



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
حذیر رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ہمیں سونے اور چاندی کے برتن میں بیٹے اور کھانے سے منع فرمایا تھا اور ریشم اور دیاج پہننے اور اس پر بیٹھے سے منع فرمایا تھا۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5837)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Debt restructuring not being considered: FM

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that debt restructuring is not in the talks with any lender at the moment, not even China. FM Bilawal said that China is called Pakistan's "all-weather friend" for a reason; however, debt restructuring is not being considered at the moment, but there have been talks regarding debt deferments.



Teachers are nation's pride: Farah Azeem

Balochistan government's spokesperson Farah Azeem on Wednesday said teachers are pride of the nation. She said teaching is a sacred profession that Allah Almighty has given this responsibility to his noble people. "Teachers have been given the status of spiritual parents by our religion Islam," she added. "Balochistan government is taking teachers into confidence and solving their legitimate problems to increase the literacy rate, girls Cadet Colleges have been established in Turbat and Quetta, she said. News on Page 2

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Pakistan warns of threat to South Asia's peace by India

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan drew world community's attention to the threat posed to peace and security in South Asia by India's "ultra-nationalist and hegemonic" policies, that, among other objectives, seek to crush the legitimate Kashmiri quest for self-determination with an occupation army of 900,000 troops.

"Peace and security in South Asia is threatened by the ultranationalist and hegemonic policies of one State, turbo-charged by the extremist ideology of Hindutva," Ambassador Munir Akram Tuesday told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters.

As far Pakistan, he said that Islamabad desired, and was determined to pursue, peace, development and strategic stability based on sovereign equality and mutual respect.

Elaborating the threat to regional peace, the Pakistani envoy said, the Indian government seeks to establish an exclusive Hindu State in India by oppressing and marginalizing its 200 million Muslims and other minorities, and threaten and intimate Pakistan with the deployment of the vast majority of its land, sea and air forces against it and the adoption of doctrines which envisage fighting a "limited war under the nuclear overhang" and resorting to "Cold Start" surprise attacks. India, he said, is also building-up its conventional and nuclear weapons capabilities, including by the acquisition of weapons - amounting last year to \$73 billion - to threaten neighbours, impose its regional hegemony and promote its great power aspirations.

Energy source for future

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on railway connectivity of Thar Coal Mines in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Connectivity

PM orders linking Thar Coal Mines with rail network

Shehbaz says usage of Thar coal in power plants would help save \$2b annually

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to link the Thar Coal Mines with the country's railway network by March 2023.

During a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Wednesday, it was principally decided that the project of linking Thar Coal Mines with rail network would be jointly executed by the Federal and Sindh governments. The Prime Minister told the

PM urges to ramp up global actions to help flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the revised UN appeal for 816 million dollars for flood victims underscores need for continued global engagement. The PM said with food and health crisis becoming graver, we need to ramp up action. He also thanked UN Secretary General António Guterres for his leadership in articulating needs of people affected by disastrous floods.

meeting that the development projects need to be completed with the "Pakistan Speed" as the previous government had inflicted irreparable loss to the country

during last four years.

He said the government is trying to revive the development course which the previous government had deliberately kept halted

during 2018 to 2022.

He said with the linking of Thar Coal Mines with railway network, local coal would be used in power plants replacing the imported one. Shehbaz Sharif said the usage of Thar coal in power plants would help save 2 billion dollars annually.

The meeting was informed that after the linking of Thar Coal Mines with rail network, the local coal would be utilized not only the power plants of Jamshoro and Port Qasim but also other power plants and industries in the country to save the public money.

'No issue who will be appointed as COAS'

Imran tells journalists that master copy of cypher is secure in FO

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said that he does not care who will be appointed as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) but the army chief should be chosen on merit.

During a meeting with senior journalists at the Punjab Chief Minister's House, the PTI chief while taking a dig at Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that how can a criminal decide on such a major appointment, adding that he does not care who will be appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff (COAS) but the army chief should be chosen on merit.

Regarding the Cypher missing issue, Imran said that the cypher was not stolen from anywhere, adding that the

original copy of the cypher is still in the Foreign Office.

"NRO was given to the opponents once again, I will not tell anyone the date when the long march will take place because our conversations are being recorded. I did not tell Shah Mehmood either," Imran Khan added.

Rebuking the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), he said that he had never seen such a biased CEC, adding that he wanted to disqualify him. "I did not do anything illegal, and I want to challenge the ECP to hear Nawaz and Zardari's cases simultaneously, then everything will become crystal clear," he added. Agencies

"Everything can be done through negotiations. In the end, things are settled only through negotiations," he said.

Info Minister strongly criticizes PTI chief

Mariyum asks Imran to answer pertinent questions prior to his call for long march

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan should fully explain the real motives, prior to a long march to federal capital.

She put up a formal challenge to the PTI leader to first answer her pertinent questions, and then give a date for the long march. In a statement, the minister asked why 'the foreign agent', playing with national security, was bent upon destabilizing the democratic system in the country.

She said it was unfortunate that the PTI chairman was busy

in making preparations for the long march, but alas he had no time to help the flood victims.

The minister said that Imran Khan, who ruined national economy with record loans worth over Rs 20 thousand billion, was threatening to march towards the federal capital.

She questioned why "the foreign agent conspiring to bankrupt Pakistan's economy" was coming to Islamabad.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that the foreign agent had rendered 9.5 million people unemployed and pushed over 20 million people into abject poverty. APP

Pak, US agree to improve bilateral cooperation

Assistance from global partners vital for rehabilitation of Pakistan flood victims, says COAS

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON D.C.: Pakistan and United States have agreed on improving bilateral cooperation in economic, trade and investment sectors.

The understanding was reached during meetings of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa with Secretary of Defence General Lloyd James Austin III Retired, National Security Advisor Jacob Jeremiah Sullivan and Deputy Secretary of state Wendy Ruth Sherman during his visit to USA.

During the meetings, matters of mutual of interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed.

The army chief thanked the US officials for their support and reiterated that assistance from our global partners shall be vital for rescue and rehabilitation of the flood victims in Pakistan.

He offered heartfelt condolence on the deaths and devastation caused by hurricane in Florida.

He said Pakistan fully understands the loss and



Secretary of Defence General Lloyd James Austin III (Retired) receives Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Pentagon.

pain of victims' families as Pakistan is suffering from similar effects of climate change.

Both sides had convergence on major interna-

tional issues including Afghanistan and need for cooperation to avoid humanitarian crisis and improving peace and stability in the region.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 260 points

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 260.99 points, a positive change of 0.63 percent, closing at 41,611.42 against 41,350.43 points on the last working day.

A total of 635,590,113 shares were traded during the day compared to 593,437,368 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.10.525 billion against Rs. 9.350 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 164 of them recorded gain and 163 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 365,167,500 shares at Rs1.57 per share, Telectrad Limited with 23,103,500 at Rs11.43 and TRG Pak Ltd with 21,772,231 at Rs143.91 per share. Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum

increase of Rs.550 per share price, closing at Rs10.350 whereas the runner up was Unilever Foods with Rs.500 rise in per share price to Rs.25,500.

Asif hails armed forces over distancing from national politics

Next general elections to be held as per schedule, says Defence Minister

Staff Report

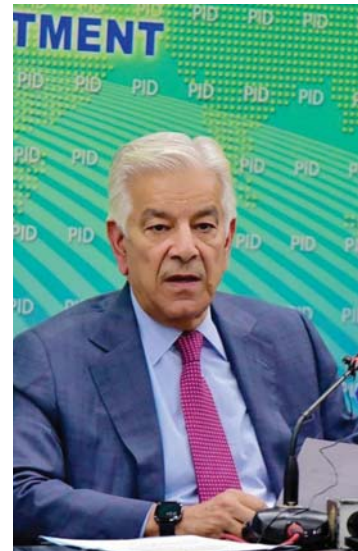
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday hailed the armed forces for distancing from the national politics, terming it a propitious decision.

The politicians had made struggle of four decades under dictatorial regimes for democracy, but ironically Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was seeking the backing of armed forces, he said addressing a press conference. The minister said Imran Khan at the same time criticized the state institutions for allegedly not extending support to him, which showed his duplicity.

He said the PTI chief in his speech at the Taxila political gathering maligned the institutions as per his routine in the last five months. He purportedly made statements against the Pakistan Army and the establishment, while on the contrary he was heard in the leaked audio asking his party stalwarts to manipulate the cipher through changing the minutes of the meeting while avoiding to name the United States.

Khawaja Asif said "Imran Khan should have shown some respect for the state institutions, but he instead acted in the opposite." He based his "foreign conspiracy" narrative on the cipher that he (Imran) should be ousted (from the PM House) and replaced by Shehbaz Sharif, but it was not the case.

He read out the exact statement that Imran had uttered at the Taxila meeting: "If a burglary occurs in your home and the watchman says that 'I am



neutral. Should he be spared?"

The above statement showed the "uncalled terminology" used by the PTI chief for state institutions, he regretted.

The minister said the government was looking into the matter carefully and would take action against Imran Khan for maligning state institutions as per law. The institutions were not meant to safeguard the interests of "thieves like Imran Khan who came into power", as their job was to defend the country, he added.

"The armed forces have rendered huge sacrifices in the war against terror that has no precedent in the world and the entire nation support them," he said.

He said Imran Khan had taken the oath (as prime minister) to protect the Constitution, but he was making

contradictory statements in that regard.

Khawaja Asif said, "Imran Khan first revealed that he had the copy of cipher, but now he claims that he does not know about it. He kept it in his custody, but is now lying to the nation. I have never seen such a politician in my political career who criticises his benefactors and bites the same hand that supports him," he said.

However, behind the scene the same Imran Khan was begging for pardon from the establishment, he added. The minister said Imran Khan was "scared of November as the distancing of the state institutions from politics have sabotaged the his designs for another 5-year government term.

He said terrorists were carrying out activities in the northern areas and the armed forces were rendering sacrifices to end the menace of extremism. "Low intensity war against terror is underway and the nation has to stand behind the armed forces." Likewise, he said, big NGOs were working in flood hit areas, the Balochistan and Sindh chief ministers were in the field, and the prime minister was also visiting the flood affected areas, but Imran Khan was not seen anywhere.

Responding to queries, he said he had two experiences of the appointment of the army chief and the process used to start by the end of October or at the start of November. "Nawaz Sharif as prime minister had set a precedent that the outgoing army chief should have a respectable departure as he should have proper time for farewell calls with his staff and troops he had commanded."

For flood victims' woes

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with a delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) headed by its Country Director Mr. Yong Ye at Finance Division, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

IS At ICAO session

IS Financial support

Pakistan aviation industry's efforts hailed



Spokesman Report

MONTREAL: A delegation of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), headed by the Director General Khaqan Murtaza, attended the "Triennial ICAO 41st General Assembly Session" held at International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) headquarters Montreal, Canada.

The DGCAA, being the chief delegate, called on the President ICAO Council, the news released said on Wednesday.

Moreover, the PCCA's spokesperson Saifullah Khan apprised that the delegation shared, with the President ICAO Council, significant legislative and innovative initiatives transforming the country's aviation industry. Meanwhile, Pakistan's efforts to make country's aviation industry an efficient, standards compliant and innovative were commended during the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the Pakistan's Counsel General in Canada and Deputy DG Reg CAA. In addition, DG CAA also held separate meetings with the Secretary General ICAO and delegations from other countries, including UK, China, Malaysia and Qatar.

The ICAO Assembly Sessions are held triennially (after every three years) attended by 193 members countries. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) 41st Assembly Session was being held for ten days as the session commenced on 27th September and to continue till 7th October, 2022, the release added.

ADB to provide flood relief support to Pakistan

Finance Minister lauds ADB role for promoting sustainable development in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank has announced to provide flood relief support to Pakistan to the tune of 2.3 to 2.5 billion dollars including 1.5 billion dollars for the BRACE program.

This was assured by the Country Director of Asian Development Bank Yong Ye who called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Wednesday.

He said the program will be placed before the Asian Development Bank's Board for approval during this month. The Country Director Asian Development Bank extended felicitations to Finance Minister on assuming the charge of the office and expressed sympathy on the loss of lives and properties in the devastating floods in Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed him and appreciated Asian Development Bank's role and support in promoting sustainable development in Pakistan.

He apprised the delegation of devastation caused by the recent floods in the country and its impact on the economy

of Pakistan.

He also informed about ongoing and future projects of Asian Development Bank in different sectors including social protection, food security and energy sectors. Regarding the Country Partnership Strategy for Pakistan 2021-25, it was shared that this strategy is

Govt with its pragmatic policy decisions has set the economy in right direction

in line with the vision of government of Pakistan.

The Finance Minister expressed gratitude to Asian Development Bank's delegation for their persistent support and assured them of full cooperation by the government for swift execution of the ongoing and future programs.

Meanwhile, Modalities for provision of adequate gas supply for domestic and industrial consumption and reduc-

ing the shortfall in the winter season were discussed during a meeting here Wednesday. The meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, said a press statement issued by finance ministry.

The meeting was apprised on the supply and demand situation of gas during the winter season, the statement added. Meanwhile, the finance minister also presided over a meeting on Foreign Exchange challenges and issues faced by business community, at Finance Division. The meeting was apprised on the issues the business community is facing regarding imports and exports.

It discussed the modalities for facilitating business community regarding imports and enhancing exports to boost the business activities in the country.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha; SAPM on Government Effectiveness, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan; SAPM on Finance, Mr. Tariq Bajwa; Governor State Bank, Chairman FBR and senior officer.

President okays filing of reference over Reko Diq Project

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on the advice of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has accorded his approval to a summary for filing of reference in the Supreme Court of Pakistan under Article 186 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 in Reko Diq Project.

Earlier the Apex Committee, headed by minister for finance and Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan (Private) Limited shareholders had agreed to a framework for settlement and revival of the Reko Diq Project in March 2022.

The federal cabinet in a meeting held on 30th September had approved filing of a reference in the Supreme Court under Article 186 of the Constitution with respect to the following questions of law of public importance:- "i. Whether the earlier judgment of the Supreme Court reported as Maulvi Abdul Haque Baloch v. Federation of Pakistan PLD 2013 SC 641, the Constitution of Pakistan, laws or public policy prevent the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Balochistan from entering into the Reko Diq Agreements or affect their validity? ii. If enacted, would the proposed Foreign Investment (Protection and Promotion) Bill, 2022 be valid and constitutional?"

Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday urged the insurance companies and other stakeholders to develop a self-sustaining model for insurance of the crops. He said that the farmers could be educated regarding crop insurance through media. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting of stakeholders on the insurance of crops, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was attended by Senator Sania Nishtar, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Punjab Agriculture

Minister Dr Muhammad Khawar Jameel, Federal Insurance Ombudsman, representatives from State Bank of Pakistan, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), insurance companies and others, a press release issued by the President's Media Wing here said.

The President said that a fully thought-out, practical and friendly comprehensive strategy for farmers should be devised with a timeline after consultation with all stakeholders from the private and government sectors for providing crop insurance facilities to farmers without complicated procedures.

He said that shielding the farmer from crop failure and crop loss due to manmade and natural disasters was very important for ensuring food security for Pakistan as agriculture constituted the largest sector of Pakistan's economy and a large number of the country's population was directly or indirectly dependent on this sector.

The President said that Pakistan was among the top ten countries most vulnerable to global warming-induced natural calamities and due to this phenomenon, the farmers had to face cyclic and frequent floods, a prolonged period of drought, unpredictable weather systems and pest attacks which resulted in frequent crop losses in various parts of the country.

He emphasized the need for setting in place a sophisticated satellite imagery-based weather forecasting system capable of providing valuable and authentic data on weather patterns and accurate weather forecasting especially floods which would provide valuable information to forewarn the farmers to take remedial measures for preventing crop destruction due to natural calamities. APP

PM to announce 'Kisan Package' soon: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah on Wednesday said the government would fulfill all the promises made to the farmers and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to announce 'Kisan Package' during the ongoing month. He stated this during a meeting with representatives of 'Kisan Ittehad Union' which was attended by Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, Minister for National Food Security Tariq Bashir Cheema and Minister for Energy (Power) Khuram Dastgir. The groups of 'Kisan Ittehad Union' were represented by Khalid Khokhar and Aamir Watto while Secretary Power and Secretary National Food Security and Additional Secretary Finance were also present during the talks. Interior Minister Rana Sanullah welcomed the representatives of 'Kisan Ittehad Union' and thanked them for calling off sit-in. He said the negotiations of Kisan Ittehad Union with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif remained successful. He said that food security in Pakistan is not possible without prosperous farmers, the Interior Minister said adding that payment of electricity bills of tubewells has already been deferred. He assured that all the demands of the farmers will be presented to the prime minister while incentives would be announced for agriculture sector and farmers. Staff Reporter

Will only talk with establishment, says PTI leader

Current political crisis has deepened further: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday said that the real power in the country rests with the establishment and that his party will only talk with them.

The statement from the former information minister came after reports emerged that Imran Khan had a meeting with a key figure recently to resolve misunderstandings.

Talking to a private news channel, Fawad, in a tone reflecting helplessness and disenchantment with their political opponents, asked the anchor how the estab-

lishment could be kept out or ignored while negotiating.

He said the real power and authority to make decisions resided with the establishment that removed the PTI government. In Pakistan, only non-elected people made decisions and not the elected representatives, who he claimed had no power.

Fawad admitted that it was the political leadership's collective failure to develop a system where political opponents sat at the negotiating table to discuss intricate issues and reach rapprochements.

He said Maryam Nawaz's

press conference or Rana Sanullah's statements carried no political worth or significance and their stature was too low to discuss such big issues. "When no party is willing to talk out issues, then ultimately they (the establishment) make decisions," Fawad said. He agreed with the anchor that the current political crisis had deepened further.

Meanwhile, reacting to PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz's presser, Fawad said the unchecked "exit and arrival" of criminals was a slap in the face to the state and the justice system. Agencies

Women, children worst sufferers of recent floods: Masood

Ambassador highlights the miseries of flood victims at fundraising event

Our Correspondent

WASHINGTON: Highlighting the flood-havoc that has displaced millions of people in Pakistan, Ambassador Masood Khan has told a fundraising event that women and children, among them, were suffering the most in makeshift shelters.

"Forced to face all kinds of hardships in makeshift shelter homes and experiencing untold miseries, these climate refugees need urgent attention and long-term commitment of the international community," the Pakistani envoy said, according to a press release of the Pakistan embassy.

Masood Khan made these remarks

while addressing the event organized by Refugee Girls Worldwide (RGW), a non-profit charitable organization working for the betterment of refugees girls in Turkey, Palestine, Ukraine, Pakistan and Canada.

Attending were prominent members of Pakistani diaspora, philanthropists, and officials of the State Department and Embassy of Pakistan.

Appreciating the efforts for RGW for girls, being the most vulnerable section of society especially during calamities, Ambassador Khan observed that "our empathy towards marginalized sections defined our character as civilized and humane society."

Masood Khan said that more than

70% of 33 million flood-affected population consisted of women and children. There were 600,000 pregnant women with 2,000 women giving birth everyday in an unsafe and unhygienic conditions. Gastrointestinal infections and other waterborne diseases, including dengue fever and malaria, he said, had created a "disaster within a disaster."

While thanking US government, civil society, philanthropists and especially Pak-American community for their generosity during rescue and relief operations, the Ambassador called upon international community for long-term commitment for reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.

'India No.1 country in world likely to witness a genocide'

ISLAMABAD: With the multiple video footages of Muslims being publicly flogged by Hindu fanatics surfacing on the internet, analysts believe that India was fast heading toward the much-feared stage of genocide.

Recently an upsurge in lynching and mistreating of Muslim youngsters has been observed in India, especially during the religious festival of Garba. In multiple incidents, the right-wing Hindu extremist mob maltreated Muslims around the said religious festival.

On October 3 and 4, three incidents were reported where state machinery supported Hindu extremists in their anti-Muslim agenda.

"India has all of the preparatory stages for more genocidal massacres," according to Dr Gregory Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch.

Dr. Stanton had predicted a genocide in Rwanda years before it took place in 1994. Now he has warned of an impending genocide of Muslims in India, comparing the situation of the country under the Narendra Modi government to events in Myanmar and Rwanda.

In the State of Gujarat, nine Muslim men were public-



ly flogged by Hindu extremists while the crowd chanted nationalist slogans and the state machinery including police reportedly supervised and supported the torture. The incident happened when a mob of Hindus teased and chanted

anti-Islam slogans in the Muslim community area.

In a separate incident in Jharkand, 22 years old Ejaz Ansari was beaten to death by RSS mob with axes and batons.

In Mandsaur city of Madhya Pradesh, 19 Muslim youth were arrested on fake charges of disturbing the Garba festival. The houses of three youths were also bulldozed by the administration.

The International Human Rights Foundation took notice of the incident and asked the Government of India to take notice of the incident.

"Yet another video of a prominent Hindu supremacist singer calling on Hindus to buy weapons and to prepare themselves for a war to turn India into a Hindu nation. The world can no more ignore what's happening in India. Muslims are at the cusp of genocide," the Indian American Muslim Council wrote on Twitter.

The analysts believe that India was becoming a Hindu Rashtra where Muslims will be forced to live as second-class citizens and will be persecuted and murdered.

In Narendra Modi's India, the Hindutva hateful ideology

is being propagated and supported by Indian media and state machinery. The Muslims are being demeaned and accused of bogus charges with their houses being demolished.

The saner elements in India have urged international human rights organizations to take notice of the human rights abuses and rising Islamophobia in India.

Ironically, the Indian police and justice system remains complicit with the right-wing Hindu nationalist in their agenda of marginalizing and lynching Muslims.

The backing of the Indian state machinery of the human rights violators is evident from the fact that 11 Hindu men convicted of gang rape of Bilkis Bano were released by the court. They were given a heroic welcome and garlanded after their release.

"A Hindu religious leader asking thousands of his supporters to carry arms to support Modi's plan to make India a Hindu country. This is why India is the No.1 country in the world that is likely to witness a genocide," said Ashok Swain, Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at a Swedish university commenting on a video on Twitter. APP

Sindh turns to be first victim of climate change: CM Sindh

Says established medical camps to provide treatment in flood-hit areas

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Wednesday said that agricultural water is becoming an expensive commodity; therefore we would have to use it efficiently to ensure food security by changing cropping patterns.

He said while talking to Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins who called on him here at CM House, said a spokesperson of the CM Sindh.

The meeting was attended by CM Special Assistant Syed Qasim Naveed, Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh while the Australian high commissioner was accompanied by First Secretary Ms. Ashleigh Light and Political Secretary Fareeha Shamim.

At the outset of the meeting, the Australian High Commissioner expressed profound grief and sorrow over the loss of life caused by the recent floods.

He added that the impact of climate change has started emerging in the shape of heavy downpours, scorching heat, and melting of heat.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that Pakistan, particularly the people of



Sindh has become the first victims of climate change. He added that internally displaced persons (IDPs) were facing numerous problems. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the issues of dengue, malaria, and skin have broken out among the people living along the main roads and camps. "We have established medical camps to provide treatment to the patients and try to drain

out accumulated water at the earliest so that these issues could be controlled," he said.

The high commissioner said that the flood water could be released into the River so that it could be discharged into the sea. He added that it would help maintain the stability of the ecosystem.

At this, the chief minister said that unfortunately some of our people

believe that releasing water into the sea through the rivers was waste [of water], as a matter of fact, it was necessary to stop sea intrusion. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that in the early Kharif we faced an acute shortage of water and then heavy downpours turned everything upside down.

He added that water was becoming an expensive commodity, therefore we have to make its efficient use for agricultural purposes.

According to the CM, food security could only be ensured by introducing low delta and high-yield crops. "Now, various varieties of rice and wheat have come into the international markets which have a high yield," he said and added he was focusing on agriculture research so that desired seeds and varieties could be introduced.

The visiting diplomat and the chief minister agreed to take benefit from each other's experiences in respect of cropping patterns and high-yield crops. The chief minister presented his shield, Sindhi ajrak, and cap to the visiting guest, and the guest presented a book to the chief minister.

Dr. Shahid, internationally acknowledged name in field of statistics

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Prof. Dr. Shahid Kamal is a renowned, internationally acknowledged name in the field of statistics. A PhD, in Biostatistics from the University of Exeter, Devon, UK, he has a teaching, research and administrative experience spanning more than 30 years encompassing Biostatistics, Design and Analysis of Experiments, Regression and Econometrics, Business Statistics, Computer Applications & Programming and in diverse fields of statistical applications. He served as Dean, Director, Principal, Professor at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

He has developed many institutes and centres including Operation Research Centre and Statistical Data-



bank. He has initiated many masters degree programs at University of the Punjab. He has authored two books. He has contributed a great number of research articles in reputable research journals in his field. He has supervised many research scholars at MPhil and PhD levels. He hails from a well-known educational family of Pakistan. He has joined as 5th Vice Chancellor of Government College University Faisalabad on July 24,

2019.

Government College University Faisalabad is an institution with a history of contribution in the field of education. The University enjoys a dynamic reach of multiple disciplines in research and development through its different academic programs. The programs are designed keeping in view our national goals, educational challenges and industry-academia requirements. We offer Undergraduate, Graduate and Post-Graduate programs. The academic departments work under their respective faculties and are committed to impart quality education.

At Government College University Faisalabad, we are endeavouring to resolve current era's educational challenges through research

culture. In order to provide our students quality education, we have not only improved and revolutionized the academic and research infrastructure but at the same time, we are developing strategies for those who want to excel in their respective fields.

Our aim is to develop, in our students, tolerance, confidence and professional competence. It will enhance their personal and intellectual capabilities to face the upcoming challenges of their lives. We offer courses with a commitment to fostering a thirst for knowledge and understanding in disciplines of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Computer Sciences, Law, Pharmaceutics, Business Studies, Social Sciences, Islamic & Oriental Learning and Medical Sciences.

Gilgit-Baltistan gets its very own Rule of Law Delivery Unit

Spokesman Report

GILGIT: Nazir Ahmad Advocate, Deputy Speaker, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Assembly, Syed Suhail Abbas Minister Law, Government of GB, Yasir Abbas Coordinator to the Chief Minister GB on Rule of Law and Chamila Hemmathagama, Programme Manager, Rule of Law (RoL) Programme, UNDP Pakistan, inaugurated the region's first RoL Delivery Unit at the Soni Jawari Centre for Public Policy (SJCPP), Chief Minister's Secretariat, Gilgit.

The RoL Delivery Unit will oversee the implementation of RoL Roadmap, a strategy that identifies key priority intervention areas for rule of law and justice reforms, and security and justice sector institutional strengthening in



GB. The GB RoL Roadmap was developed by the Government of GB with technical advice and assistance from UNDP earlier this year. It will be presented before the GB Cabinet for further approval.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Nazir Ahmad, Advocate, Deputy Speaker, GB Assembly, assured, "The Government of GB is committed to introduce reforms that will enhance the service delivery of the law enforcement and

justice sector institutions to consequently, empower the citizens of GB." He also thanked UNDP for its technical support in developing the roadmap and the delivery unit.

Yasir Abbas, Coordinator to the Chief Minister GB on Rule of Law also spoke on the occasion and thanked UNDP for its support in developing the GB RoL Roadmap.

Ms Chamila Hemmathagama, Programme Manager,

Rule of Law Programme, UNDP Pakistan, underlined, "UNDP, through its efforts, aims to improve access to justice and security to all including marginalized segments of the community in GB." She also thanked UNDP Global Programme Fund for generously supporting the project that spanned over two years (2020-2022) and focused on strengthening GB's law and justice sector to ensure a more peaceful, just and safer community.

After the inauguration, a consultative session was also held that was attended by all the key law enforcement and legislative stakeholders of GB. In the session, UNDP and the Government of GB oriented the participants on the GB RoL Roadmap while highlighting its significance and scope.

Speakers call for effective disaster mitigation system to meet any eventuality

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Speakers at a seminar emphasized the need for a coherent grassroots community-led strategy to identify vulnerabilities and develop an action plan for effective disaster management and risk reduction.

The seminar titled "Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness" was jointly organized by the Institute of Geology and Directorate of Students Affairs, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) in connection with the 17th anniversary of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005.

Speakers called for an inclusive capacity-building program for the service providers, sustained awareness campaigns on Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and the establishment of multilayered disaster response teams backed by emergency response centers

at the gross root level.

Addressing the seminar as chief guest, the Chief Secretary AJK government Dr. Muhammad Usman Chacher said that no country in the world is immune to disasters and such events do not respect any border, religion, or origin.

"I can proudly say that today, the state government and the state disaster management authority (SDMA) are now in a much better position to deal with any disaster-like situation," the CS added.

Dr. Chacher underlined the need for the capacity building of the organizations directly or indirectly dealing with catastrophes.

He said it was after the devastating earthquake in 2005 that the importance and need for robust and effective disaster management and disaster risk reduction were truly realized. "The calamity was taken as a wake-up

call that led to the establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management system in the country", CS said.

Referring to the recent flash flood in the country, the Chief Secretary said that we are facing a cascade of accelerated climate events with great frequency, and with this challenging phenomenon; we confront extreme weather events as a new normal in the region.

Dr. Chacher further said that such a situation merits timely preparation by all the actors and the academic role of being the expert and the professional was very crucial.

He appreciated the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for holding a seminar on such an important topic and thanked the guest speakers for enlightening the audience on this very core issue of concern.

The Chief Secretary expressed his hope that the outcomes of the workshop would be fruitful and recommen-



dations may enable the government and other relevant agencies to devise a comprehensive mechanism to safeguard the people of the region and their properties.

Addressing the occasion, the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muham-

mad Kaleem Abbasi highlighted that random and unscientific construction patterns and tremendous increase in population since the last major earthquake combined with a warning level of seismic hazard and high liquefaction potential index leads to the insecure

Teachers are nation's pride: Farah Azeem

QUETTA: Balochistan government's spokesperson Farah Azeem Shah on Wednesday said teachers are pride of the nation.

In her message on "Teacher's Day" she said teaching is a sacred profession that Allah Almighty has given this responsibility to his noble people.

"Teachers have been given the status of spiritual parents by our religion Islam," Referring education as the government top most priority, she said that the promotion of education in Balochistan is among the top most priorities of CM Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo.

"Balochistan government is taking teachers into confidence and solving their legitimate problems to increase the literacy rate, she said and added that "girls Cadet Colleges have been established in Turbat and Quetta.

About recent step taken by the provincial government, she noted that on the directives of CM Balochistan issues of the protesting teachers were resolved amicably.

"Today is a day to pay tribute to our teachers who served the nation with best of their abilities," spokesperson Balochistan Government further said.

Whatever happened in legislative assembly is deeply regretted: PM AJK.

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that whatever happened in the assembly recently was deeply regretted. While expressing his views on the privilege motion moved by former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and the leader of the opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar, the PM voiced his displeasure over the unpleasant incident that took place in the assembly and said, "I sincerely apologize for the incident that happened in the House with Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan".

The former prime minister, he said, is amongst the most senior and seasoned parliamentarians, whom he respected from the core of his heart. "Opposition leader Chaudhry Latif Akbar is my brother. If I have offended him, I apologize for it", the PM said. The incident, he said, has evoked widespread condemnation. Difference of opinion and disagreement, he said, was the beauty of democracy and an essence of progressive and tolerant society but he it was imperative that every member of the House must be respected. Terming the former premier as one of the state's towering political personalities, he said that the sanctity of the house was due to these great personalities.

Stressing the need for maintaining the order and decorum in the House during debates the PM said, "We come to the House to legislate and it is incumbent on every lawmaker to act and speak the language that suits a parliamentarian".

"Everyone has the right to dissent but onus of maintaining the sanctity of the house lies on the shoulders of every parliamentarian", the PM said, adding that he did not want to hurt the sentiments of any of the members of the house. On the occasion, the Prime Minister also apologized to the former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi.



Lumpy skin disease causes death of over 6000 cattle in KP

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Mohibullah Khan has said that lumpy skin disease has affected over 0.1 million cattle out of which more than 6000 have died of the disease.

He was addressing an international seminar regarding prevention and control of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) in the province here on Wednesday.

Besides, Secretary Agriculture, Dr Mohammad Israr, Director General (DG) Livestock (Extension), Dr Alamzeb Mohmand and DG Livestock (Research), Ijaz Ali, a representative of the Russian Republic and officers of the Livestock Department attended the seminar.

The provincial minister said that agriculture in general and livestock in particular are the prioritized sectors of the government. He said that the provincial government despite its limited resources has launched revolutionary projects like Agricultural Emergency Programme, Agricultural Transformation Programme and prevention of cattle diseases in Malakand division.

World Teachers' Day reminds us to treat teachers with respect: VC IUB

BAHAWALPUR: Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob in his message on World Teachers' Day said that the day reminds us to remember our teachers with honor and respect.

We should realize the key role of teachers in society and pay special attention to the education and training of teachers to play this key role.

He said a teacher is essentially a leader and our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) also said that I have been sent to the world as a teacher. Vice Chancellor said that teaching is a respected profession which is the foundation of all professions in the world, whether a craftsman, a doctor, a nurse, a computer engineer, or a scientist, he reaches this position only because of his teacher, that is why a teacher is undoubtedly called a spiritual father.

future of the region.

He said with the profound degree of hazard imposed by future earthquakes in the Kashmir valley, the lack of proper disaster mitigation measures increases the level of hazard.

"The region is also a politically conflicted zone where resolution of the political issues is considered more important than disaster preparedness", he pointed out.

Dr. Abbasi suggested several measures including a Safety audit of buildings in terms of resilience to impending hazards and requirement of retrofitting of critical infrastructure and the strict implementation of building codes.

The Vice-Chancellor called for the constitution of teams for review and effective enforcement of these codes for government, semi-government, corporation, and private residential buildings completed or under construction in urban and rural areas.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:42 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	4:06 pm
Maghrib	5:47 pm
Isha	7:10 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, H-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Islamabad Police mobilizes security apparatus for better output

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police on Wednesday has decided to tighten security in the city and ensure extra deployment as well as patrolling in various areas to avert any untoward incident.

According to the police sources, all police officials have been directed by Central Police Office to ensure effective security measures in their respective areas and combat crime through comprehensive strategy. It has been directed to maintain high alert security and ensure strict checking at exit and entry points of the city.

The police sources said that SPs were directed to brief their subordinates about improved security by utilizing all necessary resources.

It has been directed for extra deployment of police personnel by taking security measures at important locations of the city including buildings, markets, important chowks, signals and worship places.

Police source said that it has been decided that any law and order situation in Islamabad will be dealt with using modern techniques.

Naat competition on Oct 12

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold first "National Naat Competition" on October 12 in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

An official told APP on Wednesday that the competition was being conducted in collaboration with Madni Hussaini Naat Council and Sirat-e-Naat International.

He said that the aspirants could send their videos on 0317-1579412 via Whatsapp till October 10. He told that there were three categories for contestants which included children, girls and boys.

COMSTECH Virology Fellowships closing ceremony held

Program is a systematic and focused programme for capacity building of young scientists

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of COMSTECH fellowship for Research and Advanced Training in Virology and Vaccine Technologies held in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Under this program, Ms. Faiza Nadeem, PhD Student at International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Karachi, Ms. Faiza Marriam, Officer In-charge, Tetanus Toxoid Production Lab, National Institute of Health, Islamabad, Dr. Mohsein Cheema, Lecturer, University of Lahore, Lahore and Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Mohamed Tawfik, Associate Professor, Al-Azhar University, Cairo completed their fellowships at Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya, Indonesia with the cooperation of Ministry of Health, Indonesia, BioFarma and Universitas Airlangga.

Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Askar Mussinov said in his remarks that I am very happy to talk to you on the occasion of closing ceremony of very impactful program happening under joint efforts of COMSTECH & Ministry of Health, Indonesia, BioFarma



and Universitas Airlangga. He hoped that returning research fellows are going back to their countries with polished technical skills and game changing mind sets in their fields.

Ambassador Mussinov said that this program does not only develop technical capacities of the up and coming scientists but also promotes science diplomacy which eliminates cultural, sectoral, and knowledge barriers between different actors such as policy-makers, researchers, diplomatic bodies and civil society.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Choudhary thanked the Ministry of Health, Indonesia for generous support towards this program. He said that many OIC countries are totally dependent on

selected countries for every health care need, be it diagnostic equipment, kits, ventilators or PPEs. He said in the context of this situation, the program was started with the aim to prepare next generation of scientists of OIC nations to meet the challenges of current and future pandemics/epidemics.

Prof. Choudhary informed that this program is a systematic and focused programme for capacity building of young scientists launched by COMSTECH in collaboration of key centers of excellence in OIC countries. He hoped that this research fellowship would have proved as an excellent opportunity for the young virologist and biologists to hone their skills.

South Korea donates additional amount for flood victims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Korean companies in Pakistan and the Korean Embassy on Wednesday handed over cash donations for the relief of flood victims at a ceremony held at the Embassy's premises.

The Ambassador of Korea, Mr. Suh Sangpyo, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Director (Implementation), Mr. Raza Iqbal of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and representatives of Mira Power, Mr. Han Seung Nam and on behalf of Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power, Mr. Ahn Ho Young from Lotte E&C were present at the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power donated 4.6 million rupees, Mira Power 2 million rupees and the Embassy contributed 2.3 million rupees. million rupees. The Ambassador said that this donation is in addition to the donations that have already been made by the Government of Korea and Korean private sector companies and associations working in Pakistan, amounting to USD 300,000 and over USD 500,000, respectively.

The Ambassador recalled that the first



shipment of in-kind relief goods consisting of approximately three hundred thousand water purification tablets, thirty thousand emergency blankets, and various other essential relief items had already been handed over to the NDMA on 25th September at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, and the second in-kind shipment of relief items consisting of fami-

ly sized tents, collapsible water bags, and thermal blankets is also on route via a cargo ship will be docked at Karachi Sea Port hopefully by 16th October.

The Ambassador appreciated the NDMA and the Government of Pakistan for their efforts to alleviate the human suffering caused by the floods, and hoped for early recovery.

109 more infected with dengue virus

RAWALPINDI: As many as 109 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,721.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Wednesday said that, among the new cases, 35 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, 28 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, 23 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, 11 from Chaklala cantonment, nine from Potohar rural, two from Murree, and one of each from Kahuta, Kalar Syedan and Gujjar Khan.

Dr Sajjad added that 243 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 95 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 76 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 72 to the Holy Family



Hospital (HFH).

He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 160 tested positive, with 127 belonging to Rawalpindi.

The health official said that the district administration,

in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 2,492 FIRs, sealed 589 premises, issued Challans to 7,323, notices to 10,160 and a fine of Rs 6,942,416 imposed on violations of dengue SOPs from

January 1 to date.

He said disease prevention was the government priority, and the district health administration worked day and night to avoid the possible infection outbreak.

World Teachers' Day celebrated

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: World Teachers' Day was marked on Wednesday with the theme 2022 "The transformation of education begins with teachers" across the globe including Pakistan to celebrate the role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels.

According to UNESCO, it is a day to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally.

This also enables children and adults of all ages to learn take part in and contribute to their local community and global society. Teachers are



recognized for their contributions to society on World Teachers' Day. Various events would be arranged in many countries around the world on October 5, 2022.

These include celebrations to honor teachers in general or those who have made a special contribution to a particular community. The day may also be marked by conferences emphasizing the importance

of teachers and learning, extra training sessions for teachers, recruitment drives for the teaching profession among university students or other suitably qualified professionals and events to increase the profile of teachers and the role they play in the media.

Moreover, international organizations such as TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Education International organize international, national and local events.

In some areas posters are displayed and pupils and ex-pupils are encouraged to send e-cards or letters of appreciation to teachers who made a special or memorable contribution to their education.

The celebrations will address

the commitments and calls for action made at the Transforming Education Summit, in September 2022, and analyse the implications they have for teachers and teaching.

It is worth mentioning here that the three-day celebration at UNESCO Headquarters will include the awarding ceremony of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development, and a series of events showcasing how guaranteeing teachers' decent working conditions, access to professional development opportunities and a recognized professional status is a first step towards more resilient education systems. UNESCO is working to leverage the vital role of these primary change-agents.

Health Corner

Eating late increases hunger

ISLAMABAD: Obesity afflicts approximately 42 percent of the U.S. adult population and contributes to the onset of chronic diseases, including diabetes, cancer, and other conditions.

While popular healthy diet mantras advise against midnight snacking, few studies have comprehensively investigated the simultaneous effects of late eating on the three main players in body weight regulation and thus obesity risk: regulation of calorie intake, the number of calories you burn, and molecular changes in fat tissue. A new study by investigators from Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, found that when we eat significantly impacts our energy expenditure, appetite, and molecular pathways in adipose tissue. Their results are published in Cell Metabolism.

"We wanted to test the mechanisms that may explain why late eating increases obesity risk," explained senior author Frank A. J. L. Scheer, PhD, Director of the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Brigham's Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders. "Previous research by us and others had shown that late eating is associated with increased obesity risk, increased body fat, and impaired weight loss success. We wanted to understand why."

"In this study, we asked, 'Does the time that we eat matter when everything else is kept consistent?'" said first author Nina Vujovic, PhD, a researcher in the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Brigham's Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders. "And we found that eating four hours later makes a significant difference for our hunger levels, the way we burn calories after we eat, and the way we store fat."

Vujovic, Scheer and their team studied 16 patients with a body mass index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range. Each participant completed two laboratory protocols: one with a strictly scheduled early meal schedule, and the other with the exact same meals, each scheduled about four hours later in the day. In the last two to three weeks before starting each of the in-laboratory protocols, participants maintained fixed sleep and wake schedules, and in the final three days before entering the laboratory, they strictly followed identical diets and meal schedules at home. In the lab, participants regularly documented their hunger and appetite, provided frequent small blood samples throughout the day, and had their body temperature and energy expenditure measured.

To measure how eating time affected molecular pathways involved in adipogenesis, or how the body stores fat, investigators collected biopsies of adipose tissue from a subset of participants during laboratory testing in both the early and late eating protocols, to enable comparison of gene expression patterns/levels between these two eating conditions. Results revealed that eating later had profound effects on hunger and appetite-regulating hormones leptin and ghrelin, which influence our drive to eat. Specifically, levels of the hormone leptin, which signals satiety, were decreased across the 24 hours in the late eating condition compared to the early eating conditions. When participants ate later, they also burned calories at a slower rate and exhibited adipose tissue gene expression towards increased adipogenesis and decreased lipolysis, which promote fat growth.

Notably, these findings convey converging physiological and molecular mechanisms underlying the correlation between late eating and increased obesity risk. Courtesy Science Daily



RAWALPINDI: Group photo of Hamdard Shura meeting including Prof. Irfan Niaz, Naeem Akram Qureshi, Dr Farhat Abbas, Hakeem Bashar, Muhammad Hayat Bhatti and others.

Ministry holds two-day 'Int'l Seerat-un-Nabi Conference'

ISLAMABAD: The ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is organizing a two-day International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations in the federal capital.

According to the plan chalked out by the ministry, an event titled 'Mehfil Rehmatul-lil-Alameen and Prize Distribution' would be held on Saturday (11th Rabi-ul-Awwal) here at the auditorium of Pakistan National Council of Arts.

The event would start with recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran and Naat Rasool-e-Magbool Peace Be Upon Him. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoore would deliver the welcome address on this occasion.

Later on, the renowned Naat Khawans would recite the Naat and Ulema and Mashaykh would shed the light on the Uswa-e-Husna of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him in their speeches.

In the end, prizes would be distributed among the position holders who topped in the book writing competition on Seerat-un-Nabi and Naat.

On Sunday, the main function in connection with 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal would be held here at a local hotel with the title of 'Social Ethics, Reform and Training in the light of Seerat-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him'.

The event would start with the national anthem, recitation of verses from the Holy Quran and Naat Sharif. Secretary for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aftab Akbar Durrani would make introductory speech while the welcome address would be given by the Minister Abdul Shakoore on this occasion.

Collective efforts urged to make anti-polio drive successful

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Tahir Farooq on Wednesday said polio was a national issue, and it was the responsibility of all to play an effective role in making the country polio-free.

Chairing a meeting to review anti-polio arrangements, he directed the health department to devise an optimal plan for the anti-polio campaign to be started on October 24.

The DC directed the officials to pay special attention to those areas of the district marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) as low performing.

On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer Health Dr Ansar Ishaque briefed the meeting that with the coordinated efforts of the government and WHO, polio workers were being trained to accomplish the target set of vaccinating around 917,285 children below the age of five years.

Sharing details of arrangements for the anti-Polio campaign, he said that 3,000 mobile teams, 320 fixed points, 243 Union council medical officers and 858 area incharges would administer polio drops during the week-long campaign in the entire district.

The CEO said along with all government initiatives, the active participation of parents was needed to make the campaign successful.

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The implications of Saudi Arabia's unprecedented economic boom

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

Saudi Arabia announced over the weekend a positive assessment of the economy during 2022, expecting a significant fiscal surplus for the first time in eight years. The International Monetary Fund also expects the Saudi economy to grow by 7.6 percent during 2022, making it the fastest-growing economy worldwide, with gross domestic product exceeding \$1 trillion for the first time.

This vastly improved economic performance will have positive strategic implications for the country, domestically, regionally and globally. To sustain and strengthen those benefits over the long run, prudence suggests drawing lessons from previous economic booms.

By the end of 2022, it is projected that the public treasury will register a revenue of \$326 billion, an increase of about 17 percent over projections made at the beginning of the year. Actual spending has also increased by about 18

percent, from \$255 billion of spending planned at the start of the fiscal year to \$302 billion expected now by the end of the year — a significant increase of 18 percent.

Despite increases in spending in 2022, the budget is expected to register a surplus of about \$24 billion by year's end. The last year with a fiscal surplus was 2013. That year's surplus was more than \$40 billion was followed by eight straight years of large deficits, peaking in 2015 at more than \$103 billion.

The Ministry of Finance's statement lauded the progress made in economic diversification projects, the delivery of social safety net programs, and ease of doing business indicators. It highlighted the success of the government's Fiscal Balance Program to control high budget deficits. It also cited the current Fiscal Sustainability Program balancing the "strategic spending" of Vision 2030 with the need to maintain stable fiscal indicators, including the level of government debt and financial reserves.

The IMF expects non-oil growth to increase to 4.2 percent in 2022 and headline inflation to accelerate in the second half of 2022, but it will

remain contained at 2.8 percent on average for the year. Inflation remains low, helped by the appreciating dollar, to which the Saudi riyal is anchored, caps on gasoline prices, and wheat price support to contain pressure from supply-side shocks.

Saudi Arabia's external trade balance has also improved substantially: The current account surplus will increase to 17.4 percent of GDP in 2022 — a level not seen since 2013 — while reserve buffers are expected to stabilize at about 28 months of imports over the medium term, according to IMF estimates.

The improvement in government finances and the economy as a whole have led to improved credit ratings and the country's ability to attract foreign investment, which are critically needed to fund megaprojects and increase efficiency and labor skills.

This positive outlook is expected to hasten the pace of economic diversification and project implementation to prepare the country for the post-oil-dependency era. Critical to achieving that objective is empowering the private sector to lead economic growth, instead of it being govern-

ment-dependent.

At the social level, the improving economy is already providing more jobs for Saudi nationals and expatriates alike. Earlier this month, the government announced a significant drop in the unemployment rate for nationals, to less than 10 percent. While it remains high, especially for Saudi women, getting it to single digits is quite an achievement, which has not been seen in more than a decade. Improvements in the social safety net are also likely to continue, including policies to shield vulnerable communities from international inflation and weakened supply chains.

The IMF puts the size of the Saudi economy in 2022 at more than \$1 trillion, confirming its position as the 18th-largest economy worldwide. This is the first time that Saudi GDP has exceeded the trillion mark. Joining the trillion-dollar club will add to the country's influence and role regionally and globally, but also to its responsibilities.

Saudi Arabia's role in addressing global challenges is likely to grow through the G20, the UN, World Bank and IMF, among others. Its leadership in providing humanitarian and

development aid to countries in need will continue to neighboring states and beyond.

To reap these real benefits over the long run, it is important to resist the temptation to follow past patterns of over-spending during the good times. IMF warnings are timely and apt: Policy priorities will need to manage higher oil revenues while sustaining strong private sector-led growth and advancing reforms for a greener economy. In particular, Vision 2030 reforms should continue to open and diversify the economy, including by implementing the National Investment Strategy.

Continued commitment to fiscal discipline, the IMF suggested, should help avoid pro-cyclical policies associated with past oil-driven boom-and-bust cycles and ensure continued reform momentum toward a diversified economy and a greater strategic role worldwide.

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg is the GCC assistant secretary-general for political affairs and negotiation, and a columnist for Arab News. The views expressed in this piece are personal and do not necessarily represent GCC views.

Courtesy: Arab News

Improving Pak-US ties

Pakistan and the United States are enjoying a long lasting friendship. However, there is a need for re-engagement in the relations. Pakistan has an important geographical location and the United States is the sole superpower in the world. Therefore, the importance of Pak-US relations cannot be downplayed. In the perspective of Afghanistan, the United States cannot sideline Pakistan. The government has also urged the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan amid post-NATO withdrawal. The United States has also provided financial assistance to the flood hit people in Pakistan and also acknowledged the narrative of Pakistan as far as climate change is concerned. Moreover, Pakistan remains the front ally of the United States in war against terror and has sacrificed many precious lives in this connection.

At this point of time, Pakistan is facing certain economic challenges and the visit of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa to the United States is very important. COAS held a series of meetings with the US officials and discussed issues of importance. The visit reflects the renewed push by the two countries to reset their troubled relations. Matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, and bilateral cooperation in different fields would be discussed during the meetings.

The bilateral ties between the United States and Pakistan have seen many ups and downs over the course of years, but it is a fact that both the countries cannot disregard the importance of each other. Pakistan needs the cooperation of international financial institutions which is not possible without the US support. The recent visits of the Prime Minister, foreign minister and now of the COAS to the United States are very productive. The engagement with the United States is the need of the hour. Recently, the US State Department approved the potential sale of spare parts of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. The United States also rejected the Indian uproar regarding sale of F-16 equipment to Pakistan. The strategic relations between Pakistan and the United States have always been good. Islamabad wants stronger relations with the United States on equal footings.

Pak-US relations are important and good ties with the United States are the need of the hour. The incumbent government is making all out efforts to bring the Pak-US relations back on track. During the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the United States, all out efforts were made to eliminate the misunderstandings between the two countries. Moreover, the United States is a big trading market for Pakistan and can support our country in its economic revival to a great extent. The US ambassador in Pakistan and the Pakistan ambassador to the US are very active. The US ambassador to Pakistan visited AJK which is a clear indication that the United States is interested in a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, as it is the main bone of contention between the two nuclear powers. The Pakistan ambassador to the US is active in fundraising events to support the flood victims in Pakistan. The visit of COAS will result in betterment of Pak-US relations.



SCO is all about spirit of friendship and cooperation

Nilufar Doniyorkhodjaeva

Addressing the 22nd Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Samarkand on Sept 15, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "During our chairmanship, we (have) sought to intensify practical cooperation within our organization to increase its potential and international prestige. Along with security issues, priority was given to enhancing trade, economic, and humanitarian cooperation."

SCO countries account for half of the world's population and at least 25 percent of the world's GDP. During the meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, leaders discussed issues such as trade, connectivity, food security, sustainable development, people-to-people exchanges. Their discussions were focused on finding ways to overcome global challenges such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Logistics was the subject of Mirziyoyev's discussion with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, too, with the two sides noting the importance of expediting the trans-Afghan railway project.

And Mirziyoyev and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon discussed energy cooperation and the progress of the Yavan Hydropower Plant, which Uzbekistan is building across the Zarafshan River in Tajikistan. Similarly, the Uzbek and Kyrgyz leaders discussed the construction of the Kambarata-1 Hydropower Plant.

During his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Uzbek president

was bestowed with Russia's Order of Alexander Nevsky. And the two sides signed a declaration on a comprehensive strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Russia, and reportedly inked new investment agreements worth \$4.6 billion.

These developments show the SCO is not a bloc but an organization that promotes multifaceted cooperation, and does not pursue any geopolitical goals or target a specific country. These principles are clearly spelt out in its charter — and were included in the final document of the summit, the Samarkand Declaration. "Member states reaffirm that the SCO is not directed against other states and international organizations and is open to broad cooperation with them following the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the SCO Charter, and international law, based on consideration of mutual interests and commonality of approaches to solving regional and global problems," reads the document.

The SCO is also against interfering in the internal affairs of any country on the pretext of fighting terrorism, spreading democracy or protecting human rights, which too has been reiterated in the document.

However, the document says "member states expressed deep concern over the threat to security posed by terrorism, separatism, and extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and strongly condemned terrorist acts worldwide. They stressed the importance of consistently implementing the Program of Cooperation of the SCO Member States in Countering Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism for 2022-2024."

The declaration also noted that the SCO is firmly opposed to any attempts to milita-

rize the information and communications technology sector. Accordingly, the document emphasizes that the member states "support the development of universal rules, principles, and norms of responsible behaviour of states in this (ICT) area, also welcome the launch of the development under the auspices of the UN of a comprehensive international convention on combating the use of ICT for criminal purposes."

Moreover, the SCO has urged its member states to fully implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction to promote disarmament and prevent nuclear and chemical weapons proliferation.

The declaration also says the SCO will play a key role in helping develop an inclusive, independent, neutral, united, democratic and peaceful Afghanistan that would be free from terrorism, conflicts and drugs.

Moreover, the SCO summit highlighted Uzbekistan's growing geopolitical and economic role, and the success of its foreign policy initiatives which are both pragmatic and dynamic. Uzbekistan's open and multifaceted foreign policy has helped it to balance the interests of different states under the SCO umbrella. The SCO summit is a milestone in Uzbekistan's history in that it also allowed the country to diversify trade and logistics and make clear its economic diplomacy. The summit also gave Mirziyoyev an opportunity to demonstrate his "New Uzbekistan" vision to a global audience.

The author is the head of the Development Strategy Center, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Courtesy: China Daily

Global Development Initiative: Prioritizing global development

Tom Fowdy

Aerial photo taken on Aug. 23, 2022 shows a China-Vietnam freight train pulling out of Xi'an international port in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province. [Photo/Xinhua]

In 2021, China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which calls for staying committed to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, and results-oriented actions. The initiative shows that China stands ready to work with other countries in putting development at the center of the global agenda.

First of all, China's development pathway has taken what is commonly described as a "people centric" approach, which prioritizes the interests of society at large, reducing uneven development, and cutting inequality in the distribution of wealth.

Most notably, this has included China rapidly building up international synergy for coordinated development, as shown by its efforts in coordinating the construction of high-quality infrastructure, both at home and overseas through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), connecting regions and countries alike. Not only has this consisted of necessary transport infrastructure, but it has also addressed human needs such as through the construction of schools, hospitals, internet connectivity and more. This outlook understands development not as a natural phenomenon brought about by unfettered market dynamics — which has in fact disadvantaged many countries in the global south — but focuses first on improving people's basic livelihoods.

This ties into the need for the GDI to be a multilateral and international project, confronting the global challenges of the time collectively, as opposed to unilaterally or mini-laterally. China has long understood that its development and growth prospects are

not merely centered on what it does at home, but in an increasingly integrated international society, and are interdependent with those of the rest of the world. Development is a common and collective goal — the economic success of one country is directly related to that of its neighbors and other countries.

Therefore, China's GDI looks at the bigger picture. While most predominantly this has involved the BRI, which as noted above strives to establish global connectivity for common development, it also covers other issues too. These include deepening mutual market access, regulatory standards and other provisions through free trade and economic agreements, as well as coordination on issues such as renewable energy with a view to global challenges such as climate change.

In setting this out, joint efforts are needed to tackle the big challenge to common global development — the ambitions of some countries to roll back globalization and cooperation in the name of ideological and geopolitical struggle. This includes attempts by these countries to form exclusive blocs or groupings which have the sole goal of targeting others, forcing their members to take sides and subsequently limiting their cooperation with others. This may also involve forcing them to reject certain markets and technologies, or to attempt to rewrite supply chains in highly costly and inexpedient ways in the name of geopolitics. These policies undermine the foundations of globalization, cause growing inflation and set the global community backwards. It aims to build walls instead of bridges.

As a result, the most pressing challenge in this global environment is for countries to remain open, prudent and to act in their own best interests, as opposed to fighting the hegemonic struggles of other countries.

Tom Fowdy is a British political and international relations analyst and a graduate of Durham and Oxford universities. Courtesy: China.org.cn

Indian troops martyr five more youth in IIOJK

APHC says Kashmiris rendering unparalleled sacrifices for securing their right to self-determination

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred, today, five more Kashmiri youth in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

During cordon and search operations, the troops martyred three youth in Drach and one in Moolu areas of Shopian district. The troops continued their operations at both the places till last reports came in.

The troops shot at and injured a civilian, Asif Ahmad, at a check-point in Haal area of Pulwama district. Later, the victim succumbed to his injuries at SMHS hospital in Srinagar.

The killing of innocent youth by the troops belies the claims made by the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, at a rally in Rajouri district of Jammu region, yesterday, that after the repeal of Article 370, IIOJK has emerged as the most secure place.

Since repeal of Article 370, killings, arrests, torture, destruction of properties and other brutalities by Indian troops have become the order of the day. The troops have intensified their cordon and search operations across IIOJK, making the life of the people a hell.



On the other hand, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Democratic Party President, Mehbooba Mufti, said the authorities put her under house arrest, today, to stop her from visiting Pattan area of Baramulla district.

PDP chief in a tweet said while Indian Home Minister is going around Kashmir beating drums of normalcy, she is under house arrest for simply wanting to visit Pattan for a worker's wedding.

She said if fundamental rights of a former chief minister of IIOJK can be

suspended so easily, one cannot even imagine the plight of a commoner. On the other hand, Srinagar Police in a tweet claimed that there are no restrictions of any kind on Mehbooba Mufti and that she is free to travel.

After police's clarification, the PDP president again took to twitter and maintained that Baramulla police had informed her that she would not be allowed to travel to Pattan. She added that the police have locked her gates from inside.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference has said that Kashmiris are rendering unparalleled sacrifices for securing their right to self-determination and not for perks and privileges.

The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar deplored that Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is trying to mislead the world community by showing that a new era of so-called development has kicked off in IIOJK. He said the Kashmiris are not against peace and development but breaking shackles of Indian slavery is their prime objective. "How peace and development can happen in IIOJK when it has become the world's most militarized zone?" he asked.

The spokesman pointed out that the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's visit is misleading and aimed at hoodwinking the world into believing that situation is normal in IIOJK. "Visit of Amit Shah to IIOJK means nothing for the oppressed and subjugated Kashmiris. It is a smoke-screen aimed at diverting international attention from grave human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in the territory," he added.

Qatar emir in Prague for state visit



RİYADH: Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has arrived in Prague for a state visit to the Czech Republic, Qatar News Agency reported.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed, the Qatari ambassador to the Czech Republic, said that relations between the two countries had developed rapidly over the last two years and he noted the opening of the Czech embassy in Doha as an example.

An announcement is expected during Sheikh Tamim's visit that Qatar will open an embassy in Prague. The emir will discuss with Czech President Milos Zeman and senior officials the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in political, economic, and cultural fields as well as health, tourism, and sports, the QNA said.

Sheikh Tamim was greeted with a reception ceremony at the presidential residence in Prague Castle, where the Qatari and Czech national anthems were played.

Jan Zahradil, the first vice chair of the European Parliament's committee on international trade, emphasized the significance of Sheikh Tamim's trip.

He said: "The visit comes in times where the Czech Republic holds the rotating presidency of the European Union and also in times where the Czech Republic and European Union as a whole are facing an unprecedented energy crisis."

Russian launches to space from US

CAPE CANAVERAL: For the first time in 20 years, a Russian cosmonaut rocketed from the U.S. on Wednesday, launching to the International Space Station alongside NASA and Japanese astronauts despite tensions over the war in Ukraine.

Their SpaceX flight was delayed by Hurricane Ian, which ripped across the state last week. "I hope with this launch we will brighten up the skies over Florida a little bit for everyone," said the Japan Space Agency's Koichi Wakata, who is making his fifth spaceflight.

Joining him on a five-month mission are three new to space: Marine Col. Nicole Mann, the first Native American woman bound for orbit; Navy Capt. Josh Cassada and Russia's lone female cosmonaut, Anna Kikina.

They're due to arrive at the space station Thursday, 29 hours after departing NASA's



Kennedy Space Center, and won't be back on Earth until March. They're replacing a U.S.-Italian crew that arrived in April.

Kikina is the Russian Space Agency's exchange for NASA's Frank Rubio, who launched to the space station two weeks ago from Kazakhstan aboard a Soyuz rocket. He flew up with two cosmonauts.

The space agencies agreed over the summer to swap

seats on their flights in order to ensure a continuous U.S. and Russian presence aboard the 260-mile-high (420-kilometer-high) outpost. The barter was authorized even as global hostilities mounted over Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February. The next crew exchange is in the spring.

Shortly before liftoff, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said that the key reason for the seat exchange

is safety — in case an emergency forces one capsule's crew home, there would still be an American and Russian on board.

In the meantime, Russia remains committed to the space station through at least 2024, Russia space official Sergei Krikalev assured reporters this week. Russia wants to build its own station in orbit later this decade, "but we know that it's not going to happen very quick and so probably we will keep flying" with NASA until then, he said.

Beginning with Krikalev in 1994, NASA started flying cosmonauts on its space shuttles, first to Russia's Mir space station and then to the fledgling space station. The 2003 Columbia reentry disaster put an end to it. But U.S. astronauts continued to hitch rides on Russian rockets for tens of millions of dollars per seat.

Ethiopia, Tigray head invited to peace talks in South Africa

NAIROBI: The leader of Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region and the federal government have been invited to peace talks in South Africa this weekend as part of a pan-African effort to end one of the world's most overlooked wars, according to a letter seen Wednesday by The Associated Press.

If Debretsion Gebremichael attends the proposed talks between the Tigray and Ethiopian sides, it will be the highest-level effort yet to end the two-year war that has killed thousands of people from conflict and starvation.

Ethiopia's government has accepted the invitation, national security adviser Redwan Hussein said. In a separate statement, the government called it "consistent with the Ethiopian government's prior positions" that talks be mediated by the AU and be held without preconditions. The statement, however, does not give details about who might attend.

A diplomat in Addis Ababa said the African Union was still waiting for a response from the Tigray side. The spokesman for the Tigray forces, Getachew Reda, could not immediately be reached. Another member of the Tigray negotiation team, Tsadkan Gebretensae, told a U.S. think tank last week that "we have agreed on an African-led process, but that should not be carte blanche for the AU to impose what should be a peace process."

The diplomat in Addis Ababa also said representatives from the European Union, the United Nations and the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development are expected to attend the talks as observers in support of the AU's mediation team. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The letter from the chair of the AU Commission says the AU-convened talks would be "aimed at laying the foundation for a structured and sustained mediation" between the two sides toward a "durable resolution of the conflict."

The AU letter says the talks would be facilitated by AU special envoy and former Nigerian President Olesgun Obasanjo with the support of former Kenyan President Uhuru

Australia to repatriate 'most vulnerable' children in Syria camps



LONDON: Vulnerable Australian children stuck in Syrian prison camps for Daesh members will be the first nationals repatriated home under the government's plan, the Guardian reported.

While the most unwell children will be prioritized for return, some mothers face the risk of arrest when repatriated to Australia on terror charges.

There are some 60 Australian women and children in the detention camps in northeastern Syria, with all of them sharing links to former Daesh fighters who traveled from Australia to fight for the terror group. They have all been held for over three years in the camps, with almost 40 of them children, many born to Daesh brides since the start of the civil war in Syria. Some were even born in the Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps, where shocking conditions have caused several to die of frostbite, sickness and at the hands of violent inmates.

Up to 30 people from the most vulnerable families will be prioritized by Canberra's repatriation plans, with the main focus going to the sickest children or women who are believed to have been trafficked into the country by coercive Daesh fighter husbands.

The operation is expected to begin soon, with further repatriations following in the coming months as winter approaches. The Guardian reported that many of the women set to return to Australia could face arrest back home.

Donald Rothwell, professor of international law at the Australian National University, told the newspaper's Australian edition: "That the majority of those in the Syrian camps are children raises Australia's obligations under the convention on the rights of the child and the obligations to protect those children in circumstances when it is possible to do so."

Rothwell added that because the adults are subject to Australian criminal law, they could be prosecuted for terroristic associations and actions. "Any charges relating to those matters could be brought upon the adults entering Australia where they could potentially face arrest on landing," he said.

The Guardian's sources, who remained anonymous, said the operation was being conducted to support Australia's national security interests as they would have the right to return at some point in the future, but leaving them in the camps raises the risk of further radicalization, putting Australians in danger.

The repatriation operation will be Canberra's first since 2019, when the previous administration recovered eight orphans, including a pregnant teenager.

Most of the Australians are held in Al-Roj camp, which is located near the border with Iraq. The women in Al-Roj camp, who face the risk of arrest and further limits on their freedom back home, have volunteered to be subject to government control orders when they are returned.

The repatriation plans follow calls from the Syrian Democratic Forces, who run the Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps, and the local de facto government of northeastern Syria, which have urged Western governments to recover their citizens.

Nobel Prize for three chemists who made molecules 'click'

STOCKHOLM: Three scientists were jointly awarded this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for developing a way of "snapping molecules together" that can be used to design better medicines, including ones that target diseases such as cancer more precisely.

Americans Carolyn R. Bertozzi and K. Barry Sharpless, and Danish scientist Morten Meldal were cited for their work on click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions, which are used to make cancer drugs, map DNA and create materials that are tailored to a specific purpose.

"It's all about snapping molecules together," said Johan Aqvist, a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences that announced the winners at the Karolin-



ska Institute in Stockholm. Sharpless, 81, who previously won a Nobel Prize in 2001 and is now the fifth person to receive the award twice, first proposed the idea of connecting molecules using chemical "buckles" around the turn of the millennium, Aqvist said.

"The problem was to find

good chemical buckles," he said. "They have to react with each other easily and specifically."

Meldal, 68, based at the University of Copenhagen and Sharpless, who is affiliated with Scripps Research in California, independently found the first such candidates that would easily snap

together with each other but not with other molecules, leading to applications in the manufacture of medicines and polymers.

Bertozzi, 55, who is based at Stanford University "took click chemistry to a new level," the Nobel panel said.

She found a way to make the process work inside living organisms without disrupting them, establishing a new method known as bioorthogonal reactions. Such reactions are now used to explore cells, track biological processes and design drugs that can target diseases such as cancer more precisely.

"Doing chemistry inside human patients to make sure that drugs go to the right place and stay away from the wrong place," Bertozzi explained.

Putin signs annexation of Ukrainian regions as losses mount

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed laws that claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russia's territory while his country's military struggled Wednesday to control the illegally annexed areas.

The documents finalizing the annexation, carried out in violation of international laws, were published on a Russian government website. In a defiant move, the Kremlin held the door open for further land grabs in Ukraine.

Speaking in a conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "certain territories will be reclaimed, and we will keep consulting residents who would be eager to embrace Russia."

Putin last week signed treaties that purport to absorb Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and

Zaporizhzhia regions into Russia. The move followed Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" in Ukraine that the Ukrainian government and the West have dismissed as illegitimate.

Peskov did not specify which additional Ukrainian territories Moscow is eyeing for attempted annexation and he wouldn't say if the Kremlin planned to organize more such "referendums." On the ground, Russia faced mounting setbacks, with Ukrainian forces retaking more and more land in the eastern and southern regions that Moscow now insists are its own.

The precise borders of the areas Moscow is claiming remain unclear, but Putin has vowed to defend Russia's territory — including the annexed regions — with any means at his mili-

tary's disposal, including nuclear weapons.

The head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, Andriy Yermak, wrote on his Telegram channel shortly after Putin signed the annexation legislation approved by Russia's parliament that "the worthless decisions of the terrorist country are not worth the paper they are signed on."

"A collective insane asylum can continue to live in a fictional world," Yermak added. Zelenskyy responded to the annexation by announcing Ukraine's fast-track application to join NATO. In a decree released Tuesday, he also ruled out negotiations with Russia, declaring that Putin's actions made talking to the Russian leader impossible.

Russia and Ukraine gave

conflicting assessments Wednesday of a Ukrainian counter-offensive in the Russian-occupied Kherson region. A Moscow-installed regional official insisted that Ukrainian advances had been halted.

"As of this morning ... there are no movements" by Kyiv's forces, Kirill Stremousov said in comments to state-run Russian news agency RIA Novost. He vowed the Ukrainian fighters "won't enter (the city of) Kherson."

However, the Ukrainian military said the Ukrainian flag had been raised above seven Kherson region villages previously occupied by the Russians.

The deputy head of the Ukrainian regional government, Yuri Sobolevskyi, said military hospitals were full of wound-



ed Russian soldiers and that Russian military medics lacked supplies. Once they are stabilized, Russian soldiers were getting sent to Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. "Not everyone arrives," Sobolevskyi wrote. In the Moscow-annexed Donetsk region, where Ukrainian forces still control some areas,

Russian forces shelled eight towns and villages, the Ukrainian presidential office said. After reclaiming the Donetsk city of Sviatohirsk, Ukrainian forces located a burial ground for civilians and found the bodies of four people, according to Gov. Pavlo Kyrlyenko.

In central Ukraine, multiple

explosions rocked Bila Tserkva, a city about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the capital, Kyiv. The blasts set off fires at what were described as infrastructure facilities, regional leader Oleksiy Kuleba said on Telegram.

Early indications were the city was attacked with so-called kamikaze or suicide drones, he said. Russia has increasingly employed suicide drones in recent weeks, posing a new challenge to Ukrainian defenses. The unmanned vehicles can stay aloft for long periods of time before diving into targets and detonating their payloads at the last moment.

Many of the earlier attacks with the Iranian-made drones happened in the south of Ukraine and not near the capital, which hasn't been targeted for weeks.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,611.42	41,350.43
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,668.46	41,350.43
Index Value	Change
8,146,378,177	+260.99
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	5 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,052.62	-33.84
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	5 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,025.50	-290.82
Percentage	Time
-0.96%	5 Oct, 11:54 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,120.53	+128.32
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	5 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	148.67	149.92
Bahrain Dinar	609.24	613.74
Canadian Dollar	169	170.35
China Yuan	32.189	32.44
Danish Krone	30.73	31.08
Euro	221	223
Hong Kong Dollar	29.18	29.53
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89
Japanese Yen	1.25	1.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	740.24	745.24
Malaysian Ringgit	49.31	49.76
New Zealand \$	131.44	132.64
Norwegians Krone	21.1	21.4
Omani Riyal	594.86	599.36
Qatari Riyal	62.93	63.43
Saudi Riyal	59.5	60.1
Singapore Dollar	160.79	162.09
Swedish Korona	21.1	21.4
Swiss Franc	233.57	235.32
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	61.5	62.2
UK Pound Sterling	260	262.5
US Dollar	226	228

Productivity important factor in global economy: speakers

Syed Murtaza Mahmud appreciates the APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the conference, the speakers said that productivity is an important factor in the global economy through which sustainable development is possible. Good results can be achieved by adding the factor of productivity in the economy of Pakistan.

Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Federal Minister for Industries and Production delivered Key Opening note of the event, appreciated the APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region.

He conveyed his gratitude to APO Secretary General on APO's Diamond Jubilee.

He further added that working in tandem with similar organizations, the APO and NPOs will be able to find solutions to long-standing problems of the region.

Flt. Lt. (Retd) Ifthikhar Ali Sahoo, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production has said various rapid industrial transformation initiatives are being taken for the sustained growth and development of the economy by improving industrial competitiveness.

He expressed these views while addressing an opening ceremony of International Confer-



International Conference on Productivity Accreditation and Certification in Pakistan.

This International Conference on Productivity Accreditation and Certification being held in Pakistan is the continuation of the commemoration of the APO's Diamond Jubilee which will showcase the productivity improvement journeys in the Asia and Pacific region, specifically efforts to enhance capabilities of NPOs through accreditation programs.

He conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the APO on its Diamond Jubilee. He said that APO

is playing major role to promote Productivity drive in the region.

APO's services are reorienting the requirements of the current era of competitiveness both in the domestic and global markets and support export sectors in enhancing competitiveness and yielding higher productivity culture in the country.

The conference is being organized by National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan. Various international and national resource speakers participated in the event.

Moreover, participants from Cambodia, Malaysia, Fiji, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Iran, Philippine are participating in the program physically.

Appreciating the conference, he said this initiative will play a major role in reversal of the economy through International certification standards implementation in Pakistan.

He expressed satisfaction over the participation of a large and diverse group of International and local professional in the conference and expressed hope that through the active partici-

pation and sharing of international experience, Pakistan would definitely achieve the status of Certification Body.

He lauded the efforts of NPO for promoting the Productivity culture in Pakistan through its vision "Economically Productive and Globally Competitive Pakistan".

APO Secretary General His Excellency, Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata also addressed the event.

He appreciated the efforts of NPO and extended full support in facilitating and strengthening the APO's mandate in Pakistan. He said that it is a fortunate moment for representatives from APO members to gather to review efforts to enhance the capabilities of NPOs through accreditation programs.

The Accreditation Program is one of the latest initiatives of the APO to raise its visibility as a leading productivity organization.

Recognizing the competency and credibility of NPOs or their affiliates as APO-accredited certification bodies (CBs) will build APO brand awareness, cultivate and expand a community of experts, and strengthen APO leadership in the area of productivity.

Oil price cut will reduce inflation: Mian Zahid Hussain

Says Miftah, Dar differences affect morale of business community

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said differences between the main leaders of the federal government on important economic issues are affecting public confidence and the morale of the business community.

Important leaders should sit down and resolve their differences through dialogue and not use public forums for disagreements as it sends negative signals, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that former finance minister Miftah Ismail saved the country from default by taking tough decisions, but due to inflation, the top leaders of his own party continued to criticize him, which led to conflicts.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that now after Ishaq Dar became Finance Minister, Miftah Ismail has started criticizing his decisions which is sad.



The politics of verbal attacks and counter-attacks will not improve the investment climate in the country but will only worsen it, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that currently, the country's economy is sliding, millions of people have fallen below the poverty line due to floods and inflation, the situation of foreign exchange reserves is alarming, institutions are suffering from failure and the nation is divided while power mongers are

trying to secure personal benefits ignoring the situation in the country.

Some politicians are busy putting the future of the country and the nation at stake for the sake of power and in these circumstances, the ruling party never needed unity and agreement as much as it does today.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that there was no need to criticize the finance minister on the reduction in petroleum development levy, if making petrol cheaper is a violation of the agreement with the IMF, then it is a problem for the international organization and the finance minister and no one else.

Ishaq Dar has not done any injustice or crime by giving some relief to the people despite the difficult conditions and lack of resources.

He noted that the rupee has appreciated, the effects of which will soon reduce the pressure of inflation and the currency mafia is on the run.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that no one doubts Miftah Ismail's ability, but it will be better if dissent is made a grudge as the current government does not have the appetite to tolerate it.

Askari Bank join hands with Qisstpay



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank, with a vision to promote financial inclusion and provide quick solutions through digital innovations, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Qisstpay BNPL (Pvt) Ltd.

Qisstpay offers a fast and secure payment & checkout platform through its Buy Now, Pay Later service.

This strategic alliance will expedite the growth of e-commerce in the country by providing payment solutions to online buyers, merchants and business partners, explore supply chain financing options as well as initiatives like Soft POS/Contact Less payment options for online merchants.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Shehryar Ali Shah, Chief Digital Officer, AKBL and Mr. Jordon Olivias, Founder & CEO Qisstpay BNPL (Pvt)

Ltd. Mr. Masroor Omar, Country Head Consumer Banking, AKBL, Syed Saad Ahmed, Co-Founder Qisstpay, Mr. Yasser Khan, Global SVP, Product & Partnerships Qisstpay and Mr. Usman Nasir, VP, Product Management Qisstpay and other senior officials from both organizations were also present at the ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, Shehryar Ali Shah said, "We wish to serve the masses with increased simplicity in managing their day-to-day financial affairs through this strategic partnership."

Jordan Olivias said, "This partnership with Askari, a premier bank in Pakistan, is a special one as it will help us make improvements in the financial services infrastructure in Pakistan by making it easier for other players in the future to utilize the foundation we are building and execute innovative solutions."

CDA Union to cooperate in resolving key issues of business community

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that for better protection of the interests of the business community, sitting President ICCI should be made a member of CDA Board. He said that till the nomination in CDA Board, President ICCI should be invited as an Observer to the meetings of CDA Board to take care of the issues of trade and industry. He said that most of the issues of the business community were related to CDA and CDA Union should help in addressing them to facilitate the growth of business activities. He assured that ICCI would support the protection of genuine rights of CDA employees. He said this while addressing a delegation of CDA Mazdoor Union that visited ICCI led by its Secre-



tary General Ch. Muhammad Yasin to congratulate the new Office Bearers of ICCI. President, CDA Mazdoor Union Aurangzeb Khan and others were in the delegation.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI stressed for the need of close liaison between ICCI and CDA Union to achieve their common goals.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group

Leader hoped that CDA employees would work more diligently to address the major issues of business community and the citizens. He said that the role of CDA employees was also important in making Islamabad one of the most beautiful capitals of the world.

Speaking at the occasion, Ch. Muhammad Yasin, Secretary General, CDA Mazdoor Union said that the business community was the backbone

of the economy and CDA Mazdoor Union would cooperate in resolving its burning issues. He said that ICCI members were playing an important role in developing the city and creating jobs and it was the duty of CDA employees to facilitate them in business promotion. He said that the CDA Union was supportive of the inclusion of sitting President ICCI in the CDA Board. It was agreed that both sides should join hands and work together for the development of the city and growth of business activities.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that CDA in consultation with ICCI should accelerate efforts for the better development of markets, industrial areas and the overall city.

Investment opportunities

Zimbabwe HC for increasing exchange of trade delegations

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Zimbabwean High Commissioner Martin Chedondo visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and called on President Saqib Rafiq.

Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad and Secretary General Irfan Manan Khan were also present on the occasion.

President Saqib Rafiq briefed the High Commissioner on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said



that the Rawalpindi Chamber is engaged with all stakeholders to promote mutual trade with African countries especially Zimbabwe. The volume of bilateral trade is very low

which needs to be increased. The investment opportunities can be increased through exchange of trade delegations, he added.

High Commissioner Martin

Chedondo said that Zimbabwe attaches great importance to relations with Pakistan, diplomatic relations were established in 1980. This is his first visit to any chamber.

Textiles, cotton, defense equipment, sports goods, minerals, tourism, precious stones, gold, agriculture and food processing are important sectors in which mutual trade can be promoted.

The High Commissioner said that information related to investment opportunities will be shared with the Rawalpindi Chamber.

Industrial activities backbone of economy, says Najam Ahmad

Corruption is on the rise in Water Board, crime rate increasing due to dilapidated roads, President Faraz-ur-Rehman, Zubair Chhaya

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Secretary Local Government Engineer Syed Najam Ahmad Shah said that the Department under the supervision of the Sindh Government is compensating for the destruction caused by the recent stormy rains and development works are going on an emergency basis with the support of the World Bank in all residential and commercial areas of the city. Under the patronage of the Chief Minister and Local Government Minister of Sindh, special attention is being given to the repair of roads, rehabilitation of choked sewerage lines and renovation of key areas of the city. He expressed these views while addressing the luncheon meeting by the Faraz-ur-Rehman, CEO of KITE Limited Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Mohammedi, Former Presidents Salman Aslam, Zahid Saeed, Masood Naqi, Danish Khan, Special Secretary Technical Tufail Palju and MD Solid Waste Management Board Zubair Chhaya was also present.

Najam Ahmad Shah said

that the business activities in the industrial areas are not only the backbone of the provincial and national economy and the government of Sindh will make every possible effort to solve the problems of the businessmen and the business class. He said that the Sindh government has taken special care of the routes passing through the industrial areas while organizing and promoting the transport projects and all the mega schemes and has ensured that in any case, the basic infrastructure of the industrial area remains intact, especially not to damage the natural beauty. Engineer Syed Najam Ahmad said that along with road repair work in industrial areas, the Sindh government is trying to provide the best sewage system and in addition to the available resources, negotiations are underway with the World Bank for obtaining more grants. Secretary also directed the Special Secretary and MD Solid Waste to take special measures regarding the improvement of the industrial area and assured the officials of KATI of all the cooperation and support of the Government of Sindh.

Islamic Chamber collectively represents \$7 trillion economy: FPCCI

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: In a message, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that Pakistan needs to expand and enrich its trade promotion activities with the 57-member alliance of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) – which collectively represents a GDP of \$7 trillion. He explained that these countries have huge demand for Pakistani textiles; leather goods; rice, fruits & vegetables, IT services; skilled & semi-skilled workforce; and, we should capitalize on the opportunities to bridge our trade deficit of up to \$4 billion / month, which is no more sustainable; exponentially increase remittances from Islamic countries, build foreign exchange reserves (FER) and, above-all, curtail current account deficit (CAD) decisively – which clocked at \$17.4 billion in FY22.

It is pertinent to note that the secretary general of all too powerful ICCIA visited FPCCI along with the senior members of team; and, discussed the avenues to enhance & broaden trade promotion activities with Pakistan from the platform of FPCCI – which is the apex body of the country, representing approximately 250 chambers, trade bodies and associations.

Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General of ICCIA, said that he is looking forward to the participation of Pakistani business, industry and trade community in trade exhibitions & networking sessions in Makkah & Madina being organized by ICCIA. We will also be expecting Pakistani delegations in Muslim Business Leaders' summit in Malaysia & Sustainable Agriculture Forum in Azerbaijan, he added.

Suleman Chawla, Senior Vice President of FPCCI, maintained that being a country of 220 million people and an active member of ICCIA, representatives or nominees of FPCCI should be included in all major councils & committees of the Islamic chamber. Pakistan has lot to offer as it has diverse & strategically-significant borders; 65 percent of the population is young; enormous potential for new industries & JV sand has historically played a proactive role in the development & transformation of ICCIA in a very effective institution, he added.

Six teams compete for Pakistan Junior League glory at Gaddafi Stadium

PKR 10million to be awarded to the winners, runners-up to pocket PKR 5million

LAHORE: U19 cricket is set to get a major boost as the first-ever Pakistan Junior League commences at the headquarters of Pakistan Cricket, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium today.

The one of its kind league will showcase not only Pakistan's but some of the world's best U19 talent in the 16-day long competition that includes six teams. Bahawalpur Royals, Gujranwala Giants, Gwadar Sharks, Hyderabad Hunters, Mardan Warriors and Rawalpindi Raiders will compete for the winners' purse of PKR 10million and the impressive tournament trophy.

The runners-up will be given PKR 5million. The tournament will feature a total of 19 matches including the 21 October final with each of the six sides taking on each other once in the single-league round-robin format.

Before the opening match, an action-packed curtain raiser will be staged at the Gaddafi Stadium from 6:15pm with dazzling fireworks and performances



from popular youth band Young Stunners and renowned singer Asim Azhar, the star acts of the evening.

The toss will take place at 7:00pm with the first ball to be bowled at 7:30pm. The Giants will take on the Archery/Warriors in the tournament opener.

The tournament will be broadcast live on PTV Sports and live streamed on Geo Super's App and Geo Super's YouTube and Facebook pages in Pakistan. Live streaming will be available on the PCB YouTube/Facebook and PJJ

YouTube/Facebook channels for the rest of the world.

The tournament broadcast will be done through a 22 camera full HD production including enhancements such as Buggy cam and drone camera.

The commentary panel for the inaugural edition includes prominent commentators Daren Ganga, Dominic Cork and Mike Haysman. Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir, former Zimbabwe player Tino Mawoyo and seasoned broadcaster Sikander Bakht will also be a part of the panel. Roha Nadeem will be the presenter.

Spectators can buy affordable PJJ match tickets (PKR100 each) outside the Gaddafi Stadium at the Archery/Liberty entrance and the Gulberg College entrance. Under 18s can enter the stadium for free by presenting school ID card at the ticket booth.

Online purchase of tickets has commenced, fans can book tickets by visiting www.bookme.pk or by calling

Bookme helpline @ 042111266563.

Tournament Director Nadeem Khan: "We have put a big effort in putting together this event which is meant to prepare our U19 players for senior cricket by providing them a world-class competition. The most encouraging thing for us is the response of cricket boards across the globe who have sent 24 quality players to represent the six sides.

"These players will have the greats of the game Javed Miandad, Sir Vivian Richards, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Daren Sammy, Imran Tahir and Colin Munro mentor them which is nothing less than a lifetime learning opportunity for these players.

"The local players have come through the age-group system, these players will represent our domestic, franchise and national sides in the years ahead and I am sure the Pakistan Junior League will prove to be a major milestone in their careers."

Nominees for ICC Men's Player of the Month for September 2022 revealed

Mohammad Rizwan No.1 T20I batter in the ICC Men's Player Rankings continued his domination

ISLAMABAD: Three strong candidates have made the shortlist for ICC Men's Player of the Month for September 2022.

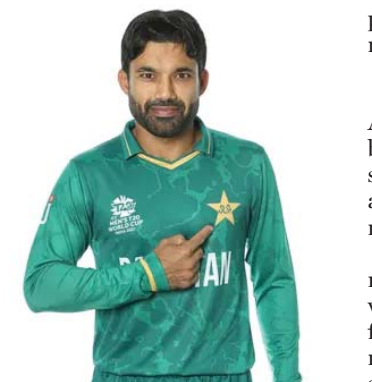
Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan): The No.1 T20I batter in the ICC Men's Player Rankings continued his domination in the shortest format of the game and put his name on the shortlist for the Player of the Month for September.

In the 10 games that he played last month, Rizwan scored seven fifties. His month began with two scores of 70+ against Hong Kong and India in the Asia Cup. He finished the tournament with yet another fifty and as the leading run-scorer but Pakistan fell short on the final hurdle.

In the first five T20Is of the seven-match series against England, he registered four scores of 60+ to help his side take a 3-2 lead. Despite playing one less game, he still finished the series as the highest run-scorer with 316 runs at an average of 63.20 while going at 138.60.

Cameron Green (Australia)
Cameron Green's splendid month of September has seen fans and experts clamouring for him to be a part of Australia's T20 World Cup squad.

In the first ODI against New



Zealand, Australia were staring down the barrel at 44/5 chasing 233 when he played a match-winning 89* battling through cramps that took the hosts to victory with two wickets to spare. In the next game, he made a quick-fire 25* off 12 balls and also picked up two wickets as Australia completed a whitewash over their Trans-Tasman rivals.

In the absence of several first-team players, Cameron Green found a spot in Australia's playing XI in the T20I series against India and was even promoted to open the batting. Chasing 209, he made a blistering 61 off 30 laced with eight fours and four sixes that set the

platform for Australia to complete a memorable chase and take a 1-0 lead.

Axar Patel (India)
The series between India and Australia was dominated by batters but Axar Patel was the one bowler who stood out both with his wicket-taking ability as well his skill to contain the runs.

In the game where Australia managed to chase down 209, Patel was India's best bowler by a mile with figures of 3/17 in four overs. In the rain-truncated eight-over affair in the second match, he gave away just 13 runs in two overs while scalping the big wickets of Glenn Maxwell and Tim David.

In the final game, he broke two crucial partnerships with the wickets of Aaron Finch and Josh Inglis before removing the dangerous Matthew Wade. Going at just 6.30 runs an over in the three games against Australia, Axar finished with eight wickets in a series where the next highest wicket-taker picked up only three wickets.

Axar continued his form in the series against South Africa, giving away just 16 runs in four overs in the first T20I in Thiruvananthapuram.

Liv Golf makes long-awaited Asian debut in Thailand



BANGKOK: The 48 world-class players preparing to tee off at the \$25-million LIV Golf Invitational Bangkok will have plenty to play for this week when they line up at the all-new Stonehill venue from Oct. 7 to 9.

"In our inaugural year with the Invitational Series, LIV Golf is already making waves among golf fans globally. Innovation creates energy that will further grow the sport into the future, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this movement," said Greg Norman, CEO and commissioner of LIV Golf.

"Our world-class players and new team format are generating a thrilling conclusion to this first year, and I'm eager to watch the action unfold in our final three tournaments of 2022."

The world's best are jostling for position in the individual standings, where a \$30 million purse will be shared among the top three podium places at the end of the campaign.

This year's champion in the final individual standings after the LIV Golf Invitational Jeddah will receive a first-place prize of \$18 million, with \$8 million to the runner-up and \$4 million for third place.

In the individual standings, where points are awarded to the top 24 finishers within each tournament's 48-player field, 2016 US Open and 2020 Masters champion Dustin Johnson leads the pack with 118 points. The American holds a healthy 39-point lead over his nearest challenger thanks to a win in Boston, top-three finishes in Bedminster and Chicago and consistent play throughout five events in which he has never finished outside the top 10.

South African Branden Grace (79) is in second place with a victory in Portland and is trailed by 2022 Open winner Cameron Smith (56).

The Australian currently holds third place after notable performances in just two events: A fourth-place finish in his LIV Golf debut in Boston, followed by a three-stroke win in Chicago, the largest margin of victory for any LIV Golf individual champion this season.

The team competition is building for an exciting finish, as LIV Golf's 12 teams prepare for the back-to-back Asian swing in Thailand and Saudi Arabia before turning their attention to the season-ending LIV Golf Invitational Miami Team Championship at Trump National Doral Golf Club from Oct. 28 to 30.

The iconic Blue Monster course will stage the seeded three-day, knockout tournament featuring both match play and stroke play, as teams compete for a historic \$50 million purse.

Northern's Faizan and Umar hit centuries against Sindh

LAHORE: Faizan Riaz stroked his 14th first-class century while Umar Amin registered his 25th career century to steer Northern to 363 for six against Sindh on day three of the four-day Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad.

Faizan was batting on 106 when stumps were drawn for the day after Umar Amin, who had started the day at 60, was dismissed after scoring 105 as Northern were still 97 runs behind Sindh's 457 for eight declared. Faizan's 252-ball innings included eight fours and a six, while Umar belted 14 fours and a six in a 209-ball knock.

After resuming the third day at 129 for two, Umar

added 85 runs for the third wicket with Faizan, who has put on 71 runs for the unbroken seventh wicket with skipper Nauman Ali (36 not out). For Sindh, Mohammad Asghar added the scalp of Umar Amin to finish the day with figures of three for 109.

At the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Test opener Imam-ul-Haq was leading Balochistan's fightback against Central Punjab. The left-hander was batting on 72 as Balochistan ended the day at 137 for one after Central Punjab had declared their first innings at 545 for six to secure a 350-run lead.

Imam has hit eight fours in a 157-ball innings and provided his side a 132-run

first wicket start with Imran Butt (53). Earlier, Central Punjab commenced their first innings at 417 for four in reply to Balochistan's 185 with Tayyab Tahir on 118 not out and Qasim Akram batting on 59. Tayyab was dismissed after scoring 137 (244 balls, 12x4, 1x6), while Qasim Akram was unfortunate to miss his maiden first-class century when he fell to Amad Butt at the score of 92. Qasim's 136-ball innings included 13 fours and a six.

Aamer Yamin was the other Central Punjab batter amongst runs, when he scored 50 not out from 30 balls with seven fours and a six.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Southern Punjab match

was heading for an exciting finish after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led by 207 runs with seven wickets standing.

After conceding 68 runs first innings lead and resuming at four for one, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa saw off the third day's play at 275 for seven with Kamran Ghulam (41) and Sajid Khan (12) at the crease.

Sahibzada Farhan was the top-scorer to date with 83 (147 balls, 12x4, 1x6) and Waqar Ahmed scored 75 (152 balls, 11x4, 1x6) as the two batters put on 162 runs for the third wicket after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had slipped to eight for two.

For Southern Punjab, fast bowler Hasan Ali (three for 67) and Ali Usman (three

Christensen ruled out as Barca injury crisis deepens



BARCELONA: Barcelona defender Andreas Christensen has suffered a sprained ankle, the club confirmed on Wednesday, leaving the Catalans with only two fit center-backs.

The Denmark center-back was taken off in the 1-0 defeat by Inter Milan on Tuesday at the San Siro, and is a doubt for upcoming games, including the Clasico on October 16.

Barca are already without Ronald Araujo, Jules Kounde and Hector Bellerin in defense, as well as Dutch duo Memphis Depay and Frenkie de Jong.

"Tests carried out on Wednesday have confirmed that the first team player Andreas Christensen has a sprained left ankle," said Barca in a statement. "He is unavailable and his recovery will dictate his return." Gerard Pique and Eric Garcia are set to line up in the center of defense against Celta Vigo on Sunday in La Liga, with Xavi thin on alternatives beyond using players from the B team.

Inter visit Camp Nou on Wednesday October 12, a crucial game for Barca's hopes of qualifying for the next round of the Champions Leagues, before the Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Andrey Rublev to defend his Mubadala World Tennis Championship crown

ABU DHABI: Andrey Rublev will return to Abu Dhabi in December to defend his Mubadala World Tennis Championship title, organizers have confirmed.

He is the latest star to join the six-player male lineup at the MWTC from Dec. 16 to 18 that includes world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz and regular Slam finalist Casper Ruud, with three more big-name players expected to be unveiled soon.

The 24-year-old, who has reached a career-high ranking of No. 5, secured his first MWTC title with a straight sets victory over Andy Murray at the International Tennis Center in Zayed Sports City last December.

Rublev has 11 ATP Tour singles titles and three doubles titles to his credit. He won the mixed doubles gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics alongside compatriot Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, and has reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam five times, including at this year's French and US Opens.

Fans will have the chance to catch two of the best women's players on the tournament's first day, with world No. 2 US Open finalist and defending MWTC champion Ons Jabeur taking on 2021 US Open Champion and British No. 1 Emma Raducanu.

"Last year's event was memorable, firstly to see the return of the championship after the rebound of live events and, secondly, because of the top-class tennis on display. Andrey was a worthy winner so it's great that we have secured his return alongside the next generation of superstars Carlos, Casper, Ons and Emma. The 14th edition is shaping up to be a very exciting three days of action on and off the court," said John Lickrish, CEO, Flash Entertainment.

The Arabian Gulf's leading tennis experience will also bring its traditional mix of interactive activities, and player meet-and-greets. Tickets start from AED95 for adults and AED45 for children. Three-day packages offer a 20 percent saving, guaranteeing spectators a seat for the entire championship.

Premier hospitality tickets also offer fans a special menu and courtside seating. More details are available at www.mubadala-lawt.com.

Alcaraz vows to learn from Goffin defeat

PARIS: World number one Carlos Alcaraz said he would "take lessons" from his shock first-round exit at the Astana Open on Tuesday after losing 7-5, 6-3 to Belgium's David Goffin.

US Open champion Alcaraz suffered his first straight-sets defeat since last November as Goffin made the most of his second chance as a lucky loser. "He played better than me, really, really aggressive," said Alcaraz.

"I couldn't handle that pressure that he was pushing on me and of course it's something that I have to learn and take lessons from this match." Alcaraz, 19, was playing his first ATP tournament since his Grand Slam triumph in New York that saw him become the youngest ever world number one.

He then flew immediately to Valencia to play in the Davis Cup, winning one of his two singles rubbers as Spain claimed a place in the quarter-finals.

"Coming back to competition is never easy," said Alcaraz. "He (Goffin) played two matches here on this court. It's not easy to get used to, it's really, really slow. It was really tough on me, for my confidence. "I tried to get used to this court so quickly, but I couldn't and he was better than me in this match." Goffin only earned a spot in the main draw after the withdrawal of Danish teenager Holger Rune. He plays Frenchman Adrian Mannarino in the last 16.

"I always believe that I have the level to cause some trouble against those guys," said Goffin, a former top-10 player now ranked 66th. "When you play against the world number one on a big stage, big crowd, the fire inside gives you so much power to play your best tennis because you don't have any choice."

Ukraine to join Spain and Portugal in 2030 World Cup bid

NYON: War-torn Ukraine will join Spain and Portugal in a bid to host the 2030 World Cup, presidents from the three countries' football associations announced on Wednesday.

The original proposal was made public two years ago but has been given a political impetus by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The institutional headquarters are in Madrid, the administrative headquarters are in Lisbon. Now the Ukrainian delegation will unite with us," the Spanish football association's (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales said.

"In the coming months, we

will come to work on practicalities," he added. RFEF, which organized the 1982 edition, said in a statement the idea was backed by UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin.

"The Royal Spanish Football Federation and the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) have incorporated the Ukrainian Football Association (UAF) into the Iberian Bid to organize the 2030 World Cup," RFEF said.

"With the full support of Aleksander Ceferin, the Iberian bid incorporates the federation chaired by Andriy Pavelko in order to build bridges and project a message of unity, solidarity and generosity from all

of European football," it added.

Portugal held the 2004 European Championship while Ukraine was a joint host with Poland of Euro 2012. "The example of tenacity and resilience set by the Ukrainian people is inspiring," the FPF said. The FPF added that the joint bid "aims to contribute through the power of football to the recovery of a country undergoing reconstruction."

It added the terms of Ukraine's role in the bid "will be discussed and defined in due course." It follows the announcement last month from an Egyptian official that Egypt, Greece and Saudi Arabia are in

talks to jointly host the 2030 World Cup.

In August, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay launched their bid to host the event — which is the centenary of the first World Cup, held in Uruguay — with the hope of bringing the global showpiece back to its first home.

The 2026 edition has already been awarded to three countries — Canada, Mexico and the United States.

More than half of the 21 World Cup finals already staged have been in Europe but later this year Qatar will host the finals, the first time they have been played in the Middle East.

