



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عبد العزیز بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھ سے ابراہیم بن سعد نے بیان کیا ان سے ان کے والد نے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن جعفر بن ابی طالب رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو تازہ بخور گلوی کے ساتھ کھاتے دیکھا ہے۔
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RAWALPINDI

Islam always give message of love, peace: Kaira

"The life of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is a role model for the universe and Islam always give the message of peace, love and affection to the mankind." Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira made these remarks. Kaira said that Muslims should follow the footprints of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) for a peaceful and successful life.



MWL chief stresses to project commonalities among civilizations

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General, Muslim World League (MWL) has said that dialogue and research bridge the gaps and it is the ultimate solution to the misunderstandings that have been associated to Islam. News on Page 3

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Latest audio leak exposes hypocrisy of IK: PM

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the latest audio leak had exposed the hypocrisy of former prime minister Imran Khan. "Someone who does not tire of lecturing nation on morality is himself blatantly involved in immoral horse trading. His fraudulent nature is being exposed every day. Niazi's anti-state actions make him unfit for high office," the Prime Minister said in a twitter post.

No political victimization: Marriyum



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says the government does not believe in political victimization but will take action against the people who violate the law. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, she said the government will ensure to hold the powerful people accountable for their wrong doings. Criticizing the PTI Chairman for damaging the country's economy and foreign relations in his four years' tenure, the Information Minister said Imran Khan should apologize to the nation for misleading the people. She said inflation rate of edible commodities soared from two percent to twenty percent in Imran Khan's government.

Pak-Germany cooperation

BERLIN: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari holds a meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock here on Friday.



Photo: APP

Pakistan Devastating floods

Germany announces €10m more aid for flood victims

FM Annalena says German companies keen to invest in Pakistan particularly in infrastructural projects

Spokesman Report

BERLIN: Germany has announced a further ten million euros aid for flood victims of Pakistan. The announcement was made by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock at a joint presser along with her Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Berlin on Friday. Expressing sympathy to the families suffering due to the devastating floods, she said Pakistan is the most affected country by climate change. The German Foreign Minister said the current devastation in Pakistan is a reminder to the world about the dramatic consequences of the climate change.

Speaking about bilateral relations, she said Germany intends to diversify its relation with Pakistan in economic spheres. She said German companies are

Pakistan is the most affected country by climate change

looking forward to invest in Pakistan particularly in infrastructural projects. The German Foreign Minister also appreciated Pakistan's positive role in bringing stability in the region, particularly in Afghanistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called for translating the decades of goodwill and cooperation between Pakistan and Germany into synergetic partnership for benefit of the two peoples. Talking to recent floods, he said the climate catastrophe in Pakistan cannot be defined in words, as one third of the country is under water and one in seven Pakistani is affected. The Foreign Minister said the floods have destroyed over a million houses and the country is also facing looming food crisis due to it. About Pak-German relations, he expressed the confidence that mutual desire to deepen bilateral relations would prove to be

win-win for both the countries. Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday said as his country produced less than one percent of the global carbon footprint so he wanted climate justice for the people of Pakistan. He said, "as the United Nations Secretary General said it is not a question of charity it is a question of justice." "We are among the ten most climate stressed countries on the planet. The consequences of climate change are the result of the global action. I hope that the solution of this global problem is also collective and global." He said he discussed with the German minister bilateral issues and regional and international developments of mutual interest.

Imran says will soon announce 'jail bharo tehreek'

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that he would soon announce 'Jail Bharo Tehreek' (prison movement), ARY News reported on Friday. Addressing a public gathering in Mianwali today, the former premier warned the ruling coalition against threatening the PTI supporters of detention, noting that he would sacrifice his life for 'real freedom' of the country. "We are not scared of getting arrested as I would soon announce a Jail Bharo Tehreek (prison movement)," the PTI Chairman said, adding that millions of people are ready to fill your jails. Speaking of the much-awaited long march, Imran Khan said that his party has far better plans than the government for the protest. "All plans of the 'import-

ed' government against PTI would fail and they would be forced to announce elections," he claimed. He urged the people of Mianwali to get ready for the final call, saying that no nation can prosper without real independence. The former prime minister noted that it was good to hear that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered investigation into an alleged cypher, which according to him, led to his government ouster. He further said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was calling for an inquiry into cypher for the past six months, adding that they even forwarded the letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for investigation. Imran Khan pointed out his government's performance, saying that the country's economy was recovering during PTI's tenure. Agencies

Maryam refuses to hold talks with Imran

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Friday refused to hold talks with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. Talking to the media, the PML-N vice president said that no talks will be held with Imran, but now time to make him 'example as the audio leaks have exposed his [Imran's] narrative. All of his narratives have been proven 'fake', she added. She went on to say that she calls Imran 'fitna' because he relates everything with conspiracy. First Imran was against those who were involved in horse-trading and himself went on to indulge in it [horse-trading], Maryam added. She claimed that it was not possible for Imran

to defeat PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in 2018 elections, adding that by lodging a false case against Nawaz, paths for Imran's victory were cleared. She further said that who is not aware of what went on to happen in Balochistan. "Was in Balochistan, the government was changed without horse-trading", the PML-N vice-president raised question. Maryam said, "Our candidate was defeated with the help of conspiracy in the senate election". The PML-N stalwart said that it's been while since he [Imran] is using the tactics of conspiracy, though this is for the first time his plot has been exposed. She went on to say that as Imran's face has been exposed, which is enough for him [Imran] as punishment. Agencies

PTI foreign funding case

Senator Saifullah taken into custody: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Friday said that PTI Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee had been taken into protective custody in the foreign funding case. Addressing a press conference, he said that Senator Saifullah Nyazee had not been appearing for investigation in foreign funding case and now he had been taken into protective custody so that he could be formally questioned. He said legal procedure would be followed for the arrest of PTI Senator if required at a later stage. He said that PTI member Hamid Zaman had been also taken into protective custody in this foreign funding case. Minister for Interior said that Imran Khan was misleading the nation and his narrative of conspiracy had been exposed. He said nation should understand the reality of Imran Khan and identify this 'fitna'. Commenting on recent audio leak of Imran Khan, he said the leaked audio reveals that he was involved in horse-trading.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan chairing the 1st meeting of the High Powered Committee constituted by Prime Minister on Cyber Security Breach in public offices, Islamabad on Friday.

He said Imran Khan's fake narrative of conspiracy had damaged our foreign relations adding he said Imran Khan was trying to get back in power by using every tactic. Rana Sanaullah said, the government would take all possible measures to maintain law and order in Islamabad. He said a plan has been formulated to counter any march towards the Capital city. He said pressure groups will not be allowed to siege Islamabad otherwise a tradition would be set of using such pressure tactics. He said that Imran Khan had polarized the people and was bent upon divid-

ing the nation. The minister said that Imran Khan had ruined the norms of society and the nation should identify him and get rid of such a liar person. The minister said that an irreparable loss had been made to the county during the tenure of PTI government and still this man was hungry for power. He said that Islamabad would be protected at every cost and no one would be allowed to siege it. The minister said the country's economy and political culture was destroyed during the Imran Khan led government, while Pakistan was also isolated at international level. Agencies

NA Speaker seeks support of Arab countries

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Friday said that countries and companies guilty of climate-induced devastation in Pakistan must fulfill their obligation of cutting carbon emissions and releasing pledged climate funds for climate-vulnerable countries. "Today it is Pakistan but tomorrow, it can be another country", the Speaker expressed these views in his meeting with the Arab group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), said a news release. The meeting was held to seek Arab countries' cooperation for the Assembly's proposal of a global climate fund via the forthcoming 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda from October 15, 2022. The Speaker said that climate tragedy in Pakistan resulted in colossal losses of lives and livelihood, which were beyond imagination. The calamity was not over rather it had outstretched in the form of diseases and food crises.

Attracting US investment a top priority: Dar

Finance minister says govt focusing on creating business-friendly environment for foreign investors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Friday that attracting the United States foreign investment in different sectors of Pakistan's economy was the government's top priority. During a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome, who call on the minister here, Ishaq Dar said the incumbent government was focusing on creating a business-friendly environment for foreign investors. He highlighted the importance of long-term, broad-based and multi-dimensional relationship between Pakistan and the United States, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. The minister briefed the Ambassador about devastations caused by the recent floods in Pakistan, the statement added. The Finance Minister further highlighted the economic agenda and policies of the government with aim to bring about economic and fiscal stability. He reiterated the desire of the present government to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with the USA. On the occasion, the ambassador felicitated the Finance Minister on



Islamabad: Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division on Friday. Photo: PID

assuming the charge of Finance Ministry and also extended sympathy to the destruction caused by the floods and support of his govt. The ambassador underscored that both countries enjoy good relations and expressed confidence on the policies and programmes of the government. He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both the countries. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said that the govern-

ment believes in enhancing the bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Japan. During his meeting with the ambassador of Japan Wada Mitsuhiro who called on him in Islamabad on Friday, he said that Japan is one of the major development partners of Pakistan and he firmly believes that the cooperation will further strengthen in multiple fields for the mutual benefit of both the countries. On this occasion, Wada Mitsuhiro said that Japan greatly values its bilateral relations with Pakistan.

Diplomacy

Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a photo with a group of spouses of diplomatic corps at Parliament House Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

Govt provided relief worth Rs65b in power sector: NA told

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed on Friday that fuel adjustment price for the current month has been reduced to less than a rupee per unit.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Friday, Minister for Power Khuram Dastgir said relief worth 65 billion rupees has been provided to farmers, industrialists and flood affected people in the power sector.

Speaking on a point of order, Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah called for declaring agriculture, water, infrastructure and rains emergency, to cope with the challenges posed by the devastating floods in the country. He said we should divert funds toward flood management.

At the outset, newly elected Member of the National Assembly, Asiya Azeem took oath. Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf administered the oath.

Kashmir Dispute

India brazenly persecuting innocent Kashmiris: FO

Pakistan urges world to play its role in ensuring a just, peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday urged the international community to hold India responsible for its brazen persecution of innocent Kashmiris and play its role in ensuring a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing here, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said Indian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week and conveyed Government of Pakistan's serious concerns over the deteriorating health condition of Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmed Shah who had been incarcerated in the infamous Tihar Jail for the last five years and was suffering from renal cancer and was consistently denied medical aid by Indian authorities.

"We also remain deeply concerned over the deteriorating health and continued incarceration of Kashmiri political prisoners including Hurriyat leaders like Yasin

Malik who are languishing in different jails of India and in IOJK."

"Mirwaiz Umar Farooq remains under house arrest and is continuously denied access to go to the Jamia Masjid to deliver the Friday sermon," he added.

The Spokesperson said Indian illegally

IOJK continued to be strangled economically, facing the brunt of Indian occupation forces economic terrorism

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) continued to be strangled economically, facing the brunt of Indian occupation forces economic terrorism.

"While the region has a stark unemployment rate, its farmers are faced with prolonged and forced road blockades by

the occupation forces, exposing them to risks of the produce going rotten. This is a deliberate attempt to destroy the region's economy."

"Reprehensibly, in the past one-week, Indian forces have blatantly carried out a series of extra-judicial murders with impunity. Eight innocent Kashmiris were mercilessly martyred by Indian occupation forces in Baramulla, Shopian and Pulwama. Since its unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019, Indian occupation forces have martyred more than 678 Kashmiris, including at least 158 this year."

He said Pakistan reiterated its call for the investigation of extra-judicial killings in IOJK by a Commission of Inquiry as recommended by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its Kashmir Reports of 2018 and 2019.

He said, "We strongly rejected Indian External Affairs Minister's highly irresponsible remarks insinuating at Pakistan's so-called involvement in international terrorism." APP

For public good

President for raising breast cancer awareness

Staff Reporter

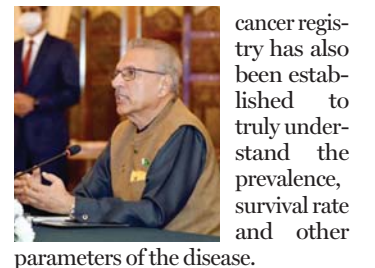
ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has said different segments of the society including educational institutions and chambers of commerce have been approached and different tools are being employed to raise greater awareness about breast cancer.

In an interactive session with Social Media professionals in Islamabad on Friday, he emphasized for early diagnosis of the disease to save lives as well as avoid expensive treatment such as mammography.

Describing social media as a powerful medium, the President said their practitioners should also come forward and play their role in raising awareness about breast cancer.

Arif Alvi pointed out that speaking about breast cancer was considered a taboo in our society but over the last four years a sustained campaign spearheaded by First Lady Samina Alvi has produced some good results in spreading the message about breast cancer in every nook and corner of the country. Messages are also being transmitted on the cell phones.

Responding to a question, the President said that a national level



cancer registry has also been established to truly understand the prevalence, survival rate and other parameters of the disease.

In her remarks, First Lady Samina Alvi said given its vast outreach, the role of Radio Pakistan is important vis-à-vis disseminating important messages across the length and breadth of Pakistan.

She said we are focusing more on early diagnosis of the disease in view of the shortage of health facilities and mammography machines. She said we are trying to create awareness through multiple means including through Radio and Television.

The First Lady stressed for collective efforts to achieve the target of early diagnosis of the disease amongst majority of women. In this regard, the role of men is also very pivotal.

Samina Alvi said we are also working for the protection of rights of differently abled persons and to ensure that they get job opportunities.

Electricity relief from next month: Dastgir

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Khuram Dastgir Friday said that the consumers of the electricity would be given relief in fuel adjustment price in next month's electricity bills. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said, the reduction in oil prices at the international market and appreciation of the rupee against the dollar has helped to slash the fuel price. The adjustment for June was Rs. 10 per unit while now it was 22 paisa per unit, he said. The minister admitted that during the last couple of months fuel price adjustments in the electricity bills had affected the people. He said as per instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the government has fully passed on the relief to the consumers.

"The electricity consumers would see the relief in the electricity bill in the next month" he hoped. He said total relief of Rs. 65 billion has been provided to consumers using less than 300 units, farmers, and flood-affected people from the power sector. Responding to point of Mohammad Aslam Bhootani's concerns regarding power plants in his areas, he assured that observations of the lawmakers would be addressed. Agencies

Weekly inflation up by 0.29pc



ISLAMABAD: The weekly report registered an increase in inflation by 0.29 percent, bringing the country's overall inflation rate to 29.4 percent on Friday.

According to the weekly report released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the prices of vegetables - tomatoes, onions -, sugar and 17 basic commodities have been raised. Within a week, the price of tomatoes saw a whopping rise of Rs48.45 per kg, while the price of onions increased by Rs12.69. The price of sugar also saw a massive increase of Rs57 per kilogram. Moreover, the price of eggs per dozen rose by Rs1.38.

The price of 14 commodities declined and the other 20 items remained stable, while the price of potatoes decreased by Rs3.47. Agencies

Canada to double donations to \$7.5m for flood hit Pakistan

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Canadian government has more than doubled the amount of donations it will match to help the people of Pakistan recover from disastrous flooding.

Three weeks ago, the Canadian government pledged to match up to \$3 million donated by Canadians to the Humanitarian Coalition. Last week, International Development Minister Harjit Sajjan said he would boost that to \$5 million, in the hopes of drumming up more public support.

On Thursday, he increased that donation amount to \$7.5 million, matching what Canadians had now

donated.

Canada has donated another \$30 million to aid Pakistan separately from the donor matching funds to the Humanitarian Coalition, a group of 12 major Canadian aid agencies, including Save The Children, Islamic Relief and Oxfam Canada, news agency The Canadian Press reported on Friday.

"It was just really gratifying to see the extraordinary response from Canadians, I would say particularly Canadians from the Pakistani diaspora and the Muslim community who really stepped up," said the coalition's director, Richard Morgan.

Severe monsoon rains this summer left one-third of Pakistan underwater, ruining grain and killing cattle. Morgan

said 21 million people are in need of help, including 9 million in immediate need. "When you have that many millions of displaced people congregating in new spaces, the most basic needs (are) shelter, food, water and immediate, basic health care," Morgan said.

The funding has gone to things like tents and tarps, kitchen sets, fuel, drinking water and latrines. It has helped set up schools for children to learn and deal with trauma, he said.

In areas with functioning markets, the groups have given stipends to people to buy what they need, which Morgan says helps get the local economy back on its feet. "It helps rebuilds community resilience," he said.

PTI says latest audio is edited

Fawad Chaudhry says they know who is behind this

ISLAMABAD: PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry Friday claimed that the latest audio in which former prime minister Imran Khan is allegedly talking about horse trading in the National Assembly is "edited" and they know who is behind this.

Talking to Twitter, the former information minister said that people are aware of the source of these audios.

"Can you justify the NRO 2 by making such audios? It won't happen. People know where these are being produced and how."

In the latest audio, the comments made by Imran Khan suggested that the meeting took place before the voting on the no-confidence motion was held against him.



The audio mentions a 48-hour time period and it matches with the Supreme Court order that was issued on April 7. The top court had directed the National

Assembly speaker to hold a vote on the motion no later than April 9.

It is not clear who else was present in the meeting where the discussion regarding the party position in the National Assembly took place.

This is the third audio of the PTI chairman leaked during the past couple of weeks following a series of audios of the incumbent government leaders surfaced on social media.

In the previous ones, the PTI leaders could be heard talking about the alleged US conspiracy and how to use it in their favour.

The federal government has established a high-powered committee headed by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to probe the matter. Agencies

At G-77/China

Pakistan pushes for 'roadmap' to offset 'shocks' to global economy

Developing countries now facing the triple challenge of meeting their needs for food, fuel and finance

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan, speaking for the Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, has called for a clear roadmap to overcome the recent series of "shocks" to the world economy, including the deadly coronavirus pandemic and the spike in commodities prices, that have disproportionately impacted the poorest countries.

"The unequal impacts have been accompanied by a deficit in solidarity - as visible on vaccine availability and the liquidity support - \$17 trillion generated in the richer, less than \$100 billion for the developing world," Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the General Assembly Second Commit-

tee, which deals with economic and financial matters.

Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries.

Speaking in a debate on Macro-economic Policy and Financing for Development, Ambassador Aamir Khan said other factors disrupting the economy such were excess liquidity injected in the hard currency economies, the growing impacts of climate change and the geopolitical tensions and accompanying disruptions due to trade and financial restrictions.

As a consequence, he said, poverty has enlarged - over 100 million pushed back into extreme poverty, with

the developing countries now facing the triple challenge of meeting their needs for food, fuel and finance.

As a result, over 50 developing countries are in debt distress and many are obliged to default, as climate change continues to take its heavy toll.

The G77 commends the efforts being made by the UN Secretary-General and others to ameliorate plight of the poorest and most vulnerable, but Ambassador Aamir Khan said, "as yet, there is no clear road map to overcome the development emergency."

In this regard, he said that G77 has identified the following specific goals and outcomes for the achievement of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) during the remaining decade of action:



Welcome the \$500 billion stimulus proposed by the UN Secretary-General, including through creation of new

SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) and re-allocation of un-utilized SDRs to developing countries; Early solution to the debt distress of nearly 60 developing countries through effective operation of the G-20's Common Framework and Bilateral arrangements; The mobilization by COP27 of at least \$100 billion in climate finance, with half allocated to adaptation, accompanied by a financing facility for "loss and damage."

A review of the role of credit-rating agencies, with a view to reduce reliance on subjective, mechanistic evaluation of risk and consideration of measures to adapt their criteria to the unprecedented circumstances of the Pandemic.

Focused efforts to mobilize investment of upto \$ 1 trillion annually

in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries; Discussion on a fair and inclusive tax regime that is developed through intergovernmental processes; A reform of the international trading system which should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through export-led growth in the developing countries; Seeking an equitable international information technology regime which bridges the digital divide and enables the developing countries to 'leapfrog' into the global digital economy of the future, and, Elimination of unilateral coercive economic measures imposed against developing countries that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Third Indonesian flight carrying medical team, humanitarian aid lands in Karachi

Team consists of 29 medical personnel ranging from doctors, nurses, nutritionists, and midwives

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Following the relief assistance delivered to Pakistan on 26 September 2022 by the Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Social Affairs and Head of the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the Government of the Republic of Indonesia reaffirms its commitment to assist Pakistan in managing the impacts of flood-disaster by sending Medical Team to Pakistan and other logistics.



On Friday, 7 October 2022, Garuda Indonesia Airways with flight No. GA 7540 landed at Jinnah International Airport at 9.30 AM bringing the Indonesian Medical Team and another logistics weighing 32 tons. The Medical Team consists of 29 medical personnel ranging from doctors, nurses, nutritionists, and midwives, including dermatologists, pediatricians, nutritionists, and pharmacists. The logis-

tics also comprise medicine packages. The medical team is welcomed by the Indonesian Consul General in Karachi, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadinigrat, along with the Minister of Social Welfare Department of Sindh Province, Mr. Muhammad Sajid Jokhio, representatives from Pakistan NDMA, and Sindh Ministry of Health.

Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi, the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), and Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad, have been in close coordination with MDNA and the Sindh Ministry

of Health for the deployment of the Indonesian medical team in Mirpur Khas district and Bin Qasim tent city in Malir district, Karachi, for total 1 (one) month service. The Team will assist its Pakistani counterparts in providing medical services to thousands of the victims of flood disasters living in tents in those areas.

The Indonesian Medical Team is scheduled to serve in the Mirpur Khas district to provide health services in fixed and mobile health units. Afterward, the team will move to a tent city in Bin Qasim, Malir district in Karachi

to provide health services in the Indonesian medical tents erected by the Indonesian National Disaster Management (BNPP)'s advanced team earlier.

The Indonesian Delegation that accompanied the delivery of the humanitarian assistance this time, led by the Deputy of Logistics and Equipment from the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Mr. Zaherman Muabezi, with its medical team members coming from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, Armed Forces, Police, Andalas University, and Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC).

This humanitarian work is a follow-up to the directive from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, for Indonesia to help Pakistani people facing the calamity of flood disaster. The clear directive was conveyed during the dispatch ceremony of sorties 1 and 2 of Indonesian humanitarian aid for Pakistan on last 26 September 2022.

Rations distributed among 400 families in Tank



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: In collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation and "Amal" welfare organization of the Islamic Brother country Malaysia distributed ration, clothes and other daily items to 400 flood affected households in Captain Ashfaq Shaheed Degree College Tank.

On this occasion, along with the foreign delegation of "Amal" organization from Malaysia, Al Khidmat Foundation Tank District President Haroon Baloch, District Flood Relief Incharge Inamullah, Finance Secretary Najibullah and other members of the organization were also present.

Al-Khidmat Foundation Tank has been distributing dry ration, clean drinking water, two-time ready meals and other daily items to hundreds of families on a daily basis for one and a half months.

The flood victims said that we are very thankful and grateful to the Al-Khidmat Foundation and the people of the Islamic brotherhood of Malaysia who have helped the flood victims of Pakistan in every possible way.

Henny de Vries visits UAF

M.A Rashid

FAISALABAD: Netherland Ambassador to Pakistan Henny de Vries has said that the both countries ties would be further deepened in the areas of agriculture and academia.

She paid a recent visit to the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) interactive session with the master trainers of the RVO funded potato project. She also called on UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan and met with UAF senior faculty. She was flanked by first secretary Mr Ederer, and Sundas Munwar. UAF Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar, Director External linkages Prof Dr Wasim Akram, Principal Officer PRP Dr Jalal Arif, Deans Dr Masood Sadiq Butt, Prof Dr Tariq Javed, Prof Dr Hassan Sarfraz, Dr Asghar Bajwa, Prof Dr Qamar Bilal, Prof Dr Muhammad Arshad,



Project focal person UAF Dr. Ijaz Ashraf, CABI representatives, Dr. Umair Safdar (Project Manager) and other spoke on the occasion.

She said that next year, we are celebrating 75 years of relationship between both countries and would find areas to further explore how to work together from business to business, government to government, from college institute to college institutes. She said that several areas we can explore including drainage, dairy, horticulture, biotechnology, potatoes

seeds etc.

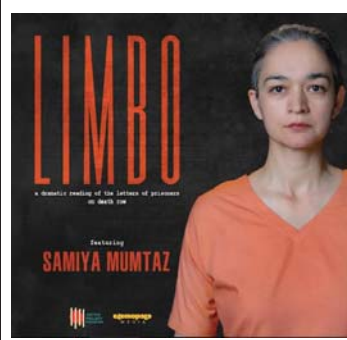
She said that she was impressed by visiting the UAF which is one of world class varieties in agriculture. She also appreciated the initiatives taken by the CABI team to disseminate the advance production technology among smallholders especially women and UAF for their technical assistance.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan said that enhanced ties would bring the tangible results and would help learn from each other's experiences.

He stressed upon to need to enhancing collaboration in the seed, dairy, horticulture and academia. He has briefed about on research and development projects on agriculture development led by the university. He said that UAF is one of the leading institutes in the agricultural research and development. It is also working to improve the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers and growers in providing updated information on advance agriculture practices.

The project aims to build the capacity of around 1000 smallholders potato growers including women on advance potato production through intensive training and extension program. A complete package covering information form the seed sorting and grading till harvesting has been covered in extensive seven modules that are imparting skills among potato growers on advanced production technologies.

Justice Project Pakistan to host dramatic reading of letters of prisoners



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: To commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October, Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), in collaboration with Olomopolo Media is hosting the upcoming play titled "Limbo"-A Dramatic Reading Of Letters of Prisoners on Death Row on the 10th of October 2022 at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad.

The play is conceptualized by Kanwal Khoosat, with direction from Talha Mufti and sound design by Agha Haider. Further, the performance also features renowned artists such as Sarmad Khoosat, Samiya Mumtaz, Erfan Khoosat, and Hassan Wajid Baig.

"Olomopolo presents 'Limbo', showcasing narratives that society forgets, those that society wishes it did not have to remember or acknowledge," stated Kanwal Khoosat, Executive Director of Olomopolo.

Performers within the play will primarily read letters penned by the incarcerated inmates in Pakistan's penal system. The letters are interspersed with passages from George Orwell's essay, 'A Hanging', and regulations from the Pakistan Prisons Rules. The dramatic readings seek to highlight the dysfunction of Pakistan's justice system - torture, false confessions, juvenile detention - as well as shine a light on the humanity of those behind bars. With this production, JPP and Olomopolo Media hope to raise important questions about crime, punishment, and the justice system.

"This year, the theme of the WDADP is torture - a theme that has particular resonance for our country since a significant number of death row prisoners have been sentenced to death on the basis of evidence extracted under torture.

New equipment at SIUT Hospital to benefit renal patients

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: As part of a concerted effort to strengthen the delivery of health services in Sindh Province in Pakistan, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency has donated 85 state-of-the-art dialysis machines to the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT).

The project, funded by the European Union, is aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Renal Unit to carry out more dialysis sessions, and ease pressure on public services. On a daily basis, the dedicated medical team at SIUT carries out approximately 1500 dialysis sessions. Medical services are free of charge for all patients - regardless of their nationalities and legal status.

The equipment, which also includes six reverse



osmosis treatment systems for the dialysis machines, along with six automated dialyzer reprocessing systems, will benefit both refugees and host communities and save lives.

The life-saving equipment was inaugurated at a ceremony attended on Thursday by the hospital medical team, UNHCR, and representatives of the Government of Pakistan.

In addition to the 85 dialysis machines for SIUT, the European Union has also funded critical equipment for various public hospitals in Pakistan, including for a Thalassemia Unit, a Gastroenterology Unit as well as state-of-the-art CT scanners in areas hosting refugees.

The contribution illustrates the commitment of the EU to supporting refugees and host communi-

ties through a three-year funded programme covering Afghanistan, Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan, which focuses on strengthening health, education, livelihoods, and protection activities. The contribution builds on EU development support for Afghans and host communities in Pakistan since 2018.

"Our support today to the people of Pakistan is a gesture of solidarity and gratitude for the decades of hospitality extended by the Government and people of Pakistan for Afghan refugees," noted Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative to Pakistan. "It's important that after 40 years of hosting refugees, Pakistani communities continue to see the international contribution towards local services and the people who have been generously hosting refugees all this time."

Neurodegenerative diseases discussed at two-day moot at DUHS

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Society of Basic & Applied Neuroscience (PASBAN) in collaboration with Dow University of Health Science (DUHS), Pakistan Society of Neurology and AEIRC organized a two-day 8th Annual Neuroscience Conference at DUHS, Ojha Campus.

The conference was very well attended by Neuro Physicians, faculty members of DUHS and medical students of DIMC.

The conference was supported by Dow University of Health Science (DUHS) & Medisura Pharma. Prof Dr Attaur Rehman, former federal minister



for Science and Technology was the chief guest while Prof. Saeed Qureshi DUHS Vice-Chancellor graced the occasion as guest of honour at the inaugural session.

Many local and foreign experts shared their experi-

ences with neurodegenerative diseases.

Dr Sonia Siddiqui, the conference chair, welcomed the guests and highlighted the salient features of the conference

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Attaur Rehman said that

neuroscience was an important field and needed attention at all levels. People in Pakistan still have misconceptions and superstitions about Alzheimer's, epilepsy and Parkinson's diseases, while the world has gone a long way in the field of neurosciences which is a multidisciplinary science. The human brain is the most complex object of our universe. Neuroscience had seen significant development in recent years and several mental illnesses earlier believed to be incurable could now be successfully treated. He discussed in detail the progress made in his tenure as HEC chairman when Pakistan

made tremendous progress and emerged as the country with the highest percentage of highly cited research papers as compared to India, he added.

Prof Muhammad Saeed Quraishi, DUHSVC, addressing the participants said that the brain is the most complex organ of the human body, which controlled all its functions. It produced our thoughts, actions, memories, feelings and experiences of the world.

There were billions of neurons in the human body and each neuron communicates with many other neurons to form circuits and share information.

RCET (Power) for export industry fixed at Rs19.99 per unit for FY-2022-23

CAPTA, PHMA & Textile Associations held meeting with Finance Minister



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zubair Motiwala, Chairman, Council of All Pakistan Textile Associations, Jawed Bilwani, Chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum, Babar Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association & Pervaiz Lala, Chairman, All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association made vibrant representation in meeting with Senator Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister today at Islamabad and successfully convinced to continue Regionally Competitive Energy Tariff (Power) for export-oriented industries which was previously US 9 cents, now, revised

and fixed PKR-19.99/- per unit for the FY-2022-23 ending 30th June 2023.

They conveyed their sincere gratitude to Senator Ishaq Dar for accepting the demand of textile-export industry and providing level-playing field to export industries through RCET (Power) fixing it to PKR-19.99/- per unit which the textile exporters, across Pakistan, have profoundly lauded.

They meaningfully advocated the charter of Value-Added Textile Associations to promote textile industry and its exports to ultimately earn valuable foreign exchange and provide huge employment to strengthen the national economy.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:44 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	4:04 pm
Maghrib	5:45 pm
Isha	7:07 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 Enquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
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CAA	9281092

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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, 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

TDC Islamabad organizes medical camp



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre Islamabad organized a relief and medical camp in the flood-affected district of Khairpur Mirus. On the 6th of October 2022, The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad organized a relief and medical camp. The camp was held in Goth Muhammad Sadiq Jhang, a flood-affected village of Nara Tehsil of Khairpur Mirus district, which was supervised by CEO TDC Tahir M Abbasi. Special support from Muslim Hands was included for this camp. It included relief to the flood victims and health related activities. District Health Officer (Khairpur Mirus) Shahid Muhammad Khaskheli were also present on the occasion. One thousand patients comprising children and elderly were given a package for two months which included mosquito nets and general medicines.

MWL chief stresses to project commonalities among civilizations

Says problem of Islamophobia is based on inaccurate and false information about Islam

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General, Muslim World League (MWL) has said that dialogue and research bridge the gaps and it is the ultimate solution to the misunderstandings that have been associated to Islam.



Spokesman Report

While delivering a presidential speech at the closing ceremony in a conference held at the International Islamic University on the topic of Islamophobia, Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa said that the problem of Islamophobia is based on inaccurate and false information about Islam. MWL Chief has said that commonalities have always given peace to world while conflicts brought devastation, therefore, we must work to bring closer the civilizations though the attribute of commonalities instead of magnifying the differences. "It is our responsibility

to counter ignorance with wisdom and this is also the history of Islam" said MWL Chief. The conference titled "Islamophobia & its impact on relations between Islamic & Western civilizations" organized by Islamic Research Institute (IRI) in collaborations with Muslim World League, Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Faculty of Shariah and Law and Faculty of Usuluddin of IIUI, was also attended by Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed al-Malki. Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim said that the debate on Islamophobia has been going

on for more than a century, the gap between Islam and West widened as a result of some events in history. He said that the Muslim World League is working together with research institutes in the West that are working to bridge the gap between Muslim world and west. He said that our Muslim World League is working to solve these misunderstandings and many Pakistanis are doing very important work in this organization. Dr. Muhammad said that the solution to the problem of Islamophobia is possible through prudence, humility and goodness. He also hailed the university

adding that services of International Islamic University are commendable. Later, he delivered Friday sermon at Faisal Masjid in which he said that Islam is a religion of mercy and we have to send the message of peace in the light of the teachings of our Holy Prophet (PBUH) across the world.

He stressed to adopt justice and fairness. He said that success lies in respect for humanity, moderation and patience. He said that Muslims are like a single body. Talking about the recent flood episode in Pakistan, he said MWL and Saudi Arabia are among top ranks in helping flood victims. After the Friday prayer, Dr. Muhammad also visited the Shariah and Dawah Academy of IIUI where he was given a detailed briefing regarding the work of the constituent units of university. He appreciated the DAWAH academy for its decades-long services to the Muslim societies.

Safety measures

ISLAMABAD: A view of containers placed alongside Serena Chowk in Federal Capital. Government is making security arrangements in the Islamabad to deal with the expected long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Containers have been installed in the entrances of the capital while security wall is being built in the red zone area to deal with the attendants of PTI long march.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Millennium Education One World Campus organizes oath taking ceremony

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education One World Campus, E-11/4 Islamabad hosted a Student Council Investiture Ceremony 2022 in an effort to encourage young individuals to regularize Student Body and become responsible citizens last day says a press release. The student council comprising of IGCSE's and IB Programme vowed under oath that they will be active and responsible members of the student executive council and will abide by the laws made by the managing body to guarantee a better campus life for learners and themselves. Senator Waleed Iqbal, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights and Member of the Senate Standing Committees on Defence, Law and Justice, and most of all grandson of our national poet, preeminent writer, philosopher and seer of the humanity of all times



– Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Student Council Oath Taking Ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by a national anthem by the millennial choir. During the ceremony, Senator Waleed Iqbal, along with Ms. Erum Atif Director Teaching and Learning and Ms. Sabina Zakir Director Communications, Community and Outreach of The Millennium Education Group, awarded sashes to all the members of the council inclusive of members of Millennium Clubs & Societies which they received with immense pride and diligence.

Coronation of young leaders at BSS Harley Street



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Beaconhouse Harley Street Campus, Rawalpindi held an investiture ceremony witnessing the proud coronation of its young leaders as the members of the new student council for the session 2022-23. The most auspicious Investiture Ceremony was held with full zeal, zest and enthusiasm this evening. The Investiture Ceremony is one of the momentous occasions when the school entrusts hope, faith and the mantle of responsibility to the newly appointed school council. This ceremony signifies the reliance and confidence that the school consigns in the newly office bearers. The honourable Chief Guest, Haider Latif, Regional Director North of Beaconhouse Group, congratulated the role models and advised them to fulfil their responsibilities sincerely as the nation builders of tomorrow. He also advised the students to inculcate the values of punctuality, dedication, discipline and determination as they are the torch bearers of tomorrow. Chief Guest, Ms. Ayehsa Sohail, Principal and Cluster Convener at BSS, congratulated the council members and rightly remarked that leadership does not mean enjoyment of one's power, rather, it is a means to empower others. The school Head Mistress Ms. Sumeriah Naveed felicitated the parents and congratulated the students; appreciating the confidence and clarity in thoughts which the office bearers had exhibited during their selection process and wished that they work not just for the betterment and growth of their fellow students but for their personal growth as well. The school Head Boy Hasan Raza, Head Girl, Eshal Naem along with the Deputy head boy, Deputy head girl, Captains, Vice Captains of all the four houses, Sports leaders, secretaries and monitors, Club representatives were conferred with badges, sashes and arm bands. The programme was a grand success as one the parents beaming with pride said "The ceremony was very well-conducted and made me tear up with pride." The parents attending the occasion were ecstatic and appreciated how well disciplined and well organised the event was.

Mehfil-e-Milad held



RAWALPINDI: Holy Prophet (PBUH) came as a mercy for all over the worlds, his practical life is a lesson for the entire humanity.

This was stated by the participants in the Milad event organized by the Women Development and Welfare Center, Sewing Center, Department of Social Welfare and Bait Al-Mal Rawalpindi on the occasion of the Rabi'ul Awwal. Iram Mumtaz, Chairperson of Social Welfare Department, Deputy Director Yumna Mir performed the hosting duties of this wonderful event. While Dr. Sadia Saeed, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Rukhsana Mazhar Awan, Assistant Director of Social Welfare, Rawalpindi, Samina Shoaib, Tahira Wasi, Rashida Begum, Mrs. Qudsia and others participated as guests. A large number of teachers, students and staff of Social Welfare were present on this occasion. The girls of the school lit up everyone's hearts with the love of Islam and the Holy Prophet by reciting the Naat of Rasool Maqbool sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam "Jashan e Amad e Rasul ALLAH Hi Allah, Bibi Amina Ke Noor Allah Hi Allah" on the tambourine. Social Welfare Department Chairperson Iram Mumtaz said that the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are blessing for all of us, to achieve the goal of life. Children should be specially informed about the teachings of the Holy Prophet in homes and educational institutions right from the beginning. The Prophet's biography should be made public, so that the life of our young generation can fulfill its purpose. Deputy Director Yumna Mir said that the twelfth of Rabi al-Awwal is more important than any other day for the Muslim Ummah. The life of Holy Prophet is a bright example for the whole world. Whose teachings are not only for Muslims, but for the whole world.

Rabita-e-Alam-e-Islami launches relief package for flood victims



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rabita-e- Alam-e-Islami has launched a comprehensive relief package for the recent flood victims. In this regard, the opening ceremony was held at the Islamabad office of Rabita-e-Alam-e-Islami, in which 35 trucks of the relief package worth millions of rupees were dispatched to the flood hit areas of Sindh and KP in the initial phase. The chief guest of the ceremony was Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Essa, secretary general of the Rabita-e- Alam-e-Islami, who is visiting Pakistan these days on the special invitation of the government. Saudi ambassador H. E. Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki took special part in the ceremony. On the occasion, Mr. Saad Masud Al-Harsi, Director General of Rabita-e- Alam-e-Islami Pakistan, gave a brief overview of the program and said that the relief package consists of ration, tents, hygiene kits and daily utensils for 10,000 families.

AIMS Education System observes World Space week

Ihsan Welfare Organization delegation from Malaysia visits AES to motivate students

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: AIMS Education System observes World Space week. Taking place from October 4 to 10, AES organizes branch-wise competitions, contests, and activities for all grade levels to observe Space Week. Ihsan Welfare Organization from Malaysia led by Mrs. Farrah visited AES to motivate the students. They appreciate the activities by the students and vision of the Chairman AES. Every year, from October 4 to October 10, people around the world mark World Space Week to recognize how science and technology have improved people's lives. Keeping the theme "Space and Sustainability" focused; thousands

of participants in over 90 countries are celebrating sustainability in space, and sustainability from space. In AIMS Education System, Departments of Social Studies, Science, Art & Craft, and Home Economics join forces to commemorate Space Week. Game arenas and a space theatre are being set up on campus for this purpose. Other events are arranged to get students involved, including recycling, baking, essay competitions, Qiraat competitions, documentary screenings, modelmaking, and arts and crafts projects like bookmark-making and space hangings. Chairman AES Almas Ayub Sabir stated that, "The biggest yearly space event in the world is World Space Week and such activities contribute to develop the workforce of the future by motivating students. It will also educate the public fostering international collaboration in space outreach and education". A wide range of activities will continue till 10th of October to celebrate this prestigious event.



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Mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority

Syeda Alina Saeed

10th October 2022 is the World Mental Health Day. The theme is 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'. 1 in 5 people in the flood affected districts most likely are in need of mental healthcare. With a severe dearth of specialists, how can Pakistan respond to this crisis?

Role of Mental Healthcare in the Communities Affected by Disaster

Experiencing a natural disaster can be extremely stressful. Even when the immediate danger has passed, the impact lingers for a long time. People may feel grief or anger over the damage or loss, fear or hopelessness when thinking about rebuilding their lives, or they may simply feel overwhelmed and not know how to begin restoring their lives and livelihoods.

Post-disaster crisis counseling has three aims: a) restoring capacity of the individuals; b) reordering and organizing their new world; and c) assisting the victims to deal with the bureaucratic relief emergency program. If ignored, post-disaster stress can evolve into post-traumatic

stress disorder, depression and anxiety syndromes that have long-term negative impact on the suffering individual and their community.

Majority of the care for disaster-affected communities can be provided informally by community-level workers. Such workers should have some counseling experiences, communication skills and sensitivity to the ethnic, social and religious characteristics of the affected. They also need to have knowledge of local post-disaster plans and work in close collaboration with teams delivering other support to the affected.

Collaboration with spiritual and religious representatives is very important in helping communities deal with mental trauma caused by the disaster. Cultural-religious rituals play a huge role in providing affected individuals and communities with a sense of closure, especially when facing the loss of life.

Interventions should begin as early as possible, targeting all high-risk populations in the affected area. Notably, the 'mental health/psychiatric' label needs to be avoided to encourage participation and avoid stigmatisation.

The list of interventions that

can be used to alleviate stress and diffuse mental trauma is very wide and adaptable to a variety of situations. Some of the most accessible interventions include, structuring of daily activities; cultural and religious rituals; and group discussions which validate the emotions caused by the survivor's experience and survivor's guilt. Intervention may also include providing factual information and educating parents and teachers. Children can be engaged in various informal education activities (e.g., drawing, sketching, singing, miming, etc. using available community resources). Adult affecteds can be engaged in camp activities (cooking, cleaning and assisting in relief work). Additionally, community-based group therapy sessions can utilize group discussions, dramas, storytelling, prayers and sports/games. It is also essential that affecteds become involved in re-building their community.

The role of school programs cannot be over-emphasised in the disaster-affected area. By providing children, teachers, parents and administrators with structure and the sense of normalcy, school programs can play a key role in helping disaster affecteds to cope with the trauma.

School programs serve as effective tools in improving mental health of the children even in those situations where learning activities are very limited and focus on such simple subjects as the importance of sleep and hygiene.

Among the affected groups, particular attention should be paid to children, women (who are typically the primary caregivers in the family) and persons who have lost their homes. Yet another group that requires support in managing the stress and mental trauma are the rescue and relief professionals. Even though these individuals tend to be prepared to face painful experiences, the immense scale of the disaster, as well as fatigue can lead to significant stress and high burnout rates. To minimize the negative effects on their mental health, relief workers should be continuously evaluated before, during and after their deployment. At the end of their deployment, rescue and relief workers should receive debriefing and support in identifying critical incidents in order to put the situation into perspective and reinforce their capacity.

In addition to direct interventions targeting communities affected by disaster and work-

ers involved in rescue and relief efforts, it is important to conduct broader educational-informational activities on the mental health through mass media and awareness campaigns. Interviews with mental health professionals tend to have strong influence over the affecteds. Public education should focus on explaining how the population has been psychologically affected by the trauma and the sequences of the stress response to the disaster. Additionally, media should also spread information on the mental health services available in post-disaster situations.

Mental health awareness helps people understand that mental illness is NOT a character flaw but rather an illness like any other. Research shows that when people have better knowledge about different types of mental illness, they are significantly less likely to hold discriminatory views towards those suffering from mental illnesses. Having better knowledge about common disorders will further reduce discriminatory practices, create greater acceptance across communities and lead to people who suffer from mental illness feeling comfortable sharing their stories.

Govt efforts' to improve economy

The current government inherited a weaker economy. The restarting of IMF program is a good omen for the country. The real impacts of relief will be seen after the formal working of IMF program. It also includes bilateral loans and aid. The government has passed on the relief of reduction in international oil prices to the people. Our people are facing the burden of inflation and we appreciate this fact. We are doing our best to provide maximum relief to the people in all spheres. Due to recent floods, the situation is also precarious but it will improve with the steps being taken by the incumbent government.

With the coming of new Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, there has been visible change in the economic policies of the government. The government has been taking measures to reduce inflation and provide maximum relief to the people. The finance minister announced significant reduction in prices of petroleum products to give relief to the people. In fact, with the coming of new finance minister the price of rupee is consistently appreciating against the dollar. This is a good omen as it will reduce import cost as well as overall debts Pakistan owes. I think these measures will be going to impact our economy positively in the long run.

The announcement by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to provide subsidized tariff rates to certain export oriented industries is a very good step and it will boost the export sector. These five sectors are textiles, carpet, leather, stored goods and surgical items. The purpose of this measure is to provide incentive to these industries to help them compete at international level. The business community is very happy over this decision as it will go a long way to help them. It is difficult to predict how much exports will rise after this decision but these steps certainly help the business sector.

Government wants to assist export-oriented industries to help them get more business. By looking at tariffs of electricity in neighboring countries especially in the textiles sector, and determined this rate. This tariff will help Pakistani industry becoming competitive regionally as well as internationally. Pakistan has opportunity in the current international environment as most international buyers are looking toward other suppliers and we can get benefit from this situation to meet their orders.

Providing incentives to industries for export-led growth is very important. One critical factor is the tariff of power which needs to be rationalized for increasing the competitiveness of Pakistani products. Some sort of government intervention is necessary in order to control things. The rate of rupee is appreciating against the dollar which is a good sign. With improvement in economy of the country, international investors will throng to invest in various sectors of Pakistan which will further improve the economic landscape.



Dharna Politics in Pakistan: A Historical Review

Asadullah Mahesar

Protests and Marches are the essential parts of human rights in democratic societies, it enhances the power of people, and it is the only way through which people can achieve to accomplish their legitimate rights. Thereafter the casting of votes in elections, protest is the only power to demand their rights. Political instability in Pakistan is based on two major factors: identity and legitimacy crisis. Pakistan has faced both crises since its independence, first identity crisis emerged in East Pakistan after the 1965 war, resultantly East Pakistan became an independent state in 1971. This identity crisis is being observed nowadays in all provinces of Pakistan except Punjab. Whereas the legitimacy crisis also affected Pakistan's political system and these agitations have been faced by both civilian and military governments. Pakistan has experienced small and large anti-government protests since its inception. Hence, some demonstrated agitations to break or make the governments and some invite the military to intervene in civilian affairs. Indeed, the political and religious parties have been used for this purpose either to topple or compel the government.

The first-ever agitation was started in 1949 by Majlis-e-Ahrar to urge the government by declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslim. This street violence spread throughout the country in 1953 that was concluded with the imposition of martial law in several cities of Pakistan. Then, the first archi-

tect of martial law, Ayyub Khan, confronted a huge mass protest by the national student federation in early October 1968 when he was celebrating the decade of development.

The first time the allegations of rigging in the election were accused by a coalition of nine political parties called Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) against ZA Bhutto in 1977. The PNA demanded the new fresh elections and the implementation of "Nizam e Mustafa". Thus, Bhutto somehow agreed to these demands, but the political chaos could not be controlled which created an interstice for military intervention subsequently, the third martial law was imposed in July 1977 by General Zia.

Another mass movement started by PPP in 1981 against general Zia. The movement was formed by a coalition of eleven political parties called the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). It was initiated from Sindh in which dozens of people were killed and hundreds were arrested by the government. The movement was extended in 1983 throughout the country furthermore, the alliance parties did not participate in the presidential referendum of 1984 and the elections of 1985. It was considered the largest non-violence movement after Gandhi's.

Moreover, Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry was sacked by Musharraf in March 2007 when he challenged the dual role of Musharraf as president and army chief of Pakistan. Then the students, labor unions, women's rights activists, media groups, political activists, and especially lawyers dissented from this decision.

Thus, a nationwide movement began by the lawyers in the name of the Movement for Restoration of Judiciary (MRJ) against Musharraf. The situation became worst when Musharraf impose the emergency in November 2007 and sacked all the Supreme and High Court judges and proclaimed the Provincial Constitutional Order (PCO).

Besides, the judges had been compelled to take a new oath on this PCO, but most of the judges repudiated to take the oath. Hence, Musharraf resigned from power and a new government was formed in 2008 by PPP. Thereafter the restoration of democracy, the PPP government was not ready to restore the judiciary eventually, the lawyers again launched a 'Long March' against the civilian government to restore the judiciary. Finally, the Long March succeeded, and the judiciary was reinstated in March 2009.

The allegations of rigging in the elections are not a new phenomenon in the political history of Pakistan. It is a tradition of Pakistan's politics, whenever the results of general elections announce, the defeating parties do not accept the results and they accuse different blames like, rigging and military involvement in the elections. Likewise, the recent decade has a colourful history of such demonstrations. Similarly, Imran Khan's PTI accepted the results of the general elections of 2013 and demanded the investigation of four national assembly constituencies. However, the PML-N government did not concentrate to demands of Khan consequently, he launched the "Azadi March" in August 2014, against the government. The PTI's

dharna was the longest sit-in in the political history of Pakistan that lasted for 126 days consecutively. Contemporary, Maulana Tahir-ul Qadri commenced the Inqilab March along with PTI against the PML-N government. Moreover, this longest political turmoil put Pakistan in an economic crisis that lost 6 billion USD.

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) organized a series of dharnas to fulfill their demands in 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021 against the PML-N and PTI governments respectively. Whereas another dharna was launched by Maulana Fazalur Rehman in early October 2019 against PTI's government. Maulana rose allegations against the PTI government such as PTI coming into power through a rigged election, selling out of Kashmir, poor economic performance, and putting jailed the opposition leaders. Furthermore, Maulana's Azadi March could not sustain for a long time because of the half-hearted support from the mainstream political parties; PPP and PML-N. Additionally, the PTI government again faced a huge mass protest in the name of "Mehngai Mukao March" in March 2022 organized by PML-N. These political agitations have always fetched disturbances to ordinary masses as well as weak the ruling government and created political instability. Therefore, we should have to modify this political tool to facilitate the masses instead of overemphasizing such activities which do not have public prosperity.

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

Book Review

The 7 habits of highly effective teens

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey is a personal development book. The principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. This book provides a step-by-step guide and helps us to improve our relations with friends, family. It has seven habits for being highly effective: Being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, putting first things first, thinking win-win, seeking to understand and then to be understood, synergizing, and sharpening the saw. Sean describes these habits in detail and also provided a lot of examples so that anyone can understand it easily. Each one of these steps is outlined in great detail with many tips, tricks, examples, and quotes to help you understand how to fully get into each habit.

The level of detail used for each habit makes this book a clear-cut roadmap to teenage success, containing information on subjects from your view

on life to preventing yourself from becoming burned out and depressed. He also mentions some stupid quotes which were now reverse and implement in the new world. In the initial 20 pages, he explains about paradigms.

He explains that Paradigms is the mental maps that we use to describe the world around us. They are the lens that each of us uses to understand everyone and everything. The key of a paradigm isn't as much in the true nature of a thing as much as our perception of the thing. They also deal with our views and our mental perspective due to the actions done around us.

He also explains about paradigms of self, paradigms of others, paradigms of life explaining that we have to change our centres. A paradigm shift is a change in one's perspective concerning the way we perceive things. They are two different things changing the way we see things around us and changing the things around us.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan.



Raja Furqan Ahmed

US carrier, S. Korea warships start new drills amid tensions

North Korea may react to the new drills with more missile tests

SEOUL: The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan launched a new round of naval drills with South Korean warships on Friday, a day after North Korea fired more ballistic missiles and flew warplanes in an escalation of tensions with its rivals.



The Reagan and its battle group returned to the waters near the Korean Peninsula after North Korea earlier this week launched a nuclear-capable missile over Japan in response to the carrier group's earlier training with South Korean navy ships. North Korea views U.S.-South Korean military exercises as a practice to invade the country.

The latest two-day drills, which also involve U.S. and South Korean destroyers and other ships, were taking place in international waters off the peninsula's east coast. The drills are aimed at bolstering the allies' defense capabilities and will involve training to escort the Reagan southeast of South Korea's southern island of Jeju, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

"We will continue to strengthen our firm operational capabilities and read-

iness to respond to any provocations by North Korea," the statement said.

North Korea may react to the new drills with more missile tests. The North's Foreign Ministry said Thursday the carrier group's redeployment poses "a serious threat to the stability of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in its vicinity."

North Korea's record pace of weapons testing this year is intended to expand

its arsenal so that it can credibly threaten the U.S. mainland and regional allies with nuclear arms, then engage in negotiations with the U.S. from a stronger position as a recognized nuclear state. Its two ballistic missile launches on Thursday were the North's sixth round of weapons firings in less than two weeks.

The intermediate-range North Korean missile tested Tuesday was likely a Hwasong-12 missile which is capable

of reaching the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, observers say. Other missiles launched recently are short-range weapons that target South Korea.

North Korea is ready to conduct its first nuclear test in five years and is preparing to test a new liquid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile and a submarine-launched ballistic missile, Heo Tae-keun, South Korea's deputy minister of national defense policy, told lawmakers earlier this week.

On Friday, Heo had trilateral video calls with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts to discuss North Korea's recent missile tests. They stressed the security cooperation among the three countries would be bolstered if the North continues its provocations, the South Korean Defense Ministry said in a statement.

On Thursday, naval destroyers of the three countries conducted one-day joint drills off the peninsula's east coast to hone their abilities to search, track and intercept North Korean ballistic missiles. Last week, they held anti-submarine exercises involving the Reagan in the area.

Japan recognizes 'right of Palestine to establish an independent state'



TOKYO: Japan Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa on Friday said Japan "will continue to comprehensively examine whether Palestinian state recognition will contribute to the progress of the peace process."

In reply to a question from Arab News Japan, Hayashi stated that Japan recognizes "the right of Palestine to establish an independent state" and Japan supports the two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The state of Palestine has "the right to self-determination," Hayashi said, adding: "We support the Palestinians' efforts to establish an independent state from the political and economic perspective."

Meanwhile, Arab News Japan learned that when former Palestinian Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah, former Prime Minister of Palestine met with Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio last week, he asked for Japan to recognize Palestine as a state.

Japan has continued to provide substantial aid assistance to the Palestinian state.

UN rights body agrees to appoint expert to scrutinize Russia

GENEVA: The UN's top human rights body voted Friday to appoint an independent expert to step up scrutiny of Russia's rights record at home as arbitrary arrests, a crackdown on dissenting voices and limits on free speech worsened during the war in Ukraine.

The 47-member Human Rights Council passed the proposal, presented last week by all European Union member countries except Hungary, on a 17-6 vote, with 24 abstentions. Shortly before the vote in Geneva, Russian human rights group Memorial was named a co-winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize.

The original proposal expressed concerns about "mass forced shutdowns" of independent media, non-governmental organizations and opposition groups in Russia.

The Human Rights Council majority agreed to name a

"special rapporteur" to keep tabs on rights violations in Russia, in part by relying on help from Russian groups and activists who are both still in the country and abroad.

It's the first time the council has authorized a special rapporteur to look into human rights issues in any of the five countries that are permanent members of the UN Security Council: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Russian ambassador Gennady Gatilov called the draft proposal a "despicable document" that was intended "to find yet another way of exerting leverage for bringing pressure to bear on Russia."

"This scheme by the EU and its allies is yet another attempt to punish our country for pursuing an independent foreign and domestic policy, and to entrench for the long-term the topic of Russia on the agenda of

the HRC so as to unleash a stream of false allegations and accusations directed at us," Gatilov said.

Western countries provided most of the votes in favor, joined by Paraguay, Marshall Islands and Ukraine. Diplomats from Bolivia, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Kazakhstan and Venezuela voted against the proposal.

The number of abstentions in part reflected hesitations about authorizing a special rapporteur for a country that opposed the initiative: It's unlikely that Russia will let the special rapporteur to visit the country.

The council previously appointed a Commission of Inquiry — the UN-backed body's highest form of scrutiny — that is looking into rights abuses related to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Russian government has taken a number of steps to limit domestic dissent over the war, includ-

ing passing a law that criminalizes spreading "fake" news about Russia's military.

British ambassador Simon Manley said "repression at home, aggression abroad" by Russian authorities had increased since Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February.

"The truth is that (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin uses repressive legislation to restrict freedom of speech and assembly. He crushes dissent through arbitrary detention and violence and has created a climate of fear and intimidation in order to deter civil society and activists from speaking out against the authorities," Manley said.

Russia was a member of the Human Rights Council until earlier this year, when it suspended its participation as the UN General Assembly was set to strip the country of its membership due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Energy tops agenda of Prague EU summit

PRAGUE: Leaders of European Union (EU) member states met here for an informal summit on Friday focusing on energy, the economic situation and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"We are at a critical juncture once more," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a letter to the member states ahead of the summit. "The energy crisis is severe and has entered a new stage. Only a common European response can reduce energy costs for families and businesses and provide energy security for this and coming winters."

She recommended stepping up negotiations with suppliers to reduce the prices of imported gas of all kinds, developing an intervention to limit prices in the natural gas market and limiting the inflationary impact of gas on electricity.

"We are ready to discuss the introduction of a temporary cap on the price of gas that is used to generate electricity," she said.

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola called for European unity in response to the energy crisis. "We need a strong signal of unity. This is why the European Parliament has called for an EU bloc-wide gas price cap," she said. "We need better, more regular cooperation between states on long-term gas prices. By spring, our gas storages will need refilling, and we must be in a situation where we can buy reasonably priced gas from reliable partners."

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, whose country currently holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, said on Thursday that the EU cannot be expected to agree on capping the price of gas at the Prague summit or at its regular October summit in Brussels as "the problem is complex and will require a long time."

Fiala, who was critical of the German proposal for state support, pointed out that finding a joint European solution seems better to him than seeking national solutions, the Czech News Agency reported.

The German government plans to spend 200 billion euros (196 billion U.S. dollars) on softening the impact of the high energy prices, which leaders of some other European countries "sharply criticized in Prague," it reported.

"I repeatedly say on behalf of the Czech Republic that if we have only national solutions, we will be disadvantaged against some countries like Germany, and we should not allow for it," Fiala was quoted as saying.

Türkiye ready to help peacefully address Ukraine crisis: President

ANKARA: Türkiye was ready to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis in the interests of all, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a phone call on Friday.



In the phone call, Erdogan and Putin exchanged views on enhancing Türkiye-Russia relations as well as the latest developments in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, according to a statement released by the Turkish presidency.

Erdogan reiterated that Ankara stood ready to "do its share for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine issue in the interests of all," the statement said.

Türkiye, which has good relations with both Ukraine and Russia, has been acting as a mediator between the two countries since their conflict broke out in late February.

On July 22, Ukraine and Russia separately signed a deal with Türkiye and the United Nations in Istanbul to resume food and fertilizer shipments from Ukrainian ports to international markets via the Black Sea. Russia and

Ukraine exchanged about 200 prisoners of war as a result of Türkiye's mediation, Erdogan announced in September.

On the other hand, Turkish unarmed aerial vehicles and combat drones are in Northern Cyprus to protect it from all sides, the Turkish president said. Recep Tayyip Erdogan was speaking to reporters on his way back from European Political Community Summit in Prague.

Asked whether there is a plan to set up a Turkish military base in the northeastern Karpaz peninsula in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Erdogan said Turkish drones may also be sent to

the region.

"Because we need to secure Northern Cyprus from all sides, from all aspects. Whether it (the base) is (set up) or not, our jets will immediately be in Northern Cyprus as soon as they take off from our mainland," he added. Cyprus has been mired in a decades-long dispute between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots despite a series of diplomatic efforts by the UN to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

Ethnic attacks starting in the early 1960s forced Turkish Cypriots to withdraw into enclaves for their safety. In 1974, a Greek Cypriot coup aimed at Greece's annexation of the island led to Türkiye's military intervention as a guarantor power to protect Turkish Cypriots from persecution and violence. As a result, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was founded in 1983.

It has seen an on-and-off peace process in recent years, including a failed 2017 initiative in Switzerland under the auspices of guarantor countries Türkiye, Greece, and the UK.

Nobel Peace Prize to activists from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine

OSLA: Jailed Belarusian activist Ales Bialyatski, Russian organization Memorial and Ukrainian group Center for Civil Liberties won the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, highlighting the significance of civil society for peace and democracy.

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to honor three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence in the neighbor countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine," said Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen.

She called on Belarus to release Bialyatski from prison.

The prize will be seen by many

as a condemnation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is celebrating his 70th birthday on Friday, and Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, making it one of the most politically contentious in decades.

The award was not an anti-Putin prize, however, Reiss-Andersen said. "We always give the prize for something and to something and not against someone," she told reporters.

Belarusian security police in July last year raided offices and homes of lawyers and human rights activists, detaining Bialyatski and others in a new crackdown on opponents

of Lukashenko.

Authorities had moved to shut down non-state media outlets and human right groups after mass protests the previous August against a presidential election the opposition said was rigged.

"The (Nobel) Committee is sending a message that political freedoms, human rights and active civil society are part of peace," Dan Smith, head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, told Reuters.

The prize will boost morale for Bialyatski and strengthen the hand of the Center for Civil Liberties, an independent Ukrainian human rights organization,

which is also focused on fighting corruption, he said.

"Although Memorial has been closed in Russia, it lives on as an idea that it's right to criticize power and that facts and history matter," Smith added.

The award is recognition for the whole Belarusian people in standing up to Lukashenko, opposition spokesman Franak Viacorka said.

He told Reuters that Bialyatski was jailed in inhuman conditions and he hoped the prize, shared with Russian and Ukrainian human rights organizations, would lead to his release.

"That's a huge sign of recognition for the Belarusian people,



because the Belarusian people deserves it for their bravery in countering the tyranny of Lukashenko ... they deserve all the prizes in the world," said Viacorka, chief of staff to exiled

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya who is a close friend of Bialyatski.

The Nobel Peace Prize, worth 10 million Swedish crowns, or about \$900,000, will be present-

ed in Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, who founded the awards in his 1895 will.

"The Peace Prize laureates represent civil society in their home countries. They have for many years promoted the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation.

"They have made an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human right abuses and the abuse of power. Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy."

Serbia to align visa policy with EU by end of 2022

BELGRADE: Serbia plans to make significant progress on harmonizing its visa policy with that of the EU by the end of the year to prevent its territory from being used for illegal migration, the country's president revealed on Friday.



In a meeting with a top EU official, Aleksandar Vucic said in a statement that migratory policy in the region had been on the agenda, along with ways to strengthen cooperation with support from the EU.

According to the statement on Vucic's meeting with European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas, stopping illegal crossings and helping refugees located or passing through Serbia's territory were also among the topics discussed.

"The interlocutors agreed on the necessity of joint work as the only possible way to solve challenges in the area of migration and the position of refugees," it added.

For his part, Schinas announced a new €36 million (\$35.3 million) tranche of financial assistance from the European Commission to the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrants.

He also offered to accelerate the deployment of FRONTEX to support border protection in Serbia. Hungary, Austria, and Serbia on Monday agreed to expand cooperation in fighting "illegal migration," according to Serbian local media. The move came after the leaders of the countries met in Hungary's capital Budapest.

HRW, AI condemn flogging of Muslims by Indian police

NEW DELHI: Prominent human rights watchdogs, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have condemned the public flogging of nine Muslims after they were tied to a pole by the police in Kheda district of the Indian state of Gujarat.

A video of the incident that took place on Tuesday in Udhehla village of Gujarat's Kheda district went viral on social media. It showed several Muslim men tied to a pole and beaten with a stick by policemen in civilian clothing, as a Hindu crowd that included women and children cheered.

The Human Rights Watch in a statement maintained that the authorities in India are increasingly using summary and abusive punishments against Muslims.

HRW's South Asia director, Meenakshi Ganguly, said the authorities in several Indian states are carrying out violence against Muslims as a kind of summary punishment. She added that the officials blatantly disregarding the rule of law are sending a message to the public that Muslims can be discriminated against and attacked.

The HRW said in several states ruled by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the authorities have demolished Muslim homes and properties without legal authorization, and most recently, publicly flogged Muslim men accused of disrupting a Hindu festival.

"Indian authorities are increasingly acting as if summary punishment has become a state policy," Ganguly said. "If the Indian government does not take immediate action to roll back discriminatory laws, policies, and actions targeting minorities, rule of law will be replaced by bulldozers and sticks," she added.

Amnesty International in a tweet called the flogging of Muslim men by police "a serious human rights violation" that shows "utter disrespect towards the law."

"The Gujarat police's use of striking devices such as lathis [sticks] to beat Muslim men who were tied to a pole by the police themselves is a serious human rights violation and shows their utter disrespect towards rule of law," it said.

"We remind the Gujarat police that punishment is never a legitimate objective for a law enforcement action, even if using less lethal weapons. In this case, it blatantly ignored the guiding principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and accountability," the statement said.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,085.25	42,160.57
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,389.20	41,992.11
Index Value	Change
7,486,710,648	-75.32
Percentage	Time
-0.18%	7 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,991.09	-6.18
Percentage	Time
-0.088%	7 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
29,373.21	-553.73
Percentage	Time
-1.85%	7 Oct, 12:31 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,116.11	-195.19
Percentage	Time
-0.71%	7 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	143.02	144.27
Bahrain Dinar	592.52	597.02
Canadian Dollar	162.33	163.68
China Yuan	31.31	31.56
Danish Krone	29.39	29.74
Euro	216	218
Hong Kong Dollar	28.38	28.73
Indian Rupee	2.71	2.79
Japanese Yen	1.15	1.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	718.06	723.06
Malaysian Ringgit	48.04	48.49
NewZealand \$	126.26	127.46
Norwegians Krone	20.86	21.16
Omani Riyal	578.53	583.03
Qatari Riyal	61.21	61.71
Saudi Riyal	57.7	58.3
Singapore Dollar	155.92	157.22
Swedish Korona	20.06	20.36
Swiss Franc	225.18	226.93
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	59.5	60.1
UK Pound Sterling	244	248
US Dollar	221	223

ICCI, Ministry of H&W to organize first Int'l Housing Expo

The Expo will help in attracting local and foreign investment to Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of Housing & Works have agreed to jointly organize the first International Housing Expo 2022 (IHE-2022) in Islamabad in December this year. This consensus was reached when both sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works signed the MoU at a ceremony held in the Ministry.

Speaking at the occasion, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works said that all the major international and national developers, builders and real estate enterprises would be invited to display their projects in the Expo. He said that the Expo will help in attracting local and foreign investment to Pakistan and revive the economic development in the urban areas of the country. He said that the



government places affordability, sustainability and inclusiveness of the housing sector at the core of the urbanization process to ensure access to adequate housing for all.

He said that the main objective of the Expo is to promote urban regeneration schemes, management of rapid urbanization and development of national urban infrastructure to support

urban development and promote affordable green energy housing for all. He hoped that the collaboration between the Ministry and the ICCI for the forthcoming IHE-2022 would be helpful in making the Expo a landmark event.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in his remarks said that ICCI intends to construct

Pakistan's tallest building in Islamabad and its plan would be announced during the International Housing Expo 2022. He said that the tallest tower would attract investors to Pakistan and make Islamabad a hub of financial and investment activities as happened in UAE after the construction of Burj Khalifa.

He said that many investors are interested in constructing high rise buildings in Islamabad and urged that the CDA should amend its building byelaws to encourage vertical constructions, which offer the best solution to tackling the affordable housing challenge in the federal capital and across the country. He assured that ICCI would extend full support to the Ministry in organizing the IHE-2022 in a successful manner.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Ameer Hamza and others were present at the occasion.

Dar improving economic situation: Atif Ikram

Another cut in fuel prices to tame inflation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Friday said the last few years were very challenging for the masses, and the business community but now the economic situation is improving after the arrival of Ishaq Dar.

The improved economic situation is infusing confidence in the investors but the government should also pay attention to the food crisis which is in the making as the masses should be shielded from it, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that despite the rating downgrade and the gloomy projections by international institutions, the masses and the business community is very hopeful and they are pinning high hopes on Ishaq Dar.

Talking to the business community, the



business leader said that dollar is retreating for many days while the rupee is gaining lost strength and the stock market is also getting better which are positive

signs. He noted that inflation will decrease soon which will provide relief to the masses and added that further reduction in petrol prices will help tame inflation.

The business leader said that global institutions have warned about a global recession and a food crisis for which the government needs to be prepared. Commenting on the value of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, he said that the real value of the dollar should not be as high as it is currently and the exact value of the dollar was below Rs200.

He said that the government should improve cotton yield, taxes should be reduced, industries should get gas and power at economical rates, load shedding should be reduced, and energy prices should be cut to ensure rapid national development after the devastation of floods.



ISLAMABAD: President, Pak-Indonesia Business Forum Shamoan Zaki, Ambassador of Indonesia, Adam Mulawarman Tugio and Mr & Mrs Chakkrid, Ambassador of Thailand posing for a group photo on the occasion of 77th Independence Anniversary of the People's Republic of Indonesia at Serena Hotel Islamabad. Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

Chairman FBR holds E-Kachehri as part of facilitation drive



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad, held an E-Kachehri at FBR (HQs) on Friday as part of FBR's drive to facilitate taxpayers in tax compliance and to address their concerns.

During this interactive session, Chairman FBR directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their issues and grievances. The Chairman issued on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve legitimate issues of the taxpayers at the earliest. He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest RTO and Collectorate of Customs to seek clarification on matters of taxation and also for prompt redressal of their grievances.

He appreciated the suggestions put forth by the taxpayers and assured them that their valued input would be duly considered for formulation of tax policies and initiatives for taxpayers' facilitation. He reaffirmed that FBR was making all-out efforts to facilitate the taxpayers, by all means possible.

The commencement of E-Kachehri by Chairman FBR will not only contribute significantly to the timely redressal of the grievances of taxpayers but it will also keep a strong check on the performance of the field formations.

It is pertinent to mention that Chairman FBR has already instructed all field formations to resolve the genuine issues of taxpayers and made it clear that any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

Carrefour, Bank Alfalah introduce new 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank Alfalah to launch its first 'Buy Now, Pay Later' initiative. This first-of-its-kind solution means that customers with an Alfa account can now scan a product's QR code to pay in instalments in-store without experiencing any price markup, affording more flexibility when it comes to check-out.

The agreement was signed between Imran Mansoor, Country Finance Manager of Carrefour Pakistan, and Syed Irfan Akhtar Gillani Business Head of Retail Central, of Bank Alfalah, at Carrefour Head Office, Fortress. The 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service can be availed by all BAFL credit card users across all products and categories.

Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, said: "We believe in providing our valued customers with an elevated shopping experience by offering a range of services and products paired with innovative digital solutions. With our 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service, we are thrilled to support more customers with easy, manageable payment options - demonstrating our commitment to convenience and value. Our latest initiative in collaboration with Bank Alfalah has been designed for transparency and ultimate



flexibility to protect the purchasing power of our customers in Pakistan."

Commenting on the partnership, Yahya Khan Group Head of Digital Banking Group, remarked, "Bank Alfalah is committed to providing affordable and convenient services to its customers.

Our partnership with Carrefour is yet another step forward in this endeavour. Through this collaborative effort, we are

hopeful of creating a long-term positive impact across our customer base. 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service allows consumers to make purchases and pay for them at a future date.

This is not just an initiative but an experience that aligns with our vision of customer centricity, and focusing on providing unmatched services to give a great experience."

Politics, experiments upsetting wheat market

Dr. Shahid Rasheed says delay in wheat import increasing price and anxiety

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said politics and experiments have disturbed the wheat sector critical for food security.

Flawed policies have increased prices, stockpiling, and smuggling of wheat causing the people to suffer from inflation, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that wheat prices and anxiety in the market are continuously increasing due to delays in imports.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that certain policies of the central and provincial governments have greatly damaged the wheat market and this process continues, while the influence of the mafia continues to increase, which leads to public suffering. Sindh recently increased the purchase price of forty kilograms of wheat from Rs2200 to Rs4000 forcing Punjab to increase the price from 2200 to 3000 rupees.

earliest, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is no tax on the import of complete solar panels, while domestic manufacturers of these panels have to pay seventeen percent tax which is against the national interests.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the policies have put at stake the future of the government's plan to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity with the help of solar energy.

The government keeps making announcements of giving priority to local manufacturing over imports but in reality, this is not happening. At present, if the various parts of solar

panels are imported from a trader in China, it becomes expensive due to various taxes, while importing fully manufactured solar panels is a cheaper option.

The relevant policies are also often changed, which affects the investment plans as well as opportunities. The government should announce a policy that will remain unchanged for at least ten years so that the sector can grow, which will reduce the pressure on expensive imported gas, oil, and coal-fired power plants. The import bill will also be reduced as the energy imports of 20 billion dollars were made in the last financial year, which is 4500 billion rupees in Pakistani currency.



If this huge amount is provided to the people in the form of

interest-free easy loans, the entire country can be switched to solar in 6 months, he said. This will reduce the energy import bill of Pakistan to 10 billion dollars and the poor people will be able to get free electricity. But its implementation is possible only when there is a positive change in policies so that the country can start importing and manufacturing solar panels and other related equipment on a large scale.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that for two months, the State Bank has stopped the supply of foreign exchange for imports under Chapter 84 and Chapter 85, which has stopped the clear-

ance and imports of solar, industrial machinery, and spare parts from the port, while the demurrage and detention charges are also a headache for investors as the total value of imports has also increased and the importers are running from pillar to post to get some relief. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that since labour is cheap in Pakistan, Pakistan can also earn valuable foreign exchange by exporting solar panels, etc. for which the government will have to announce incentives.

By 2050, twenty-five percent of the world's electricity needs will be obtained from the sun. At present, China's share in the total

production of solar power in the world is seventy percent. Other notable countries include the US, Germany and Japan, while India is showing great activity in adopting this cheap source of energy, but there is no proper policy yet in our country.

He said that after the arrival of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the country, the value of the dollar is continuously decreasing, which shows his determination and ability and Pakistan's debts have been reduced by two thousand billion rupees. But the effects of this shortage are not being transmitted to the people for which measures should be taken.

Solar policy is causing a decline instead of growth

A proper policy can switch the entire country to solar in six months, says Mian Zahid Hussain

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 Friday said the solar policy of the government is giving priority to imports over local manufacturing which is not only costing foreign exchange but also discouraging manufacturing.

The future of once-promising solar sector is also getting bleak due to the discouraging policies which must be revisited at the

