



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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MWL SG seeks Ulema's help to counter extremism, terrorism

Muslim World League Secretary General Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa has sought Ulema's help to cope with extremism as it is portraying a negative image of Muslims across the world. He said it was the responsibility of the religious scholars to disseminate the true teachings of Islam among the people in a bid to bring social reforms. He said there were certain elements fueling extremism in the Muslim societies to promote terrorist activities due to which Muslim communities around the globe were facing various issues.



PM AJK lauds Pakistan's role in rebuilding lives of quake affectees

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the harrowing memories of the deadly Earthquake that shook AJK on October 8, 2005 were still fresh in the minds of the people.

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Holy Prophet (PBUH) beacon of light: AJK President



Our Correspondent

MIRPUR: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Rabi-ul-Awwal is the blessed month in the Islamic Calendar as it marks the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In his message on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, issued on Saturday from New York, where he is on a visit, the President said Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) came to the world at a time when the entire humanity was immersed in the darkness of ignorance and disbelief, AJK President office said on Saturday.

"It was the time when bloodshed and violence, deceit and deception, iniquity and immorality reigned supreme over every aspect of the human life", he said adding that the Prophet who was sent as a mercy for the mankind, illuminated the whole world with his knowledge, spread the message of peace and brotherhood and pulled out the humanity from the abyss of dungeons of darkness.

He said that the prophet's life is the beacon of light for the entire humanity.

Gas supply challenge

Lahore: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Gas supplies on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM vows to utilize all resources for welfare of masses

New audio leak confirms IK's role in horse trading: PM

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that his predecessor Imran Khan's involvement in horse trading has been confirmed in the alleged audio.

Addressing a press conference after his court hearing in the money laundering case in Lahore, the premier said that Khan's drama and lies have been exposed [before the nation]. A day earlier, two audio leaks allegedly involving the PTI chief went viral. Khan, in one of them, was heard allegedly discussing horse trading with an aide. "Imran Khan has confessed that he was involved in horse trading in the audio," said PM Shehbaz while lambasting Khan for accusing them of NRO.

The premier said that no one is above the law, adding that his family suffered the worst cruelty and have been appearing before

PM pensively recalls disaster of Oct 8 earthquake

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that October 8 was one of the darkest days in the nation's history as it brought back the heart-wrenching memories of the earthquake of 2005. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the massive loss of life, the people suffered continued to sadden them on this day. "May the departed souls rest in eternal peace! Ameen" the prime minister prayed for the people who lost in the gigantic quake that shook parts of the country on that unfortunate day.

the court. "Did any court summon Imran Khan?" he complained.

Reacting to the allegations levelled by the PTI, the prime minister said that Maryam was acquitted on merit. Neither Maryam was given NRO, nor she benefited from amendments in NAB law, he added.

Terming Imran Khan the world's most fraudster person, the prime minister asked why the then NAB chairman did not take notice of £190 million robbery. He accused the PTI chair of hatching a conspiracy against the nation and asked where did you get money to buy

the conscience of five lawmakers? "Imran Niazi Now you have to answer the nation," the PM added.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz appeared before the accountability court in a money laundering reference filed against him.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed that the uninterrupted supply of gas to consumers should be ensured in the winter season. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of PM Shehbaz to discuss gas supply and loadshedding situations in the country. During the meeting, PM Shehbaz ordered the

supply of gas to domestic consumers according to their needs.

He also directed the formation of a committee to resolve the issue of gas supply to the textile mills so that industrial units could get gas on time and increase their production capacity. It was decided to keep loadshedding of electricity at the current level.

The Premier also directed the further import of fertiliser to meet the needs of farmers in the month of January. It was decided in the meeting that the issue of wheat support price will be brought under discussion in the meeting of Economic Coordination Committee and federal cabinet.

He also directed the preparation of a subsidy package for an increase in the production of seed for cooking oil. It was also decided to set up a high-level committee to follow up on the expected decisions regarding the farmers' package.

Rana Sana's non-bailable arrest warrant issued

Warrant issued after Rana Sanaullah failed to appear in inquiry

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A special judicial magistrate on Saturday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, which is considered a tit-for-tat move by the Punjab government after two PTI leaders were taken into custody by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

According to media reports, a spokesperson of the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab said that it issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for the PML-N leader after he failed to appear in an inquiry. Special Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Akbar issued an arrest warrant for the interior minister in case number 19/20, said the ACE spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the ACE has also summoned former deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari for the alleged encroachment of land owned by the government. The ACE spokesperson said that the anti-graft watchdog also called Zahid Mazari, Sher Muhammad Mazari and Moaz-

zam Mazari. They have been summoned to the Lahore headquarters on October 11. Dost Mazari has been asked to appear at the ACE office at 1pm.

The spokesperson added that the assistant commissioners of Rojhan, Tehsildar and Patwari have also been summoned with records. The move by the Punjab government is seen as a reaction to the PTI leaders' arrest by the FIA in the foreign funding case.

A day earlier, the FIA took PTI Senator Saifullah Nyazee into "protective custody" for questioning in the foreign funding case. Hamid Zaman, a founding member of the party, was also arrested from Lahore in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, sources told that a four-member anti-corruption team reached the Kohsar police station to arrest the interior minister.

The Islamabad Police sent back the anti-corruption team as the PML-N leader's residence is not within the limits of the Kohsar police station and his address on the arrest warrant is Faisalabad.

Prohibited funding case

PTI challenges FIA raids in IHC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday challenged Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s inquiry in prohibited funding case at Islamabad High Court (IHC). PTI through Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee filed petition in the IHC pleaded the court to prevent interior ministry secretary, FIA director general and prosecution to conduct raids to arrest PTI leaders.

The petition noted that FIA

conducted a raid on Saifullah Sarwar Nyazee's house and harassed him. The party termed the action 'beyond the law' and emphasized that it must be stopped.

It is also stated that PTI received foreign funding after due diligence. The petitioner said the ruling alliance was unable to compete PTI on political ground owing to which it has resorted to such unlawful action. Agencies

Truth has come out with Imran's audio leaks: Asif

SLALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khwaja Muhammad Asif has said that two audio were leaked on Friday, and everyone heard the conversation taking place in it.

The conversation also brought the truth before the public, though the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership already knew that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman always tells the public lies.

Talking to the media here on Saturday, Kh Asif said that Imran Khan was talking about buying and selling parliamentarians in the audio leak. He said that Imran Khan could get the audios audited forensically if those were fake.

The federal minister said that before the 2018 elections, Imran Khan made promises to the people to give one crore jobs and five million houses. He contested the election on this basis. However, none of those promises were fulfilled by former prime minister, he added.

Kh Muhammad Asif said that Imran Khan should tell the nation which of his promises and narratives had been fulfilled thus far. He



said that now his narratives of imported government and voter buying in elections had also been exposed.

The minister said that Imran Khan's narratives and his lies showed that he was not loyal with the country and the public. He said that nobody knew what that person's intentions were, and the nation should be thankful to Allah Almighty that the PTI chief had been exposed before the nation. He said that the narratives of external conspiracy and the cipher had also been exposed now.

The federal minister said

that Azam Khan was asked where that cipher was, and he said "I don't know".

He said that the narrative of true freedom had also been exposed through Friday's audio leak. "They are talking about extending the tenure of the army chief keeping in mind what is to happen in March and April," Kh Asif said.

He said that in the coming days, Imran Khan would not find any place to hide his face. The federal minister said that 190 million pounds that Britain had sent belonged to the Pakistani government, but Imran Khan credited it to Malik Riaz's liability account.

He regretted that no PTI leader, including its chairman Imran Khan, ever visited the flood victims. He said that national interest should be given priority over personal interest. He said that Pakistani forces had shown great performance against terrorism and sacrificed their lives for establishment of law and order.

Imran Khan had said that 'neutrals' were animals and he also termed them Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq, which was regrettable, the minister added. APP

Sana's arrest warrants to spread chaos: Marriyum



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Saturday that arrest warrants of Rana Sanaullah were issued in Lahore as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was afraid of him.

In a tweet, she said that it was a conspiracy to spread chaos and anarchy in the country in order to divert attention from the corruption of "foreign agent, liar", who was playing with national security and trying to hoodwink the people.

The minister said that on the orders of Imran Khan, preparations were being made to invade the federation.

Armed forces won't allow anyone to destabilize country: COAS

General Bajwa advises cadets to never get distracted by fake news, political wrangling in country

ABBOTTABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has emphatically stated that the armed forces with the support of the citizens will never allow any country, group or force to politically or economically destabilize Pakistan.

Addressing the passing out parade at Pakistan Military Academy Kakul on Saturday, he said Pakistan is a peace loving country. He said Pakistan in its quest for peace has extended sincere and all out efforts to evolve good neighbourly relations with all neighbours and regional countries.

He said we are trying our best to break the political logjam which has denied the countries of South Asia to move forward and resolve all regional and bilateral issues in a peaceful and dignified manner.

The Army Chief stressed that people of South Asia also deserve prosperity and better living conditions. This can only happen with sustained economic growth, development and above all lasting peace. Therefore we must try hard to keep flames of war away from the region.

He said we must give peace a chance by developing a mechanism to resolve all bilateral issues peacefully. He said we should collectively fight hunger, poverty, illiteracy, popu-



lation explosion, climate change and disease.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa however said Pakistan's desire for peace should not be construed as its weakness. He said no one should make any mistake about our collective resolve to defend our core interests and every inch of motherland. He reminded that we have paid both in blood and kind to safeguard the country's sovereignty and integrity.

The Army Chief said Pakistan Army with the full support and confidence of the nation turned the tide against terrorism in the last two decades and ensured that organized terrorism is decisively rooted out from Pakistan.

This is indeed a unique accomplishment that not many countries or armies can claim.

Commending the exemplary show of discipline and professionalism by the cadets, the Army Chief expressed the confidence that the prestige, security and safety of our country is in safe hands.

He advised the cadets to always remain focused on their job and never get distracted by fake news and political wrangling in the country. He also advised them to respect the democratic institutions and be always ready to defend the territorial integrity, sovereignty and constitution of Pakistan with their life. Agencies

Economy top priority

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Mr. Najy Benhassine, Country Director, World Bank and his team at Finance Division on Saturday.



Photo: APP

Rs560m distributed among flood victims of Swat: Muqam

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam on Saturday said that Rs 560 million were distributed among flood victims of Swat.

Talking to media persons after distribution of cheques among floods victims of Charbagh tehsil here, the prime minister aide said that so far Rs 70 billion were disbursed among floods affectees of the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the government would continue its efforts till rehabilitation of the last flood victim. Besides rehabilitation of communication and electricity networks, he said that restoration of Kalam-Madain road and Madain grid stations in short time was a big achievement.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has visited all floods affected areas including KP and personally oversaw relief and rescue operations. APP

Flood support

Pakistan to get \$2b funds from WB

Finance Minister says govt committed to set economy on path of sustainable, inclusive growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that the government is committed to set the economy on sustainable and inclusive growth path by taking pragmatic steps to resolve bottlenecks to growth.

The minister held a meeting with Country Director, World Bank Najy Benhassine, and his team at Finance Division here. The minister also shared economic challenges that the country is currently facing and said that the present government is cognizant of these issues and taking steps to resolve hurdles to achieve sustainable economic growth. He also informed about the devastations caused by the recent floods in the country.

Country Director, World Bank extended felicitations to the Finance Minister on assuming the charge of the office and briefed on existing programmes and future cooperation of the World Bank for Paki-

Dar lauds UK for extending flood relief support to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner Saturday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and exchanged views on matters of common interest. The minister briefed the British High Commissioner about devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan. The minister underscored that Pakistan had long historic ties with the United Kingdom and relations between the two countries needed to be further expanded for the mutual benefits of the two sides. He also briefed the envoy about economic agenda and priorities of the government and said that present government aims to bring about economic and fiscal stability leading to economic recovery and growth. Speaking on the occasion British High Commissioner extended his felicitations to the Minister on assuming his new responsibilities. He expressed sympathy on the destruction caused by the floods and said that the UK stands with Pakistan in this difficult time and apprised on the humanitarian support provided by the UK Government to Pakistan for flood relief. He further extended full support of the British government and British people for the government in Pakistan.

stan.

He informed the Finance Minister that the Bank is allocating \$2 billion funds from existing World Bank financed projects for emergency operations in flood affected areas to support Pakistan. He further informed that around \$ 1.5 billion funds would be mobilized this year due to emergency situation.

Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated the World Bank for being a source of support in pursuing reform agenda and imple-

menting various development projects for the country.

He further said that Pakistan values the financial and technical support provided by the World Bank for the institutional reforms and economic development of the country.

The minister assured Najy Benhassine and his team of meeting prior actions for timely completion of programmes and thanked them for their continuous support and facilitation.

WHO to provide healthcare services in flood-hit areas: Dr Palitha

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organisation's (WHO) Country Representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala on Saturday assured that essential healthcare services will be provided in flood-affected areas.

In a media briefing on WHO's participation in relief work in flood-hit areas, he said that the WHO was working on a plan to assist in future preparedness for having effective healthcare systems. The WHO country head said his organization was fully aware of the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan.

He said flood has caused serious damage to health service delivery which resulted in varied health risks. He added an upward trend was observed in affected areas for various diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, malaria, dengue fever, skin infections and typhoid. "Under the leadership of national and provincial authorities, WHO has promptly acted with its partners and took urgent steps to ensure the continuation of essential health services delivery and was supporting the government of Pakistan for health systems recovery through the build back better approach", he added. He maintained that tremendous work was done by healthcare workers in the flood-affected areas. He also appreciated the Federal and provincial governments for the provision of basic healthcare

services to the flood victims.

He said keeping in view the flood devastation, WHO has expanded operations on the ground by establishing three Operational Hubs at Naserabad, Sukkhar and Hyderabad, and 10 emergency operation centres in flood-affected areas in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He added that WHO has provided support worth US \$ 618,048.08 million in terms of essential medicines, emergency stockpiles, medical supplies, water purification kits, tents and sachets. Among provinces, support has been distributed in response to flood emergency, he said. Dr Palitha said WHO was supporting more than 2,000 medical camps to ensure that people have access to basic and essential health services and added that WHO has repurposed mobile health teams toward flood-affected districts to conduct outreach and facility-based medical services, including maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH), psychosocial and nutritional support.

He said that the WHO was also ensuring women's access to safe deliveries. The referral systems have been supported including for women who have complications of pregnancy and those with medical or surgical emergencies. Agencies

Govt prepares program for children with autism: Patel

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Government has prepared the country's first national program for children with autism and mental retardation.

Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel, in a statement on Saturday, said his ministry will extend cooperation for the establishment of Autism and Mental Disorder centres in the four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. He said a state of the art center will be established in Islamabad for children suffering from Autism which will provide both education and treatment to them. Abdul Qadir Baloch said legislation will also be carried out in the parliament for the protection of children with Autism and mental disorder. He said a survey will be carried out in the country to collect the data of such children.

The Minister for National Health Services said the UNICEF is ready to cooperate with the government on this matter.

By-polls: PTI announces schedule of public rallies

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Saturday released the schedule of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's public gatherings for the upcoming by-elections on Eight National Assembly seats.

According to the schedule released by the party's Secretary General, the former prime minister would address five public rallies between October 11 to 14.

The PTI chief will address a rally in Nankana Sahib on October 11, Sharaqur on October 12, in Mardan and Kurram on October 13. Similarly, the PTI chairman Imran Khan will address a rally in Karachi on October 14.

The by-polls for eight vacant seats of the National Assembly will be held on October 16. The by-polls were scheduled to take place in NA-92 Mardan, NA-24 Charsadda, NA-31 Peshawar, NA-45 Kurram, NA-108 Faisalabad, NA-118 Nankana Sahib, NA-237 Malir and NA-239 Karachi.

Court grants FIA two-day remand of PTI's Hamid Zaman

In prohibited funding case, PTI's founding members was arrested from his office in Lahore

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday was granted two-day physical remand of PTI's senior leader Hamid Zaman in a case related to prohibited funding by a district and sessions court in Lahore.

Ahead of Saturday's hearing, the FIA produced Zaman before the court of Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk for the charges against him. The FIA pleaded with the court to grant the agency the PTI leader's 14-day physical remand.

FIA prosecutor Munim Bashir

Chaudhry said: "The remand is required to complete the investigation."

The court, however, granted the FIA a two-day physical remand of Zaman and directed the investigation officer to submit a progress report on the probe on October 10.

"As per the record, Hamid Zaman is suspected of receiving prohibited funding," remarked the judge.

A day earlier, the FIA took PTI's founding member Zaman into custody from his office in Lahore in the foreign funding case.

A day earlier, Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that PTI Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Niazi and another key leader of the party, Zaman, had been arrested in the prohibited funding case after they failed to appear before the Federal Investigation Agency.

"PTI member Hamid Zaman has been also taken into protective custody," he said.

The FIA had registered a case against Zaman, a trustee of the Insaf Trust, over prohibited party funding. APP

'National Resilience Day'

President urges for adaptation of best practices for resilience building

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed that the observance of 'National Resilience Day' reminded them of the need to adopt best practices, implement desired policy actions and strategies aimed at resilience building of the nation.

"In view of our vulnerabilities, I would urge all related federal and provincial stakeholders to create synergies in action to ensure disaster risk reduction, and preparedness, besides mounting swift and prompt response mechanisms," the president said in a

message on the occasion of "National Resilience Day" being observed on Saturday.

The president said the policy actions in Pakistan should address key sectors including resilient and safe development of infrastructure, enhance "Disaster Preparedness" along with other areas, such as poverty alleviation, safer land use planning, building codes implementation, water resources management, sound agriculture practices, enhance forestation across Pakistan including coastal areas.

Most importantly, he said that they must take care of vulnerable segments

of their society including women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities in all our interventions.

"The 8th day of every October is an occasion to express our solidarity and sympathy with all those families who suffered from natural calamities of unprecedented magnitude," he added.

President urges for adaptation of best practices aimed at resilience building of nation

The president also urged the international community to provide all possible support to Pakistan to tackle the negative impacts of climate change phenomenon.

Imran should give evidence of plot to kill him in guise of religion: Ashrafi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Saturday said former Prime Minister Imran Khan should give evidence of the plot as how to kill him in the guise of religion.

Addressing a press conference, Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said Imran Khan as chief executive of the country did not suit him to speak like that without any proof.

He said on the issue of Masjid-e-Nabwi desecration, the Muttahida Ulema Board received approximately a dozen applications against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief and his other party leaders but the religious body, keeping in view the sensitivity of the situation, did not issue

any decree which could be harmful or threat to his life.

Ashrafi was sorry to say that the PTI chief was providing a cushion to international lobbies once against to get into momentum against the blasphemy law by leveling such allegations publicly.

He said he was also earning a bad repute to the country in the world through such political stunt.

He proposed the PTI chief not to associate the 'lotocracy' with 'Jihad' which is one of the sacred obligations of Islam as in a leaked audio, he himself was talking about buying five members of the National Assembly to save his government.

He inquired that on what basis Imran Khan was taking oath from his party leaders and workers while he himself was involved in this filthy practice.

Shedding light on the significance

of Eid Milad-un-Nabi Peace Be upon Him, he said the resolution of all issues being faced by the Muslim Ummah across the world was lying in the obedience of Secrat-un-Nabi Peace be Upon Him.

He said we should adopt good deeds and help the people in need following the Uswa-e-Usna of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him.

He said we should extend all-out support to approximately 33 million people who are in critical condition due monsoon rains and flash floods across the country.

Criticizing India for imposing restrictions on the Eid Milad-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him's processions across the country and occupied Kashmir, he urged the international organizations to stop the Indian government to usurp the basic human and religious rights of Muslim and as well as other minority communities.



Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing press conference in Islamabad on Saturday. Photo: PID

PM AJK lauds Pakistan's role in rebuilding lives of quake affectees

Says there is dire need for creating public awareness to cope with any natural calamity

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the harrowing memories of the deadly Earthquake that shook AJK on October 8, 2005 were still fresh in the minds of the people.



Addressing a function held to pay homage to the quake victims, the PM said that the way the Pakistani nation came forward to help the Kashmiri quake affectees was something unprecedented and unforgettable. "The people of Pakistan opened their treasures and donated wholeheartedly to rebuild lives of the homeless quake-survivors", he said adding that the international community's generous support also proved handy to restore normal life in the quick-devastated areas of the state.

While praying for the victims Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that a monument would be built in memory of the martyrs of the 2005 earthquake, in which national events would be held

in future. Terming death as an inescapable reality, the PM said, "Being Muslims we should always be prepared for death". "Tragedies do happen so all that we need is the planning to deal with such natural calamities", he said, adding that development of the state and securing the future of our next generations were his government's top priorities.

He said that there was a dire need for creating public awareness to cope with any natural calamity. "Emergency kits should be mandatory in all government vehicles to avoid any accidents and training courses required to deal with natural calamities should be made mandatory in civil defense, schools,

colleges", he added.

Addressing the ceremony Minister State Disaster Management Authority Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim said that due to the terrible earthquake of October 8, 2005, millions of people were displaced and thousands of buildings collapsed in a few seconds.

"The earthquake caused a loss of Rs 124 billion to infrastructure in Azad Kashmir", he said adding that after this apocalyptic tragedy, the spirit with which the international community in general and the people of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army participated in the relief, rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities of the victims of the earthquake was worthy of being written in golden letters in history.

Kashmiris, he said, would never forget their benefactors who contributed generously to heal the wounds of the earthquake victims and shared their pain during the testing times.

"The earthquake gave us an opportunity to correct the mistakes made in the past and play our role in a better future", he said that the establish-

ment of NDMA at the federal level and SDMA at the Azad Kashmir level was an important development in this regard.

"Despite limited resources, this organization (SDMA) has played a vital role in providing timely relief and rehabilitation to the flood victims in 2012, 2010 and 2014, Mirpur earthquake affectees in 2019 and the cross LoC firing victims", he said. He said that capacity building of SDMA at state level and 1122 and DDMA at district level was being done with the support of World Bank.

The function organized by the State Disaster Management Authority in memory of the martyrs of October 8, 2005 was also attended and addressed by Government Ministers including Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Deputy Speaker Chaudhry Riaz Ahmed, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Muhammad Usman Chachar, secretaries of the government, heads of departments, NGOs, students, civil and military officials and others.



Begum Tahmina Daultana, former Federal Minister and her son Mian Imran Daultana met PML N leader Maryam Nawaz to welcome at London to meet her father. Former Prime Minister is also present on the occasion. Both the leaders appreciated the services rendered by Tahmina Daultana for PML N during movement for restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

Hangul Day observed at NUML



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Republic of Korea, H.E Suh-Sang-pyo visited the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) to attend the Hangul Day (Korean alphabet Day) as chief guest on Friday.

The event was jointly organized by the King Sejong Institute Islamabad and Korean language department of NUML. Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali, Dean Languages Prof. Jamil Asghar Jami, Directors, Head of Department Korean Language and a large number of students also attended the ceremony.

The ambassador said that NUML is playing pivotal role in promoting Korean language in Pakistan and Korean Embassy will further enhance the interactions with NUML in future. He paid rich tribute to King Sejong who introduced Korean alphabets which led Korea to become a developed state. He further said that Korean government is enhancing visa opportunities for Pakistani nationals which will further extend the bilateral relations.

Speaking on the occasion Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali said that Korean language is one of the few languages of the world whose creation is well documented in history. We often talk about the rapid progress Korea has made in a short span of time but seldom acknowledged the part played by Korean language in achieving this greatness.

He said that apart from the leadership, high literacy rate was a deciding factor in Korea's progress and 'Hangul' played a pivotal role in achieving almost 100% literacy rate. DG said that language and cultural play a vital for promoting relations between countries and NUML is effectively serving the national cause.

GB DDWC approves 8 schemes



Spokesman Report

GILGIT: The 3rd GB DDWC meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary Works Department GB Najeeb Alam was held at Works Secretariat GB.

During the meeting, 10 schemes were discussed, 08 schemes were approved and 02 schemes were deferred. The cost of approved schemes is 193.000 million. The meeting was briefed in detailed about the schemes.

Global Scout bicycle jamboree



Entry Gate Mehran Gate F-9 Park 8th October large number of students from different schools and colleges participated.

AJK University holds ceremony to remember quake victims

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A special prayer ceremony was held at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) to pay tribute to the victims of the catastrophe, which claimed the lives of thousands of people on this day, seventeenth years ago in 2005.



At least 200 students and six faculty members of the university were among the thousands of people killed in the devastating earthquake that hit the region in 2005.

The ceremony held at the monument of the martyrs in the City Campus of the university was attended by the Registrar Prof. Dr. Ayesha Sohail, Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Associate Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Bashir-ur-Rehman Kanth, Chief Librarian and

Meritorious Professor Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, In-charge City Campus Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, Director Advance Studies and Research Dr. Muhammad Raffique, President Academic Staff Association Dr. Nazneen Habib, President Administrative Staff Association Israr Qadri, Chairmen, Heads of Departments, Faculty Members, University Officers and a large number of the employees.

Speaking on occasion, the

Registrar of the university, Prof. Dr. Ayesha Sohail while paying tribute to the sacrifices of teachers, students, and employees who were martyred in the earthquake said that their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

She said that the earthquake 2005 severely damaged the university as more than 200 students, six faculty members, and staff died in this disaster. The City Campus of the university, which was completely

destroyed, was rebuilt with generous assistance from the Turkish government, and the King Abdullah Campus at Chatter Klass was Constructed by the Saudi Arabia government, she added.

Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Chief Librarian Prof. Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, and Associate Dean Health Sciences Dr. Bashir ur Rehman Kanth while talking on this occasion said that the memories of the tragedy of October 8 will always be fresh in our minds. They paid rich tributes to the armed forces of the country, national and international NGOs, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the Pakistani nation for extending unprecedented help to the affected people of AJK in the wake of one of the worst tragedies in recorded history.

Grand annual function held in Wana



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: An educational institution supported by Wana Welfare Association in Wana, tribal district of South Waziristan, organized the annual function of Umma Children's Academy Wana, whose chief guest was Maulana Idrees, Chairman of Umma Welfare Trust Pakistan

The children of the academy presented bouquets of flowers to the visiting guests. In the annual ceremony, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan Mohammad Saeed Wazir, Secretary Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mutasim Billah Shah, Director of Watan Education System of Pakistan Mohsin Syed, besides the local district administration, senior officers of the police force, tribal elders, all government institutions and other various schools of thought Concerned people participated in large numbers.

Wana Welfare Association President Rahmatullah Wazir and General Secretary Jalal Wazir were also present at the annual function. On the occasion of the annual function, the students presented national anthems, national songs and speech contests, which the guests enjoyed and paid tribute to the school administration.

Maulana Idrees and IGP Gilgit-Baltistan Mohammad Saeed Wazir awarded 2/2 lakh as cash prize to the school administration and school children for their good performance.

On this occasion, Maulana Idrees assured the new hostel and modern IT lab for the students, He said that the valuable asset of my life is to serve the orphans God willing, I will continue to serve this till I die.

It should be noted that 700 orphans are being educated in Umma Children's Academy, which is being run by wana Welfare Association with the support of umma Welfare Trust. In the end shields were presented to the guests by Wana Welfare Association.

PAC holds speech and Naat Khawani competitions

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council holds Speech and Naat competitions in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association in connection with Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatulil Almeen.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony. While addressing the ceremony Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that love for Holy Prophet is a part of our faith. The Holy Prophet came as the mercy to the whole world.

We should try to make your every action according to the Quran and Sunnah, it will not only give us success in this worldly life but also in the Hereafter. President of APPS-MA, Muhammad Ibrar said that Rabi-ul-Awwal is the spring of good deeds. The Holy Prophet has taught the Muslim Ummah to respect humanity. Your good deeds are the guarantee of success. The darkness of igno-



rance and despair was dispelled by the arrival of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) in the world, the candles of peace, love, brotherhood and light were lit everywhere. Ali Awan won the first position, Saima Noor second position, Zainab Gul third position and Pakeeza took fourth position, while Muhammad Shahid Jameel Minhas and Faizan Qadri were the judges in the Naat

Khoani competition.

Hasan Aslam, Manahil, Sadia Farooq and Momina came first, second, third and fourth respectively in the speech competition. A large number of male and female students from Rawalpindi, Islamabad participated in the competition. Shields and certificates were also distributed among the children who got positions.

New master plan for Faisalabad is in its final phase: Zahid



M.A Rashid

FAISALABAD: New master plan has enshrined all important ingredients to transform Faisalabad into a dynamic, robust, environment friendly industrial, commercial and business hub of South Asia, said retiring Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain.

He was addressing a sumptuous farewell dinner arranged in his honour by Mian Muhammad Idrees of Sitara Group of Industries. The dinner was also attended by Regional Police Officer Moeen Masood, Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh and other divisional and district heads of various government departments in addition to the prominent businessmen.

Mr. Zahid Hussain said that economy

would be the key factor in the coming years and we must focus on it by providing a congenial environment to industry and trade. He said that it would be a permanent privilege for me to head this fastest growing city of Pakistan.

He said that the master plan is in its final phase and would be announced very soon to streamline its future dynamics of development. He said that he had tried his optimum best to provide the best possible facilities but he could not fully materialize his plans and futuristic vision. About his stay in Faisalabad, he said that during the last leg of his service, he had the charge of the Faisalabad Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Municipal Corporation and three schools in addition to his own responsibilities.

"I followed the merit which may had irritated his colleagues, subordinated and friends but I remained steadfast", he said and added that he had to work with many RPOs, Deputy Commissioners and CPOs during my stay in Faisalabad", he said and added that we tried to work as a team to accomplish the given task and serve the masses. Regarding the recent flood, he appreciated the philanthropic spirit of the local business community and said that Faisalabad was the only city from where maximum relief goods were dispatched to the flood hit areas.

"As many as 116 truck loads of ration and relief goods were dispatched", he said and added that I am personally indebted to the business community who arranged new Woolies worth

Rs. 50 million for the flood hit people ahead of the upcoming winter. He was optimistic that his successor would also play his productive role for the development of this division. In his address of welcome Mian Muhammad Idrees Chairman Sitara Group of Industries paid best tribute to the services rendered by Mr. Zahid Hussain as Divisional Commissioner Faisalabad. He said that the people of this city always remember the services of government officials despite their retirement or transfer.

He said that RPO Moeen Masood and Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh have recently taken their responsibilities and being sons of the soil, they would serve this city with a deep sense of affinity.

Ombudsman office mediates to retrieve over 49 kanal state land

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: As a result of the prompt actions taken by the concerned administration on the orders of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab, more than 49 kanals of government lands, totaling Rs.28.32 million, have been retrieved from illegal occupants in different districts.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the spokesman said that the Pakpattan administration has recovered 40.5 kanals of government land, having a market value of 61 lakh 54 thousand rupees, from illegal dwellers. The action has been taken on orders of Ombudsman Punjab Azam Suleman Khan on a public complaint. The Pakpattan administration has also recovered six

kanal of government land valuing Rs.5 million from squatters, the spokesman noted.

The ombudsman's office interceded in the public interest to remove encroachments on Railway Station Chowk, Kutchery Road in Mianwali. The market value of retrieved government land is one crore, 52 lakh and 18600 rupees, the spokesman reported.

Alongside this, 1.25 kanal land of 14.25 lakh rupees in the Sarai Alamgir area of Gujrat and two kanal state land in Khanewal district, with a market value of 5,32,250 rupees, have been recovered by the administration after the involvement of the ombudsman's office on public complaints, the spokesman concluded.



Spokesman Report

Eid Milad-un-Nabi, also known as 12 Rabi-ul-Awal is celebrated on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. Rabi-ul-Awal is the third month in the Islamic lunar calendar. This sacred month has significant importance for Muslims because their beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was born on this day.

The Muslim Ummah worldwide celebrates this tremendous day whole-heartedly to show great devotion and alliance with their Prophet (SAW). Mosques, homes, are other commercial buildings seem to be blazed with green lights and green flags on this auspicious day. People decorate their homes and even streets and roads with full enthusiasm to show great happiness on this day.

Birth of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Around 570 AD, Muhammad (SAW) was born in Mecca, Arabia, and died in 632 in Madinah. It is believed that he (SAW) was born on Monday as a Sahih Muslim Hadith quotes that Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) was born on Monday:

When the Messenger of Allah (SAW) was asked about fasting on Mondays, he replied, "That is the day on which I was born and the day on which I received Revelation." - Sahih Muslim.

The year in which the Prophet (SAW) was born is also known as the year of the elephant. It is because this year, Allah protected Kaaba from an invading Abyssinian army with elephants. This event is narrated in the Chapter of the Elephant (Quran Ch.105).

Al-Muttalib bin Abdullah bin Qais Bin Makhramah relates from his father, who relates from his grandfather, who said:

"I and Messenger of Allah (SAW) were born in the Year of Elephant." -Tirmidhi Sahih.

Miracles at the Birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

- Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) mother Aminah narrated that she didn't suffer any of the usual pains of pregnancy as with other women. (Ibn Ishaq)
- Before Prophet's birth, her mother had a dream she gave birth to a tremendous light that advanced to the Palaces of Busra in Syria. (Ibn Ishaq)
- On the night he was born, it was reported that an immense light emerged from her that lit up the entire house. (Ibn Hajar Fath Al-Bari)
- A hundred-year-old fire, which was being worshipped, was extinguished in Persia. (Al Raheeq Al Maklum)

The Life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

The father's name of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is



Few Words on Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) on 12 Rabi Ul Awal

Thay prinday soo ba soo
Lay k her ik gul ki boo
Kar rahay thay guftgoo
"BALAGAL ULA BAY
KMALAY HE
(صلى الله عليه وسلم)"

Thi munawar sab fiza
Jahaan tak ththi thi
nighaa
Aa rhi thi yon sada
"KASHAFUDDU-JA
BAY JMALAY HE
(صلى الله عليه وسلم)"

Bulblein b apne shoq
mein
Dalay huay gul toq mein
Kehtin thein apne zoq
main
"HASANAT JAMEE O
KHISALAY HE
(صلى الله عليه وسلم)"

Chiriyoun k sun k cheh-
ch-hay
Insaan bhala kyun chup
rahay
Lazim hay is pay youn
kahay
"SALLU AALIHI WA
AALIHI HE (صلى الله عليه وسلم)"

Success, progress only by following Prophet (PBUH)'s teachings

Muslims all over the world celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi with religious zeal and fervour and renewing the pledge to transform their lives in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet Sallallah-o-Alaihe Wa Aalehe Wassallum

Hazrat Abdullah, who died before his son was born. After that, at the age of six, Muhammad (SAW) lost his mother too. So, his (SAW) grandfather Abdul Muttalib brought him up, and when he died, his (SAW) uncle Abu Talib took the responsibility of his (SAW) upbringing.

At the age of forty, he got a revelation from God. The Angel Gabriel appeared in the Cave of Hira and commanded him (SAW) to read these words of God:

"Recite in the name of your Lord, Who creates, creates man from a clot! Recite for your Lord is most Generous...." (Surah Al Alaq, Ch 96: 1-3)

Muhammad (SAW) then started to spread God's message to people of Makkah who were badly indulged in evil deeds and superstitions. However, the Messenger of Allah showed them the path of righteousness and virtue, which led them to be great Muslims and good human beings. Further, he told

them that following the right path is the only way to win God's favor and blessings. He also warned them to quit the path of Satan, who is their grand enemy. Ultimately, due to his (SAW) struggle and teachings, the light of Islam was illuminated not only in Arab but also worldwide.

A Public Holiday

On the occasion of 12 Rabi-ul-Awal, a national public holiday is observed all over Pakistan and in some other Islamic countries as well. In Arabic, this day is known as the Mawlid Al-Nabawi holiday; however, it is called the Eid Milad-un-Nabi holiday in Pakistan.

The Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

12 Rabi-ul-Awal is the great day of realization for the

Muslim Ummah that Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) was sent for their reformations, so they must follow his reforms and teachings. On this special day, the Muslims promise themselves more devotedly to follow the Sunnah of their beloved Prophet (SAW). Because it is a fact that their success and progress are hidden only in following their Prophet's teachings.

Special Prayers and Salawat on 12 Rabi-ul-Awal

On 12 Rabi-ul-Awal, the Muslims offer special prayers in mosques, and countless Salawat (Darood Sharif) is sent upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The importance of sending Salawat upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is very significant, so on this day, the Muslims try to read Darood Sharif increasingly.

"Surely, Allah and His angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who believe, send your Salam to him (SAW) in abundance." (Al-Ahzab: 33: 56)

Special Events

On the blessed day of 12 Rabi-ul-Awal, special events are held on the 'Seerat-e-Nabwi' topic, and Islamic scholars spread the awareness regarding the great Seerat (life) of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The scholars significantly highlight the different aspects of Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that being a Muslim and true follower of him (SAW) how important it is to follow his Sunnah.

Naat Competitions

Apart from the events highlighting the Sunnah of Prophet (SAW), there are also Naatia competitions and quiz programs at the local and national levels. The participants recite Naats with full enthusiasm to send tribute to the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) whole-heartedly and devotedly.

Rallies and Processions

Special rallies and processions also happen on this special day by people. They mostly wear 'Green Turbans' and hoist green flags in their hands (following Prophet's (SAW) Sunnah because it is believed as green his favorite color) to pay tribute to their Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Aside from that, people cook special kinds of food on this day. They distribute it among people generously in homes, streets, and mosques.

Muhammad (SAW) as a Leading Light for whole Humanity

The personality of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) is a role model for all of us. His teachings work as a beacon of light in the darkness, not only for the Muslim community but whole humanity. This source of light and guidance can lead us towards the righteous path, which is the true path of God.

Eid-Milad-un-Nabi — A day of renewed allegiance

ISLAMABAD: Eid Milad-un-Nabi is a day of renewed allegiance with the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as faithful celebrate this sacred occasion making a commitment to transform their lives in accordance with the Sunnah and divine commands.

As per lunar calendar, this special day is celebrated on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal every year with religious zeal and fervor to manifest reverence, respect and commitment to the teachings of last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Muslims all across Pakistan manifest their love for the Prophet of Islam upon whom the most revered divine book the Holy Qur'an was revealed showing the followers a true path to reach the destination of piety and righteousness.

The 'Deen' starting from Hazrat Adam a.s. culminated with the advent of the holy religion of Islam as there is no Prophet after Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)."

The teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) would last till the end of this world and the Day of Judgement when all human beings would gather before Allah the Almighty to answer for their deeds during worldly life.

"Each year we celebrate this day to show our allegiance to the last Prophet of Allah. However, this time we are celebrating the whole Rabi-ul-Awwal as month of 'Paigham-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen,'" said Dr Tahir Ashrafi, Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East.

"Being his followers, it is obligatory upon every Muslim to spread across the world, the message of peace, affection and tolerance revealed to us by the Holy Prophet," said Ashrafi who is also Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council.

This special day dawn with 31 gun-salutes at the federal capital and 21 gun-salutes at provincial capitals while special prayers are offered for peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

A number of events including conferences, seminars, Mehfil-e-Naat and processions are organized both at public and private levels. The main function, titled 'International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference' is organized by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in the federal capital.

Ulema and religious scholars highlight the teachings of the Holy Prophet as well as the glorious principles of leading lives as enshrined in the Holy Quran to reform people by reinvigorating their faith.

Special events and programs are planned to highlight 'Uswa-e-Husna' of the Holy Prophet as public and private buildings, mosques, streets and houses are illuminated and processions are taken out to manifest love and commitment with the greatest leader of the universe.



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of Supreme Court in Federal Capital decorated with colorful lights ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrates on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, the birth anniversary of Muslim's beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). ONLINE PHOTO by Sultan Bashir



LAHORE: An illuminated view of Baghbanpura Bazar in Provincial Capital, decorated with artificial flowers and colorful lights ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrates on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, the birth anniversary of Muslim's beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). PHOTO: ONLINE

As an epitome of piety, righteousness, tolerance and harmony, the Holy Prophet conveyed the message of Allah and Islam across Arabian peninsula and beyond to bring about real changes in the lives of ignorant, idol worshippers and cruel segments of the society.

He was so upright that even his enemies used to call Him Sadiq and Ameen as he always dealt fairly in his routine life, societal relationships, trade and family affairs. Following His footsteps was the only way for faithful to win Allah's benediction and salvation.

Secretary General Muslim World League (MWL) Dr Mohammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, who also had the privilege of delivering the Hajj sermon this year at the Nimra Mosque will also be attending International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference as Chief Guest.

On arrival to Pakistan, Al-Issa also visited flood affected areas and inaugurated emergency relief operation for affected people on behalf of the organization.

It is enshrined in the teachings of our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) to always stand by poor and needy especially in the hour of turmoil," Al-Issa said.

"We will provide all possible support for rehabilitation of flood victims in manifestation of love and solidarity as preached by our Holy Prophet," he stated.

Seeing from every dimension, the Muslims have a guiding force in the personality of the Holy Prophet. No matter if it is our social, religious, family, business and justice system, we take guidance from the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

"The best way to celebrate Eid Milad-u-Nabi is to serve humanity especially the poor, needy and down trodden as it is the most liked act before Allah Almighty," said Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology, Dr Qibla Ayaz.

"If only we follow the system of Zakat introduced by the Holy Prophet, in few years we will find no poor in our society," he stated. "Therefore, it is high time to manifest this spirit in helping the poor people marooned by recent flood."

He urged the philanthropists and social sector organizations to come forward for helping them in this hour of trial. "Fulfillment of this duty would truly manifest our allegiance to the teachings of the Holy Prophet as well as our commitment to Allah Almighty."

Since, we celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi every year, let us assure this time that it should not be simply celebrating a day, but a pledge to follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) in true spirit. APP/Rehan Ghauri

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Myanmar's social media genocide

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

Social media is a powerful tool, for both good and ill. In Myanmar, social media — and Facebook in particular — has been put to cruel and dangerous use. In Myanmar, as in other countries, before the most recent episode of genocide against the Rohingya Muslims, racists and bigots took to Facebook to spread their ideas. Celebrity Buddhist monks, most notably Ashin Wirathu, used Facebook to spread hatred and lies about the Rohingya.

Wirathu posted incendiary racist sermons to his millions of followers, in which he called the Rohingya "Bengalis" in a bid to convince his fellow Burmese that they were foreign interlopers rather than fellow citizens; claimed that the Rohingya were responsible for spates of crimes across the country; and demanded that they be driven out of the country, whatever that required.

So virulent was his rhetoric that Facebook eventually, in 2018, blocked Wirathu's page for violating its terms of service relating to the promotion of

violence. This came after widespread condemnation of Facebook, including a research paper from two Australian academics, who claimed that the site was "helping fuel a genocide against the Rohingya people."

Wirathu was not alone. Before the most recent episode of genocide began in 2017 — when hundreds of thousands of Rohingya were forced from their homes, murdered in large numbers and driven out of the country — content denouncing the Rohingya as foreign invaders, serial criminals and terrorists was common online. This was notably true on Facebook, a service used by many in Myanmar from the very first time they started using the internet.

Researchers allege that the lack of digital literacy of newly online Burmese meant that wild claims and deranged rhetoric traveled further in Myanmar than it would have in other, more jaundiced markets.

The Myanmar Internet Project, a collective of scholars and activists, documented the beginnings of an explicitly anti-Rohingya campaign. Facebook, the project's report notes, "was instrumental to the emergence of a mass Buddhist nationalist movement, which

grew from 2012 to 2015 to encompass hundreds of thousands of members across the country and came to be known as Ma Ba Tha (Patriotic Association of Myanmar)."

It added: "Ma Ba Tha made extensive use of Facebook, leveraging the platform to build hundreds of local chapters, recruit members, fundraise, organize protests and events and run campaigns."

Those campaigns were not intended to promote civic peace. The Australian academics described a cycle, which they said began with "explicitly racist political cartoons, falsified images and staged news reports." Think about that — explicit fake news demonizing a minority.

The academics continued: "This content goes viral, normalizing hate speech and shaping public perception. Violence against Rohingya people is increasingly welcomed, and then celebrated online."

After that came violence, facilitated by hateful rhetoric and lies that spread like wildfire through dry brush.

This situation was already bad, but it was aided by what a former employee of Facebook, Frances Haugen, claimed in 2021 was a known "neglect"

from the company of languages other than English. She claimed that Facebook used fewer moderators to service these markets because they were not as profitable as the English-language world and, as such, violent and hateful content went largely unpunished — even though many millions of citizens of Myanmar were online and being influenced by these campaigns.

Hateful rhetoric and demands for violence and genocide, written in Burmese, was not moderated as stringently as it would have been had it been written in English. These things have a way of spreading even in heavily moderated markets. In Myanmar, researchers allege, violent rhetoric spread like a plague, with government sanction.

When the armed forces began clearing Rohingya villages and killing their inhabitants, they did so on the back of years of vicious rumors, snide insinuations and outright lies. As the genocide was ongoing, the Facebook pages of government officials, including Aung San Suu Kyi, who was then state counselor, decried what Suu Kyi's page called "fake rape." They claimed, against the evidence, that the Rohingya women who alleged

that they had been subjected to sexual violence were lying — and they used Facebook to do so.

This is a challenge the big social media companies must not shirk. Meta, which Facebook became after a change of name, banned Wirathu years ago and has announced a suite of changes to how it moderates the platform in Myanmar, including a ban on pages linked to the Myanmar military.

But all of this is in retrospect. The Rohingya have long been demonized. They have already been expelled. New content moderation cannot give them their homes back. It is vital Meta and others learn the lessons of the Rohingya genocide. It must not happen again.

And meanwhile, those in political office around the world must use every means at their disposal to bring those who ordered and committed the genocide of the Rohingya to justice.

Courtesy Arab News
Dr. Azeem Ibrahim is the director of special initiatives at the Neelins Institute for Strategy and Policy in Washington D.C. and author of "The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Genocide" (Hurst, 2017).

Nation celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.W)

Eid Miladun Nabi is celebrated with religious fervour across the country and on this occasion various functions are held where the ulema and other speakers urge the people to follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) to get success in this world and the hereafter.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi is a day of renewed allegiance with the Rehmatal-lil-Alameen Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as faithful celebrate this sacred occasion making a commitment to transform their lives in accordance with the Sunnah and divine commands.

Muslims all across Pakistan manifest their love for the Prophet of Islam upon whom the most revered divine book the Holy Qur'an was revealed showing the followers a true path to reach the destination of piety and righteousness.

The teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) would last till the end of this world and the Day of Judgement when all human beings would gather before Allah the Almighty to answer for their deeds during worldly life.

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As an epitome of piety, righteousness, tolerance and harmony, the Holy Prophet conveyed the message of Allah and Islam across Arabian peninsula and beyond to bring about real changes in the lives of ignorant, idol worshippers and cruel segments of the society.

He was so upright that even his enemies used to call Him Sadiq and Ameen as he always dealt fairly in his routine life, societal relationships, trade and family affairs. Following His footsteps was the only way for faithful to win Allah's benediction and salvation.

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The populist climate threat must be confronted

Izabella Teixeira, Ana Toni, Laurence Tubiana

Reactionary populism is now the biggest obstacle to tackling climate change. With outright climate denial no longer an option, populist politicians have increasingly positioned themselves as climate doubters and delayers, and this new approach is proving to be quite insidious. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak within three years to keep the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius target in reach; by slowing effective action, the tactics of today's populists are becoming an existential threat.

This trend is reversible, but it is tenacious. Following former US President Donald Trump's dismantling of America's climate commitments, the Biden administration has managed to pass landmark climate legislation despite notable headwinds. But opportunities for populist climate spoilers remain. A recent study in Nature showed that, even though supporters of climate policies vastly outnumber their opponents nationwide, most Americans believe the opposite to be true. Given this "false social reality," the climate legislation promises to be a wedge issue in November's midterm elections.

A simplistic notion of national sovereignty has also underpinned Bolsonaro's refusal to discuss the Amazon in international forums, even though its role as a carbon sink is vital for the rest of the world. Bolsonaro's failure to fight criminal activity in the Amazon has allowed for the wanton destruction of Brazil's forests, rivers and people (including indigenous groups, environmental activists and journalists). As is true of other right-wing populists, "sovereignty" for him amounts to

claiming rights but denying the responsibilities that come with them.

Out of either cynicism or naivety, populists refuse to acknowledge that stronger national borders cannot solve our biggest problems. That is as true for climate change and biodiversity loss as it is for this year's energy and food crises, COVID-19 and mounting debt distress. As a result, climate action and reactionary populism could remain tangled for decades to come, amid climate disruptions, sharpening inequalities and a social contract fraying everywhere.

According to a recent study of 25 countries over more than a decade, right-wing populist parties have had a consistently negative impact on climate ambition, making international targets even harder to reach. As the host of the foundational 1992 Earth Summit, Brazil previously had a reputation as a leading consensus-builder in multilateral negotiations; yet, in the space of just a few years, it has come to be associated with diplomatic volatility and environmental destruction.

If we are going to manage the increasingly disruptive effects of climate change, collective intelligence must prevail over populist division and disinformation. Some countries are already showing the way. In Australia, for example, voters ousted a conservative government that had become one of the most obstinate climate laggards in the G20. And in Slovenia, a populist prime minister was denied a second consecutive term when his party was defeated by the environmentalist Freedom Movement party.

Could the same message gain traction in Brazil? Recent polling shows that 81 percent of Brazilians want presidential candidates to protect the Amazon and 65 percent consider such protections to be important for economic development. More than 90 percent know that climate change is happening and over 75 percent attribute it to human

As in many countries around the world, social movements in Brazil have been organizing on an unprecedented scale. Groups from the Amazon — especially those representing traditional communities, women and young people — are leading the charge and others, including financial and private sector players, have joined with them.

Bolsonaro, meanwhile, has remained hostile toward climate ambition, painting all environmental concerns as the sinister creation of shadowy international interests. The irony, of course, is that today's "anti-globalist" populists rely on their own well-funded transnational network of propagandists, donors and fellow travelers. As a recent New York Times investigation showed, Hungarian energy companies that have profited from the sale of Russian oil have channeled massive funds to politically aligned charities, with the funds then making their way to conservative broadcasters and opinion leaders in the US.

An international system subverted by populist priorities would be catastrophic for open societies and effective climate policies. Those of us who believe in science, the wisdom of local communities and the power of diplomacy must get wise to the threat. If populism is normalized, it will derail effective climate action just when it is needed most. The window for preventing catastrophic consequences is closing. Climate policies have become populists' most inviting target; the rest of us must become populists' most formidable adversaries. *Courtesy Arab News*

Izabella Teixeira, a former environment minister of Brazil, is Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel. Ana Toni is Executive Director of Instituto Clima e Sociedade. Laurence Tubiana, a former French ambassador to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is CEO of the European Climate Foundation and a professor at Sciences Po, Paris.



Trump-Biden feud dominating US midterm campaigns

Maria Maalouf

It is widely felt that the US midterm congressional elections on Nov. 8 are not just about the election of 435 members of the House of Representatives and 35 members of the Senate, but also a replica of the presidential race between Joe Biden and Donald Trump two years ago.

They are the ruthless continuation of a fierce rivalry between two presidents. On the one hand, Trump is recycling his old presidential themes, emphasizing that Biden and the Democrats are making the US vulnerable to foreign influence and are weakening America by making it a socialist country. On the other hand, Biden and the Democrats are accusing the Republicans and Trump of racism and extremism, including often employing the word "fascism" to denote the dangers of right-wing politics in America.

There is no moderation in the election campaigns. America is as divided as ever, with Biden and Trump trying to denounce and trounce each other. This is not a good sign for American democracy. It leads to vicious methods of campaigning and an unwillingness to compromise.

Visibility is a critical aspect of this congressional contest. Trump will try to be the most visible person in the race. He wants to renew his presidential campaign through the voting on new members of Congress that he has backed. He is using this campaign as a barometer to test his popularity ahead of a potential run for the presidency in 2024. According to a Republican consultant: "If 70 percent of the candidates whom Trump endorsed... for the Republican nomination for the offices they are contesting, including those who were nominated for the offices of governors of states, for sure, Trump will consider himself the natural candidate for the Republican ticket in the presidential election of 2024."

It is expected that the rivalry between Biden and Trump will continue after the elections in November and its ferocity will depend on the outcome of the midterms. It is also important to recall the phenomenon in American politics known as "the October surprise." This means that a big, unexpected event can occur in the few days or weeks prior to the elec-

tions that could create a totally new reality. There are few predictions regarding what the game changer could be this time. Several analysts are saying that something dramatic, such as the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, could be the creator of a new reality ahead of the midterms. This is still a remote possibility.

Biden is trying to portray himself as a leader who has made significant contributions to American politics, such as with the passing of legislation supporting the rebuilding of infrastructure in America and boosting the country's scientific and technological advantage. Trump will tout the fact that he is still very popular and will renew the charge that the 2022 election result was not legitimate.

Interestingly, absent from this Biden-Trump animosity are their deputies. Former Vice President Mike Pence has not involved himself in many of the races, while the incumbent Kamala Harris has not been campaigning strongly. This gives Trump the chance to sharpen his attack on Biden personally. Such shrewd political propaganda is being utilized by Trump to send a message to the American electorate that he is practically a candidate in this race.

Trump wants to reclaim his political mandate in this current race for Congress. He insists that his speeches are drawing large crowds, even overshadowing the candidates he is soliciting votes for. He is spreading the narrative that he is so concerned about the deteriorating situation inside America that he wants everyone to be aware of the damage Biden and the Democrats have been doing to the country.

What is unique about this Biden-Trump confrontation is that neither are talking about the regular victories and losses typical of any political race in the US. Instead, they are addressing the American people as if calamities will befall them if the other's candidates are elected. While Biden and Trump are intensifying and perpetuating their hostility toward each other, the millions of dollars Americans are spending on the elections are provoking and endorsing such a political feud.

Courtesy Arab News
Maria Maalouf is a Lebanese journalist, broadcaster, publisher and writer. She has a master's degree in political sociology from the University of Lyon. Twitter: @bilarakib

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
New Zealand \$	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 to work with FBR, ICT Admin to resolve issues of traders: Ahsan

Traders demand parking plaza in Aabpara market

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the Aabpara Market is the oldest market of Islamabad, which is playing important role in improving the economy by promoting trade activities and stressed that the CDA should develop it as a model market of the Capital.

He said that foreign diplomats and many other dignitaries often visit Aabpara market, therefore, CDA should construct a monument in the chowk of the market and focus on its further beautification to bring it at par with international standards.

He said that ICCI would work with CDA, FBR, ICT Administration, Police and other relevant departments of the government to resolve the issues of the business community. He said this while addressing a delegation of Aabpara Market that called on him led by



Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran and President, Traders Welfare Association Aabpara Market.

Faod Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI assured the delegation that Islamabad Cham-

ber of Commerce & Industry would work with CDA to address the key issues of the traders and for the development of Aabpara Market on modern lines.

Speaking at the occasion, Ajmal Baloch,

President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran and President, Traders Welfare Association, Aabpara Market, Islamabad said that parking was a major issue of the traders of the area and stressed that ICCI should work with CDA for the construction of a parking plaza in the Aabpara Market. He said that Aabpara Market should be provided easy access from 7th Avenue.

He said that many traders are facing tax issues due to their integration with Tier-1 and Tier-2 tax system and said that ICCI should cooperate in resolving tax issues of the traders. The delegation members congratulated the new office bearers of ICCI and hoped that they would play a role in addressing the major issues of trade and industry.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI, Akhtar Hussain, Muhammad Yahya, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

RCCI organizes session on developing countries trading scheme

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized an awareness session on the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).

The scheme was aimed to facilitate stakeholders and businessmen to diversify their export-oriented businesses in the UK.

Senior Trade Policy Advisor of the British High Commission Fabian Hartwell who was the keynote speaker and had an interactive session with members, entrepreneurs and representatives of different trade sectors.

President RCCI Saqib Rafiq, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, executive committee members, and members were also present on the occasion.

Fabian Hartwell informed the participants that DCTS will come into effect in early 2023. The DCTS will support sustainable growth in developing countries through a generous unilateral offer, he added.

He further elaborated that the DCTS applies to countries that currently benefit under the UK's Generalised Scheme of Pref-



erences (GSP). The GSP includes 47 countries in the GSP Least Developed Country (LDC) Framework and 18 additional countries or territories classified by the World Bank as low income (LIC) and lower-middle income (LMIC).

Under the DCTS, Pakistan will continue to benefit from duty-free exports to the UK. In addition, the DCTS will remove tariffs on over 156 additional products. It will

also simplify some seasonal tariffs, meaning additional and simpler access for Pakistan's exports to the UK.

Total trade (goods and services) between the UK and Pakistan each year currently stands at £2.9bn. In total, 94% of goods exported from Pakistan will be eligible for duty-free access to the UK. Pakistan will save £120m in tariffs on exports to the UK under the scheme.

Martin Dow at CPHI Pharma Awards 2022 Frankfurt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Martin Dow has been selected as the finalist and is proud to present Pakistan at the upcoming CPHI PHARMA Awards 2022 to be held in Frankfurt, Germany.

The CPHI Pharma Awards recognize excellence and celebrate cross-industry innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. This year, CPHI accepted entries from global companies engaged in the design, development, manufacture, and production of large and small-scale drug products.

Martin Dow believes in creating distinction for everyone, and that has pushed us to be at the forefront of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Our selection as a finalist in the sustainability category of the



CPHI Pharma Awards 2022 gives a true representation of our core values of bringing true welfare to society.

The awards follow strict criteria in this category and consider implementation for impact, achievements with high success rates, positive outcomes for stakeholders, and course of action and the future possibility of continued stronger impact. We at Martin Dow are proud to have successfully conformed to it and hope to keep excelling always.

Startup Program

NIC, Ignite, Huawei collaborate to hold pitching day for Huawei Cloud

ISLAMABAD: 16 different start-ups from across Pakistan pitched their business ideas to a set of decorated judges during the Huawei Cloud Start-up program.

The program is a global support program launched by HUAWEI CLOUD for global startups. The main purpose is to help and accelerate the business growth of technology startups and ecosystem partners.

Eligible start-ups who applied and selected to join the program will receive free cloud resources, professional technical trainings, GTM support, mentorship and marketing benefits. Huawei started the program together with Ignite, NIC's, and their partners. The partnership hopes to enable a "Digital Pakistan" and aims to bolster the implementation of Cloud technology through knowledge sharing. A panel of highly reputed people from the Government and private sector were selected to be judges. Each start-up was given seven minutes for pitching and five minutes for question and answers.

With the intent to accelerate startups growth, Huawei established a startup



advisory committee composed of Specialists support including legal counsel, CTO, CDO, corporate marketing, industry experts, senior executives at Huawei, founders of established startups, venture capital firms and government officials.

The top 10 will be on boarded in three different levels and get Huawei Cloud credits and benefits mentioned. The three tiers include Tier 1, 'Hall of Fame' which will include the top three teams, Tier 2 'All Star', comprised of the top 4-6 and Tier 3, 'Rookie', startups that ended with the 7-10 positions. The 16 startups were shortlisted after

an application process that included giving their company name and/or team profile, describing their product/solutions, market analysis, reports for the last three years and projections for the next three.

Mr. Zeeshan Khattak, Chief Commercial Officer of Pakistan Software Export Board stated at the occasion, "Thank you for providing me the opportunity to be a part of such an interactive session. I believe that such events help foster entrepreneurship and innovation. Furthermore, such events also motivate and encourage new & potential talent in ICT eco-system."

PBF demands uniform wheat support price

LAHORE: Pakistan business Forum (PBF) urged the government on Saturday to announce a uniform support price for wheat to eliminate the tactics of middleman and hoarders.

Talking to the media here, PBF Vice President Ahmad Jawad said special arrangements must be made for sowing Rabi crop, particularly cultivation of wheat in flood-hit areas in the country as wheat was the major cash crop and vital source to fulfill the dietary needs of local population. The floods had damaged more than eight million acres of crops and inflicted losses of over Rs 320 billion, he added. He said that over 205,000 tons of wheat seeds would be required to meet needs of farmers of flood affected areas in the country.

Jawad said that Punjab and Sindh had announced Rs 3,000 and Rs 4,000 per 40kg wheat support price, respectively while the governments

of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan had yet to announce the support price.

He said that middleman and hoarders would use the price disparity among provinces to distort the market, which might lead to hoarding and smuggling. Keeping a high price would also have an adverse impact on the finances and subsidies of Federal and provincial governments. Hence, a reasonably high-profit margin, keeping in view the flood situation would be the most prudent course of action to incentivize the next wheat crop.

The PBF official said that cost of production of an average farmer is at Rs 2,495 per 40kg. "However we have to bear this in our minds that wheat is the staple crop as it ensures food security of the country and is cultivated over 22m acres of land and accounts for 8.9 per cent of the value added in agriculture and 1.6% of the gross domestic product," he explained.

China releases first batch of 2023 crude oil import quotas

SINGAPORE: China has issued the first batch of crude oil import quotas for 2023, mainly to independent refiners, four sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The volume issued is about 20 million tonnes (146 million barrels), one source said, nearly three months earlier than usual, in an attempt to encourage refiners to boost production.

China's Ministry of Commerce did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment. Demand for the quotas will depend on refining economics, said a senior executive with one of the refiners involved.

"Refiners may still choose to use the new quotas next year as margins are not that encouraging. So the impact on the crude oil market might be muted," he said. Last month, Beijing issued a third batch of quotas for 2022 that raised its non-state import quotas to 164.61 million tonnes this year.

KATI is first association to introduce EVS app: Parvez Chandio

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: DIG, IT Sindh Capt (ret'd) Parvez Ahmad Chandio has said that KATI is the first industrial association to introduce the Employees Verification System (EVS) app in collaboration with the Sindh police.

The movement of 1.5 million employees is a major activity in the Korangi Industrial Area, this system will make it easier to identify people involved in crime. He expressed these views while addressing a luncheon meeting with the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI). On this occasion, KATI President Faraz-ur-Rehman, KITE Limited CEO Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Mohammadi, Chairman Law & Order Committee Danish Khan, Focal Person of Employees Verification System Farrukh Qandhari, Former Presidents Salman Aslam, Gulzar Feroze, Farhan-ur-Rehman, Tariq Malik, Ehteshamuddin, Farrukh

Mazhar, Maheen Salman, Project Director IT, Sindh Police Tabasum Abbasi, In-charge Operation Tariq Khan Nizami, Software Engineer Asad Ali and other members were present.

Captain (r) Parvez Ahmad Chandio said that we are also contacting other associations so that the record of the people employed can be compiled. This system will not only verify the involvement of people in crimes during employment but also the system will immediately issue an alert in case of any future crime of any employee. He said that the credit for developing this system goes to Project Director Tabasum Abbasi, who worked day and night to develop an effective system that will help establish an atmosphere of law and order in the city. DIG-IT Sindh said that they will continue to bring innovation to this system with time.

He said that the police are making full use of information technology and will soon introduce international standard projects to the public which will

help in establishing law and order in the city. We want to strengthen the prosecution sector to provide transparent investigations in the courts leading to harsher punishments for the accused and speedy justice for innocent people. He said that the public will see a change in the performance of the police in the next one and a half months.

Earlier, KATI President Faraz-ur-Rehman said that Karachi is the commercial hub of Pakistan and its business hub is Korangi Association. More than 1.5 million employees commute daily to Korangi for employment. Through the Employees Verification System, the criminal elements sheltering in the city will be identified, and the accused hiding under the guise of workers can be brought to justice.

President KATI said that KATI is the first industrial association that is introducing a system of verification of employees for the business community. He said that we will be able to set the goals of development only by adopt-



ing modern innovations. Faraz-ur-Rehman said that this system will be provided to the HR department of the industries having more than 150 employees of KATI, while the industries having less than 150 employees will benefit from the data system in KATI.

The participation of the Sindh Police

in the implementation of this system is commendable. Zubair Chhaya, CEO of KITE Limited, said that on November 21, 2019, he first came to know about this system and was very impressed. Previously, employers had no way to verify the criminal records of employees. However, through the Employee Verification System, employers will now

be protected from hiring criminals by using instant technology, fingerprint and face recognition.

He said that KATI is bearing all the cost of this system itself, while this facility will be provided free of charge to the members. Zubair Chhaya said that the city is still missing the Safe City project. If there was a safe city project in the city, the incident at Fire Brigade on Bilal Chowringhi would not have happened. He said that technology is the future and we have to take full advantage of it.

Chairman Standing Committee Danish Khan said that now is the time to take full advantage of information and technology. The crime rate is increasing rapidly in Karachi, and through the use of technology and projects like Safe City, the culprits can be brought to justice in time. He said that with the help of employee verification system, criminals will face difficulty in finding shelter. He said that economic activities will increase by maintaining law and order in the city.

Govt should implement Chapters 84, 85 for importers to save heavy loss

President Dr. Arif Alvi ensured to solve the problems of exporters, industrialists and traders

By Tahir Amin Malik

On the occasion Eid Milad-un-Nabi Sallallah-o-Alaihe Wa Aalehe Wassallum (SAWW) Ch. Sultan Mehmood, Central Chairman, Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association (PHMA) said that PHMA is playing vital role for solving the problems of business community. He said that Pakistan economy is facing a difficult time and has been affected by the recent global warming-induced floods resulting enormous loss of lives and damage to the country infrastructure, and Pakistan had incurred a huge loss of billions of dollars and he expressed the hope that the nation with its proven courage, determination and resilience would overcome this challenge and would emerge better and stronger.

Ch. Sultan Mehmood along with Vice Chairman of PHMA Tariq Rashid they both were present in the 45th Expo Trophy Award ceremony which was organized by FPCCI in Islamabad where the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi was also present. Ch. Sultan said that on this occasion PHMA and Anjuman-e-Tajran Branderth Road, Rehman Galia Lahore also have donated Rs.1 crore for flood affectees which we gave the 5 million was donated to Pak Army for the help of flood affectees while 5 million was donated to Akhuwat Foundation for construction of houses and rehabilitation of flood victims.

Ch. Sultan said that this flood caused the destruction of the people who lost their family lives and he should pay a determination and resilience would overcome this challenge and would emerge better and stronger. He said that Anjuman-e-Tajran Branderth Road, Rehman Galiyan, Lahore, Sheikh Abdul Rab and Sheikh Younas played vital role in the difficult situation of flood and they helped the flood victims.

He said that PHMA and Anjuman-e-Tajran Branderth Road, Rehman Galiyan Lahore will continue a part of this mission in the difficult time for flood victims. He also appreciating the role of Trade Association for solving the problems of Tajran.

Talking about the upcoming election he said that establishment should bring the right people into power on the basis of merit and our politicians should play positive role for our nation, particularly powerful department which has which has bio date of politicians should bring the reputed politicians into power with an opportunity to complete full five years term.

He further said that we should proud of our country which is protecting our country and we should think of Pakistan as Pakistan. He said the MNAs involved in wasting the money and corruption should be expelled. Judges, Police Stations, transfers and postings in the state institutions should made



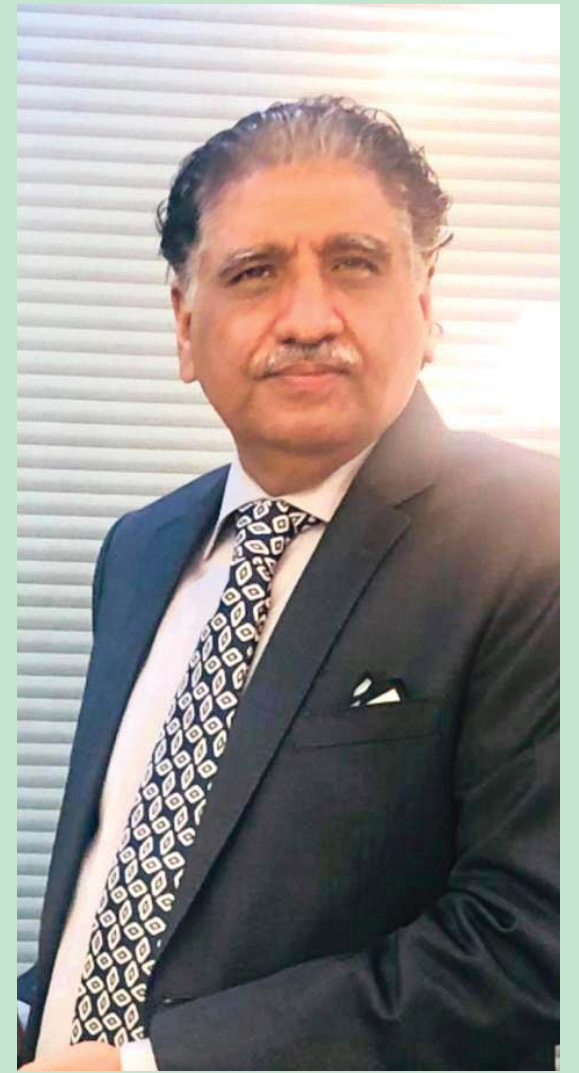
President Dr Arif Alvi, Ch. Sultan Mehmood Central Chairman PHMA, Tariq Rasheed Central Vice Chairman PHMA, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, Mian Muhammad Ali and Dr. Shehla Akram posing for a group photo on the occasion of 45th FPCCI Award Ceremony held at Presidency, Islamabad.

transparently and on merit basis. For 20 years ago government tenure remained from three to three and half years and three years tenure should be fixed for newly Government which is enough time to check out the new government performance.

According to my points of view this tenure should be fixed for three years and opposition party play a positive role in this regard. On this occasion Central Vice Chairman PHMA Tariq Rasheed describe about the Association of PHMA he said that this association was established in 1958 and Ch. Sultan and I am trying to solving the problems of hardware businessman's and hardware market which is working with other markets as a backbone of hardware.

The Central Chairman of PHMA Ch. Sultan Mehmood has also said that I met to President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi during the 45th Fpcci award ceremony which was held in Aiwan-e-Sadar Islamabad and discussed the matter regarding the government is not clearing their goods which is facing by our businessman's and clearing the goods issues for saving

the heavy loss in chapter 84, 85 and President Dr. Arif Alvi ensured that I will discussed this issue with high authority to solve the problems of Industrialists, Traders and businessman's and this is very encouraging for us that President listen of voice and ensured to solve our problems. Ch. Sultan said that Dr. Arif Alvi has good vision for business community. Earlier before this talk FPCCI hold Export Award Ceremony in Islamabad Ch. Sultan Mehmood Central Chairman PHMA and Vice Chairman PHMA Tariq Rasheed who was also present on this occasion both appreciated the award ceremony of FPCCI for encouragement of Business Community. Ch. Sultan said that our business community are facing lot of problems and for the business community need to explore new opportunities so that they could avail fully benefit from the incentives offered by the Government for the promotion of business trade and commerce in the country. He also said that Pakistan offered huge attractions for foreign direct investment and business community should utilize the youth bulge of Pakistan for providing high



products for domestic consumption as well as for exports. Talking about the day of Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi (SAWW), Ch. Sultan and Tariq Rasheed gave the message to the nation that Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi (SAWW) that Allah Almighty gave the title of Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen a mercy for the world to the Prophet (PBHU) to unite the entire world and our Prophet (PBUH) was the greatest leader of the world and the speciality of a leader is to unite people, he maintained.

PCF playing wonderful role for promotion of cycling in Pakistan: Moazzam Khan Klair

Exclusive Interview of General Secretary of Pakistan Cycling Federation Moazzam Khan Klair

By Tahir Amin Malik

Q. How do you see the scope of cycling in Pakistan and where does it stands in Pakistan?

Moazzam Khan Klair: As General Secretary, PCF, I would like to say that PCF President Azhar Ali Shah is playing a wonderful role to bring the cycling on right track and take it out from oxygen. But for this we need patronization of the government, sports departments, and multi-national companies to get better results and for this we are also expending our work. There is more talent in cycling but it needs facilities and then the talent will come ahead and you will see the scope also. Unfortunately our talent in cycling is wasting due to lack of facilities. Because of the facilities cyclists expected could not be provided and for sometimes a few cyclists came but left due to poor facilities. If we want a good name in international cycling, then first of all we would have to check the list of international rankings and their performance and we will have to take the review that where we are standing and what strategy and measures we should adopt. If Pakistan get 50 percent facilities like international countries then we can get more medals on international level.

Q. What kind of role you want from government to promote cycling on international level?

Moazzam Khan Klair: To bring the cycling on international level government should play vital role and provide facilities to the athletes in the shape of incentives. But unfortunately we could not provide our players bread and butter and we will have to save our players from these difficulties so that they could focus on sports. In our country our trainers and players do the training and then they move to do other works to look-after their families and these things also impact to produce players of international level.

Q. What is the role of Pakistan Olympic Association in cycling?

Moazzam Khan Klair: Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) is an important and big sports body in Pakistan that is supporting sportsmen/women of the country. POA is patronizing sports bodies and monitoring all the issues, but it should also play a role in cycling, without its permission we cannot go to participate on international level, so I would like to say that POA should promote cycling.

Q. Do you think our sports departments should be attached with Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) to come at one platform?

Moazzam Khan Klair: I think our sports departments play vital role for promotion of sports. They should work with one vision and their priority should be one that they should focus their energy on the players and should not confuse them and accept each other and work together. Like Arshad Nadeem, who won gold medals in Commonwealth Games



and Islamic Solidarity Games, whom everybody is appreciating but when he came on number 5 nobody care him. So this is the situation that if you perform well everybody will praise you and if not nobody appreciate you. Everybody take credit when you win title. Our sports departments should work with unity and should support the players. We will have to pay self-respect to them and work with respect to each other. We will have to get rid of our Ana and will have to work for our country to fly our flag high. We can go to sports departments and federations for promotion of sports all over Pakistan.

Q. What will you say about the Sports Policy of Pakistan?

Moazzam Khan Klair: This is impossible that any single person can make sports policy for this sport. For this sports person, sports departments/association make strategy for the sports policy. The sports policy should be run long time and should not be derailed. If the new government take charge then nobody should derail it and it should continue on long term and due to this better result could be achieved. The Sports Policy should be made with the consultation of think tanks and knowledgeable sports persons/consultants. A good sports policy can change the complexion of sports in any country.

Q. What future you see of cycling nationally and internationally?

Moazzam Khan Klair: Cycling in Pakistan is going up and credit goes to PCF President, Syed Azhar Ali Shah, who is playing a wonderful role for the promotion of cycling in Pakistan and I think his services in cycling are not forgettable and will have to remember always. I and Azhar Shah sahib are working day and night for the promotion of cycling in Pakistan. Once again I want to say that the government should also support this game and should provide facilities and come forward for cycling with other games. If government supports us I am assure that Pakistan can get more medals on international level. As you see that big example is Arshad Nadeem, he should be provided further training abroad. We have UCI level coaches and if government supports these coaches for training out of the country then there will be a good impact on Pakistan's cycling. As our cyclists also need training abroad, these coaches can play important role for our cyclists. When we talked about our neighbour country, they are giving training to their cyclists in three different countries. Our government choose the cyclists and send them for training abroad so that our image in cycling could be better on



world level and our players can win more medals.

Q. As PCF General Secretary what is your mission?

Moazzam Khan Klair: It's my mission that being PCF General Secretary I want to do more struggle for the betterment of cycling in Pakistan and I think that in future I will be successful. It's my aim that I should pay such kind of role that people remember me in the field of cycling as a role model and this is my vision that I bring good vision in cycling in future and in this regard Shah saheb is also working with me.

Q. To bring cycling on peak what steps you are taking?

Moazzam Khan Klair: I hope that we will bring our cycling on right track but for this we need better infrastructure in cycling. We need wooden track because you know that we went India just two days ago and our players could not perform well due to lack of wooden track facilities. In comparison India have 14 wooden tracks and this is the reason they are achieving medals. Other facilities such as diet, cycling spare parts, nutrition are provided by Indian government so I would like to say that the facilities matter to produce good talent in any country.

Q. What role you are waiting from PCF President?

Moazzam Khan Klair: He is a genuine person in cycling and playing his role for the promotion of cycling. He is also a brave person and working very hard. I pay the tribute to Azhar Ali Shah after his wonderful services for cycling. All the credit goes to him to revive cycling in Pakistan.

Q. Cycling was not included in Commonwealth and Islamic Solidarity Games, what will you say about this?

Moazzam Khan Klair: The POA takes all the decisions and without their permission we cannot participate in any event. In other international event we are participating. We have also participated in World Cycling event in Australia in September. POA did not acknowledge PCF whereas other countries took part in these events. This is unfortunate that Pakistan cycling could not take part, we haven't parallel body and UCI is an international body. Asian Confederation and Pakistan Sports Board acknowledge PCF. Our aim is that POA should solve this matter, our doors are open, we can solve this matter through dialogue, our affairs can be solve through discussion and we are ready for this. For the sake of cycling in our country I and our President Azhar Ali Shah can come on any forum for the betterment of our country's sports. For us Pakistan comes first, our flag should fly high, we should leave everything when Pakistan's name come and for the promotion of cycling in Pakistan we will have



to struggle not in this sports but in every field.

Q. What will you say about 191st Congress meeting in Australia?

Moazzam Khan Klair: Wangg Syed Azhar Ali Shah President PCF and I attended the 191st Congress Meeting in Australia (Wangong), Where President UCI David Lappartient and Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Osama Ahmed Abdullah Al Shaffar also participated and we both did the meeting with them regarding the promotion of cycling in Pakistan and they appreciated the role of Pakistan Cycling Federation for the promotion of Cycling in Pakistan and they ensured that we will definitely work on development in Pakistan and other countries and they want to begin the Cycling training and Coaching program in our country in future which is very positive sign for Pakistan and they said that we want to fully support to Pakistan related to Cycle parts but for this Pakistani Government and Departments played the vital role and contribute in this game then better result can be produced and for this they said we can allocate the budget for Pakistan and different countries in future. I think in Pakistan better result if we produce then UCI will appreciate us and they can allocate maximum portion for us in this regard and I hope that our Government and Departments will fully support to Pakistan Cycling Federation so we can bright the name of Pakistan in national and International level. Pakistan Cycling Federation will provide the platform for the youth and young generation in the field of Cycling we will hold the maximum competition of cycling in near future to provide the maximum opportunity our young Cyclist male and female. We will bring the Cycling in maximum level so that UCI and ACC could provide us maximum facilities in future. If Pakistan gets successful in future to give International infrastructure like Wooden Track and then I can ensure that they will be ready to allocate the Asian Cycling Championship in Pakistan. If the International standard could be meet then we can do the work on it. If we successful to achieve our target on international level then we can put the better image in the world in Cycling. However Pakistan Cycling Federation played the positive role in 191st congress meeting. I want to tell you about the Pakistan Junior young girl Cyclist Mariyam Ali who performed well in World Cycling event in Australia and UCI really high light the performance of Mariyam Ali in whole the world which is great honour for this girl and Pakistan and I think this encouragement could be helpful for Pakistan to bright the name of our country in Cycling. I think in the shape of Mariyam Ali we are watching young rider in future who will bright the name national and Internationally.

Babar, Rauf and Shadab lead Pakistan to six-wicket win against New Zealand

All three sides are using week-long tournament at Hagley Oval to prepare for T20 World Cup

CHRISTCHURCH: On a day where everything clicked into place for Pakistan, they swept aside New Zealand to cruise to a six-wicket win.

A day after Bangladesh had been given short shrift, another near-flawless bowling performance against a rusty, stilted New Zealand batting-line-up saw the hosts restricted to 147 with Haris Rauf yet again the star. In response, Babar Azam steered Pakistan's chase with an effortless, unbeaten 53-ball 79. Quickfire cameos from Shadab Khan and Haider Ali helped Pakistan seal the win with 10 balls to spare.

New Zealand struggled to get going early on, with Devon Conway and Kane Williamson struggling for fluency during their 61-run partnership off 52 balls. The pacers cramped New Zealand for room during the fielding restrictions, while Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz kept things tight during the middle. A one-over blip, during which Mark Chapman hammered Nawaz for 22, threatened to see New Zealand claw back some ground they had lost, only for the visitors to hit back and ensure there would be no further shift in momentum. The last three overs saw 17 runs scored with five wickets lost, by which stage New Zealand were hobbling.

Mohammad Rizwan couldn't find the fluency that has been characteristic of



his game for the past two years and was trapped in front by Tim Southee, before Blair Tuckner sent Shan Masood back for a duck. Shadab was the wrecking ball through the middle order, complementing his captain especially well in a fluent, destructive partnership that also yielded 61-though they took just 42 balls to get there. By then the required rate was effectively around a run-a-ball, where it stayed for the next few overs. Haider Ali and Babar smashed Tuckner for 21 in the 18th over, and sealed a second successive win.

The clamour to have Shadab bat higher up the order has occupied much

social-media real estate in Pakistan, and its immediate vindication upon its deployment could potentially have ramifications for Pakistan through the next five weeks. It is in the top four that Shadab has boasted the highest average and strike rate for Islamabad United in the Pakistan Super League, and Pakistan's tendency to slow down in the post-powerplay overs had led to baying calls to promote Shadab reaching a crescendo.

On Saturday, Shadab showed why. Everything seemed to fall into place after Rizwan and Masood both fell towards the end of the powerplay.

It prompted the allrounder's first-ever promotion to No.4 with Pakistan, and in the absence of the high pace of Lockie Ferguson and Adam Milne, it was a very fruitful match-up. Tuckner was slashed through point first ball he faced, before Ish Sodhi's first ball was hammered over corner and out of the stadium.

In just six balls Sodhi bowled to Shadab, Shadab would plunder 19. In all, Shadab scored 34 off 22 balls to ease any pressure in a fairly small chase, allowing his team-mates to cruise along at a much more sedate pace. The option he gives Pakistan would appear to add another dimension to their batting, though how frequently they deem fit to utilise it is very much an open question.

Conway is New Zealand's highest-ranked batter, and Williamson perhaps the most reliable, but in their first home game of the season, both looked off-colour. Williamson acknowledged his side's performance had been "scrappy", and the 61-run second-wicket stand between the two exemplified that. Pakistan in top form with the ball aren't an ideal opponent for your first home game of the season, and perhaps that showed.

Conway was able to find the odd four or six, but the dot balls interspersed between those boundaries only continued to add the pressure. It was perhaps telling that only after they fell did New Zealand enjoy their best passage of play with the bat, thanks to Chapman who briefly raised hopes of New Zealand posting a total in excess of 160.

It contrasted heavily with the Babar-Shadab stand, which also saw 61 runs scored. But the ten fewer balls it took made all the difference—that was exactly the number of deliveries Pakistan had to spare when the target was chased down.

Really, though, this game was about Pakistan with the ball. The old adage around bowlers winning tournaments bodes particularly well for Pakistan in this tri-series as two superb bowling performances see them sitting pretty at the top of the table.

Northern and Balochistan, face-off in third round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan's best first-class cricketers continue to ply their trade in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 and the third round of the four-day tournament commences today at Abbotabad, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi.

After two of the three matches in the first round produced results, all three matches in the second round ended in a draw. The draws, however, set up the third round nicely with the points difference between top-ranked Northern and second-placed Balochistan reduced to only three before their face-off at the Abbotabad Cricket Stadium.

Balochistan staged an outstanding comeback to secure a draw after falling behind Central Punjab by 350 runs in the last round. It was a valiant second innings century from Imam-ul-Haq — who joined Balochistan after returning from County Cricket — and half-centuries from Imran Butt and Asad Shafiq that added five points to Balochistan's tally, instead

of a defeat.

Northern had begun the tournament with a dominating 10-wicket win. After Sindh had made 457 for eight, Umar Amin and Faizan Riaz scored solid centuries and Nauman Ali made 65 that lifted them to 417. Their young all-rounder Mubasir Khan, who was player of the tournament in the last season, is the joint leading wicket-taker with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Arshad Iqbal with nine scalps. He took four wickets in an innings in the last match.

Central Punjab will rue the missed opportunity of claiming their first win of the tournament after taking a 350-run lead over Balochistan in the last round. Both of their matches proved to be stalemates and they will look to capitalise on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's poor form to earn 16 crucial win points.

Abdullah Shafique and Tayyab Tahir are the top run-getters in this edition with 329 and 302 runs at towering averages of 110 and 151. While Abdullah recorded his maiden double century and a half-century in the

first round, Tayyab scored centuries in two consecutive innings, stretched over the two rounds.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — languishing at the bottom of the points table—are the title defenders. They shared the trophy with Central Punjab in the 2020-21 edition and beat Northern in the final of the previous season. They have had a bad run in the two rounds and will hope to overturn their fortunes, starting today.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kamran Ghulam (249 at 62.25) and Waqar Ahmed (245 at 81.67) are third and fourth on the list of batters with most runs and fast bowler Arshad with nine wickets is the joint leading wicket-taker with Northern's Mubasir.

In the third match of the round beginning from tomorrow, Southern Punjab and Sindh will play at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in front of High-Definition broadcast cameras that will beam the action live through PCB's YouTube channel.

Southern Punjab suffered a heavy defeat by Northern

in the first round and enter this match after drawing their previous round fixture against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Zain Abbas, the opening batter, is the highest run-getter for them with 195—including a century — at an average of 48.75, while Hasan Ali, with six wickets at 34, has been their best bowler.

Sindh come into this match after playing two draws. They were able to post an imposing 457 for eight against Northern in the first innings of their previous round match against Northern thanks to a classy 158 from their captain Saud Shakeel.

Sindh's middle-order comprises experienced Test batters Fawad Alam and Sarfaraz Ahmed and both have made their presence felt by stepping up when the team needed them to. Fawad scored a brilliant century against Central Punjab in what was the two teams' season opener and Sarfaraz has scored two half-centuries — his 148 runs have come at an average of 148 that underscore the struggle of the opposition bowlers to get him out in the first two rounds.

Australian coach Gustavsson defends record following poor results



CANBERRA: The head coach of Australia's women's football team Tony Gustavsson has defended his record in the job ahead of the home World Cup in 2023.

Gustavsson said the team worked hard to achieve the three targets he was given when he was appointed head coach of the Matildas in September 2020.

The Matildas have fallen from the top 10 in FIFA's world rankings in 2020 to 12th in August 2022. In January, Gustavsson's team was knocked out of the Asian Cup in the quarterfinals by South Korea, and in June suffered their heaviest defeat in 25 years, losing 7-0 against Spain. Despite the poor results, Football Australia (FA) has backed Gustavsson, a former assistant coach for the U.S. women's team, as the right person to lead the Matildas to the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Speaking ahead of a friendly against South Africa in London on Saturday local time, Gustavsson said he was given three key goals for his tenure as a coach: boosting squad depth, improving game management in major tournaments, and building a player-focused culture.

"They averaged 2.3 debuts per year over the last decade and now we had 17 debuts after the last 18 months," he was quoted by the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

"I had the privilege to go deep into tournaments in both Olympics and World Cups (as an assistant coach with the United States) and we worked hard at the Olympics on how you manage games in a tournament—whether it is line-ups or scenarios such as extra-time and penalties.

"The final thing they were very keen on was we create a high-performance environment with the players at the center, being a player-centric well-being coach, and we have worked really hard on that."

The 2023 World Cup opens in Auckland on July 20 and ends in Sydney on August 20. Following friendlies against South Africa and Denmark in Europe, the Matildas will next play against Sweden on November 12.

Hockey trials under PM Youth Talent Hunt Programme completed in Swat

SWAT: Boys and Girls hockey trials under Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program have completed in Swat Region wherein a record 240 boys and 110 girl's players turned up.

The trials were held on a newly laid Astro-Turf at Makhhan Bagh Hockey ground, Mingora District Swat and the youth between 15-25-year-old enthusiastically participated. The boys' trials were held under the supervision of Directorate General Sports University of Peshawar Bahre Karam and the girls trials hosted by Deputy Director Sports Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Miss Mariyyah Samin. There were a record number of hockey players as compared to Bannu, Peshawar, Mardan, and Hazara Regions.

PML-N leader Syed Habib Ali Shah



was the chief guest of the closing ceremony of the trials ceremony. He was accompanied by Youth Wing Swat President Mushtaq Muhammad Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Coordinator Engineer Arif Rawan, Olympian Rahim Khan, Director Distance education System Dr. Noor Zada, former hockey players including Dr. Zafar, Malik Wadan, KP Hockey Association President Syed Zahir Shah, selectors including Zia Ur Rehman, Waqas

Ahmad and other district officials of PML-N.

According to the selection committee, 24 players were selected in the trials, including Sohail Abbas, Waheed Ahmed, Shamsheer, Zeeshan Khan, Najeeb Ali Shah, Shan Sami, Hamza Khan, Aneesur Rehman, Abbas Khan, Tahir Khan, Nouman Khan, Faizan Khan, Shah Fahad, Yasir Khan, Sohail Abbas, Ijaz, Zaheer Abbas, Sharji, Shoaib, Muzamil, Shawwal, Abdul Rehman, Mujeebur Rehman and Nouman Ali.

The chief guest Syed Habib Ali Shah spoke on the occasion of the closing ceremony. He said that it is commendable to find talent in the disaster area like Swat which earlier went through a dark time of insurgency and militancy besides being hit by a recent flood.

Tsitsipas fights back against Rublev to reach Astana final



ASTANA: Stefanos Tsitsipas set up a final against either Novak Djokovic or Daniil Medvedev with a come-from-behind victory against Andrey Rublev in Astana on Saturday.

The Greek third seed won 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to reach his sixth final of the season. On Sunday he will face the winner of the second semi-final between Wimbledon champion Djokovic and former world number one Medvedev.

"It was not easy, being a set down," said Tsitsipas. "To have to deal with a very good opponent on the other side of the net made it an extremely physical battle. I am pleased with myself for being so determined to make it work so well. A break in the opening game of the match proved enough to give fifth seed Rublev the first set. But Tsitsipas, who saved five of six break points in the match, improved as the tie went on and he made his move in the 10th game of the second set to force a decider.

The 24-year-old was rock solid again in the third, wrapping up victory after two hours and 10 minutes to take his head-to-head record against Rublev to 6-4. "My mentality kind of changed," Tsitsipas added. "I played with more of an aggressive game style and didn't have anything by luck."

Commissioner Gold Hockey Tournament next month



MULTAN: Divisional administration has decided to conduct 'Commissioner Gold hockey tournament' at newly built hockey stadium in last week of November a step towards restoration of national game hockey.

The event will also helpful in providing positive recreational opportunities to the residents of City of Saints. The teams from different departments and all provinces will participate in Commissioner Gold Hockey Tournament.

Commissioner Multan division Engineer Aamir Khattak expressed these views while presiding over maiden meeting regarding arrangements for hockey tournament. Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to give special representation to players of Multan division.

It was our responsibility to provide opportunities to local talent. Commissioner directed sports department and district administration to make foolproof arrangements regarding the hockey event.

Assistant Commissioners Khawaja Umair, Ayub Bukhari, Aamir Ifrikhar, Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, DSO Farooq Latif and Hockey Association members were also present.

China claims 5th straight women's title at table tennis team worlds



CHENGDU: China won its fifth consecutive women's teams title after sweeping Japan 3-0 at the World Team Table Tennis Championships here on Saturday.

It was also a record-extending 22nd time for China to have lifted the Corbillon Cup in history.

In the two sides' fourth straight head-to-head in the final dating back to 2014, China enjoyed a wire-to-wire victory, as Olympic champion Chen Meng put the hosts ahead with an 11-6, 11-8, 11-8 win over Miyuu Kihara.

Reigning world champion Wang Manyu doubled China's lead after getting past Japanese ace Mima Ito 11-9, 9-11, 12-10, 11-5. World No. 1 Sun Yingsha closed out China's title defense with an 11-7, 11-7, 11-8 victory over Miyu Nagasaki. Germany and Chinese Taipei finished third in the event in Chengdu.

Title-chasing Verstappen pips Leclerc to Japanese GP pole

SUZUKA: Max Verstappen gave himself a great chance to retain his Formula One world title at Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix after grabbing pole in Suzuka.

The Red Bull driver topped the timesheets in qualifying with a time of 1min 29.304, just 0.010 secs ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, his nearest championship rival. Carlos Sainz was third in the other Ferrari.

Verstappen then faced a nervous wait after stewards said they would investigate an on-track incident involving the Dutchman and McLaren's Lando Norris. Verstappen was given a reprimand but will remain in pole.

He can clinch the title on Sunday if he wins the race with the fastest lap, no matter what his rivals do. He will also retain his crown if he wins and Leclerc is third or lower. "I'm not thinking about it too much, just taking it day by day," said the 25-year-old Verstappen, who has won 11 of 17 races this season. "I think what was more important is that we've had a competitive car and clearly we had today in qualifying.

"I hope it's going to be the same tomorrow in the race because we do need a perfect race

to be able to win it tomorrow." Verstappen and Norris nearly crashed in qualifying when the Dutchman suddenly darted left. The McLaren driver was forced onto the grass to avoid hitting the Red Bull, with the championship leader muttering "unbelievable" over his team.

Verstappen later pinned the blame on Norris, saying he should have been "more respectful." "I don't think anyone is trying to pass into that last chicane, so basically by trying to pass me you create that kind of problem," said Verstappen. Verstappen's car lost a chunk of

bodywork on his last lap after he ran wide on a section of the track and onto a kerb. Leclerc was just a whisker away from claiming his third straight pole.

"It was a tricky one but overall the car felt good," said the Monaco driver, who trails Verstappen by 104 points in the championship standings, having had the upper hand at the start of the season. "The first sector feels crazy. There's so much grip and in Q3 once you go for that last lap it really feels special. It was a fun qualifying."

Sainz was close behind his teammate with a time of 1min



29.361sec and said he was "fed up" of missing out on pole. "It was a good lap, clean all the way

into the last chicane but it overcooked a bit heading into the last chicane and it cost me quite a bit

of lap time," said the Spaniard.

Sergio Perez, in the other Red Bull, was fourth. Alpine's Esteban Ocon was fifth, followed by Lewis Hamilton, Fernando Alonso, George Russell, Sebastian Vettel and Norris to round out the fastest 10. AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly failed to make it past Q1 after an issue with his brakes.

The Frenchman, who announced earlier in the day that he will replace two-time world champion Alonso at Alpine next season, was furious. "I feel we could have managed this situation a bit better," Gasly told TV reporters.