, Kyrgios said it was "not difficult at all" to focus on tennis despite the pending charge.

"There's only so much I can control and I'm taking all the steps and dealing with that off the court," he told reporters. "I can only do what I can and I'm here in Tokyo and just trying to play some good tennis, continue that momentum and just try to do my job."

Xavi warns Barca must not 'fail' against Inter



MILAN: Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez warned his players they cannot fail on Tuesday when they face Inter Milan in the Champions League at the San Siro.

Both Barca and Inter have lost to Group C leaders Bayern Munich, and head into the clash on three points from the first two games.

The Champions League has proven a cruel place for Barcelona in recent years, since they won it in 2015, and last season they suffered a humiliating group stage elimination.

"The game is vital tomorrow, not definitive, but very important if we are to get through to the next round," Xavi told a press conference on Monday.

"We both lost to Bayern so tomorrow's game is huge. We will see what Bayern do tomorrow too, but we cannot fail. That's in our heads, we cannot fail."

The Catalans are in good form, top of La Liga and unbeaten domestically, while Inter Milan are struggling, ninth in Serie A with four defeats in eight games.

However Xavi believes prior results are not important and that Inter can pose his team a different threat to any side in Spain.

"Form doesn't matter that much, we've played many games in which we were favourites and we lost," added Xavi. "Inter are very strong, they have great movement in attack, they use a dynamic style with two forwards that isn't used in the Spanish league. "This is the toughest group we've had in the Champions League for many years, it will be very difficult. We have to show the personality we showed in Munich but get the result."

Barcelona left-back Marcos Alonso started that game and is expected to feature against Inter Milan, although potentially out of position.

Ronald Araujo, Jules Kounde, Hector Bellerin, Memphis Depay and Frenkie de Jong are injured and Alonso could be used at centre-back if Xavi decides to line up with three defenders in that position. "It wouldn't be the first time I've played there," said Alonso. "My main desire is to play, if the coach wants me there, then I will give my all and do my best for the team."

Saudi Arabia to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at NEOM

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday it has won a bid to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a planned mountain resort in the Gulf Arab state's \$500 billion flagship NEOM project.

The TROJENA development is expected to be completed in 2026 and will offer outdoor skiing, a man-made freshwater lake and a nature reserve, according to the project's website.

In August, a letter of interest to the Olympic Council of Asia included a brief of Saudi Vision 2030, which will support TROJENA host one of the most significant sporting events in Asia in which more than 32 countries are expected to participate.

The Olympic Council of Asia welcomed the official request. The decision was made during the council's executive board meeting and general assembly being held in Cambodia on Oct. 3-4.

"With the unlimited support by the Saudi leadership & HRH Crown Prince to the sport sector we are proud to announce we have won the bid to host AWG TROJENA2029 as the first country in west Asia," Sports Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal said on Twitter.

"This is a great victory for the Saudi nation and Gulf countries people due to the generous support offered to the Saudi sports sector that significantly contributes to the progress of sport and all other fields in the Kingdom to deliver the objectives of the Saudi 2030 vision.

"This achievement also shed light on the enormous potential and the outstanding infrastructure of Saudi Arabia to host and organize international-level sports competitions and Games successfully," he added.

NEOM is Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's most ambitious project under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 development plan to reduce reliance on oil and transform the economy, including by developing sports.

NEOM, a 26,500-square-kilometer high-tech development on the Red Sea, will include zero-carbon city The Line, as well as industrial and logistics areas. Saudi Arabia will be the first West Asian nation to host the Asian Winter Games.

Pakistan cricket team arrives in New Zealand



Spokesman Report

CHRISTCHURCH: Pakistan cricket team arrived in New Zealand for participation in triangular cricket series.

Host New Zealand, Pakistan and Bangladesh will take part in the series. All the matches will be played at Christchurch. There are 16 member team and 13 member staff included. After one day rest Pakistan cricket team will begin the training from Thursday. Pakistan will play the first match against Bangladesh on 7th October.

Boys have potential to shine in every situation: Rodrigo Esteves

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan men's football team physical trainer Rodrigo Esteves dos Santos has said that the boys have the potential to shine in every situation.

Sharing his views during the ongoing camp here in Lahore, the physical trainer said: "The national football team that we selected and trained from different cities is quite good. They all are good players and good learners as well. The boys are good at learning new things and also improving their performances every day. I am also trying my best to take them up to the mark i.e. exercises and games are also undertaken to enhance their skills."

He further said: "I have joined the PFF as physical trainer just four weeks ago, and from my joining to date, the boys have been growing in every aspect, from fitness to running, everything is going well. The boys are young and they belonged to different clubs and participated in different games; from there they gained exposure."

Talking about the fitness of the team, he said: "The scenario of the Pakistan side is good; the fitness plan is to make them speed-wise fast and the other is to make them physically strong. My aim is to focus on their technical skill which will help them in the future.

"Pakistan's presence can be felt if they get a chance in any international event and I am sure they will perform well in the future. I am seeing Pakistan shining in the next few months," he added.

Rodrigo concluded that the nutrition plan is excellent. "We are giving hygienic food and some supplements to make them physically strong, while the training and friendly games are also being done on a daily basis in order to make them fit and mentally strong for the upcoming international assignments," he asserted.

Ten-day Polo Festival concludes in Drosh

CHITRAL: The ten-day District Youth Polo Festival concluded here on Tuesday which was held under the aegis of the district administration and participated by 17 teams from Darosh tehsil and Chitral.

The final match was played between Drosh and Chitral on Drosh Polo Ground, that had remained deserted for the last 38 years owing to its pitiable condition.

In the final match, Chitral won the match. Polo coach Aftab Alam said, "Polo is an expensive sport that needs the attention of the government as it can also promote tourism." He said a polo player gets only Rs 5,000 per year which is insufficient for the player to continue the game.

Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral Anwar-ul-Haq was the chief guest and distributed trophies and prizes among the players. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Promoting this game is necessary to attract tourists."

District sports Officer Chitral Aamir Zaman said now there would be a revival of the playgrounds across Chitral as the locals wanted to play this game. He said the people of Chitral had a special connection with and love for polo.

Prince Hishamul Mulk, a player of the Drosh polo team, said there was a lot of potential among the players of Drosh with regard to polo game, adding the government should "pay attention towards promotion of this game, renovations of grounds and encouraging players." He stressed that holding such events could also help to promote polo in the region.

A large number of spectators turned up in the polo ground to enjoy the final match. Upon conclusion of the match, players also performed the traditional Bhangra that was greatly enjoyed by the audience.