



Pakistan paying highest price of climate change: Masood

Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Masood Khan says Pakistan is paying the highest price of climate change. The Ambassador said Pakistan accounts for 0.4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but it has been placed on 8th spot on the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change.



Recent floods are biggest tragedy after 1971: Sherry

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said the recent floods in the country were the biggest tragedy after 1971 when Pakistan had lost its eastern part. She said there was no environment of business as usual in the country after the recent record breaking floods. Some 33 million people, she said, were affected due to the floods and their sufferings still continued.

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SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 15pc

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 15 per cent.

According to the press release issued by the SBP, during the meeting which was held today in Karachi, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the policy rate at 15 percent. The MPC noted the continued deceleration in economic activity as well as the decline in headline inflation and the current account deficit since the last meeting.

It also noted that the recent floods have altered the macroeconomic outlook and a full assessment of their impact is underway. Based on currently available information, the MPC was of the view that the existing monetary policy stance strikes an appropriate balance between managing inflation and maintaining growth in the wake of the floods. On the one hand, inflation could be higher and more persistent due to the supply shock to food prices, and it is important to ensure that this additional impetus does not spill over into broader prices in the economy, it stated.

On the other, growth prospects have weakened, which should reduce demand-side pressures and suppress underlying inflation. In light of these offsetting considerations, the MPC considered it prudent to leave monetary policy settings unchanged at this stage, it added. "Since the last meeting, the MPC noted several key developments. First, the desired moderation in economic activity has become more visible and entrenched, signaling that the tightening measures implemented over the last year are gaining traction," it further stated.

Addressing energy crisis

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurating a 330 MW Power Plant of Thar Energy Limited (TEL) during his visit to Thar Coal Mines Block-II, Islamkot on Monday.



Photo: PID

Saving \$6b on fuel imports

Thar Coal Project to be a game-changer: PM

Shehbaz says Thar Coal Project high on agenda for govt in view of reduced cost of power generation

Spokesman Report

THAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said amid skyrocketing fuel prices, the inexpensive energy production from Thar Coal Mines Project would prove to be a game-changer of development for the entire country.

The Thar Coal Project, he said could help the government save up to \$ 6 billion as the expenditure on the import of energy including petrol and liquid petroleum touched \$24 billion.

Addressing the inauguration of commercial operations of Phase-II of Sindh Engro Coal Mining

Company (SECMC) during his visit to Thar Coal Mines Block-II, he said the Thar Coal Project was high on the agenda for the government in view of reduced cost of power generation. The prime minister on the occasion inaugurated a 330 MW Power Plant of Thar Energy Limited (TEL) and also inspected the construction site of SECMC Mine Phase-II at Islamkot.

Shehbaz Sharif said not benefiting from the country's indigenous coal reserves was a huge mistake and announced to convene a meeting of stakeholders on Thar Coal mines next week to discuss the formalities.

He said the federal government,

in collaboration with the Sindh government, would chalk out a policy framework on the Thar Coal mines project, with an objective to connect it with other coal-powered power plants in the country, producing 4,000 megawatts.

He mentioned the international cost of coal had come down from \$67 to \$44 and had prospects of further reduction up to \$ 30. The coal-powered plants, he said would prove to be a feasible operation for electricity production at the rate of Rs 10 per unit.

The prime minister said Thar Coal project would save the country's foreign exchange and help thrive the national economy. On

March 2023, he said the Thar Coal Mines Project would be connected through a freight rail track for the transportation of coal to other parts of the country.

He lauded the Sindh government, Hubco, the Government of China, and the Chinese companies for training the local professionals and workers, and also appreciated the women working in the field including at water plants and dumping trucks.

He expressed satisfaction that Thar was undergoing fast development after former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto first visited the area in 1996 and envisioned a prosperity plan for the locals.

Asif for debate on KP law, order situation

Defence Minister alleged the PTI chief misusing the resources of KP govt for political gains

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, here on Monday, suggested that a comprehensive discussion on the worst law and order situation emerging due to "negligence of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government" in the province should be debated in the National Assembly.

Speaking on the point of order, here, at the floor of the National Assembly, he said, "I would suggest the House to discuss the prevailing law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa emerged in the recent days."

He said that it was the prime responsibility of the provincial government to maintain the law and order situation in the province, but regretted that the provincial government was busy in

obeying as per the whims and desires of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan.

Moreover, he alleged the PTI chief Imran Khan was misusing the resources of KP government for just political gains. The minister acknowledged the Pakistan Armed Forces unmatched sacrifices in eliminating terrorism from the KP province.

Commenting on the slew of audios leaked where purportedly it could be heard about the manipulation of cipher to gain political advantage, Khawaja Asif said the same had exposed Imran's narrative of "real independence."

He also strongly condemned the KP police for the alleged brutal action against the protesting teachers in Peshawar, outside the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly building.

Mao says CPEC landmark project

For China-Pakistan cooperation in new era

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a landmark project for cooperation between China and Pakistan and the Chinese side would continue to work with Pakistan to deliver more benefits to people in the region.

"CPEC is an important pilot project for belt and road cooperation and also a landmark project for China Pakistan cooperation in the new era," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a question.

According to a report titled

"Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" recently published by China Three Gorges International, some 46,500 Pakistanis had been employed so far in the energy project completed under the CPEC framework.

Noting the relevant report and news, the spokesperson said that energy was the most heavily invested area with the most rapid progress and fruits of outcomes.

"It has provided clean, stable and high-quality energy for Pakistan and also offer job opportunities to boost the country's socio economic development," she added.

Shehbaz, Rana Sana can't stop long march: Imran

The PTI chief says plan ready for PTI long march

Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said that PTI's long march will be the biggest protest march in Pakistan, PM Shehbaz and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah cannot stop the long march.

Addressing to workers' convention in Rawalpindi, the former PM said that it is not the agency's job to tap the phone or to threaten, adding that they are threatening the people who are supporting long march on social media. "Where have the human rights organization hidden today, in our time they have raised each issue," he said.

Imran Khan went on to say that in our country, the law does not have much clout to apprehend powerful dacoits, adding that following recent NAB amendments, no one can touch these thieves because the incumbent rulers made these amendments to get out of the cases.

"The time is near when I will announce the long



march call, and I am preparing my nation for the long march. This long march will be the biggest march in history," Imran added.

Earlier, Imran Khan announced that he would approach a court seeking a judicial investigation into the recently surfaced audio recordings.

Talking to Twitter, the former PM penned that "The AudioLeaks are a serious breach of national security as they call into question the entire security of the PMO, PMH."

"As PM, my secure line

at my residence was also bugged. We intend to go to court to establish the authenticity of the leaks & then form a JIT to investigate which Intel agency is responsible for the bugging & who is leaking out the audios, many of which are edited or doctored," Imran Khan added.

The PTI chairman said that audio leaks were a critical issue because sensitive security matters were illegally recorded and later hacked, adding that these exposed the country's national security secrets to the world.

Audio leaks issue

IK should first appear before JIT: Marriyum

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday asked PTI Chairman Imran Khan to first appear before the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) and then go to the court in the Prime Minister House audio leaks.

"Foreign-funded 'Fitna' (Imran) should appear before the JIT instead of going to the court. He has confessed his crime and it is time for him now to be in jail," she said while reacting to the PTI chief's announcement of approaching the court regarding the audio leaks.

Imran Khan should better explain his position to the nation "for conspiring against the country, politicking on state affairs and at the cost of national interests, and purchasing votes of parliamentarians to prolong his stay in the power", she added.

She advised the PTI chief to abandon his "sinister moves", keeping in view his previous botched plots against the state.

UN COP-27 announces to give Vice Presidency to PM Shehbaz

Shehbaz Sharif's proactive leadership on climate change leads to assumption of COP27 vice-chair

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As an acknowledgment of the proactive leadership and the global efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the climate change action plan, the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP27, has announced to hand over the vice-chairmanship of the conference.

Becoming a vice president of the UN Conference of Parties (COP27) has been a global recognition for the efforts led by Pakistan over the drastic measures to cope with the climate change. Among 195-member countries of the United Nations, Pakistan has received the honour as a result of the effective voice raised by PM Shehbaz Sharif at the global and regional forums, regarding the need for an urgent climate action plan.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has invited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to co-chair the COP-27 meeting.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will jointly chair the roundtable conference along with the president of Egypt and the prime minister of Norway, being held in Egypt's Sharm-el-Sheikh from November 6-8, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Monday.

The meeting will be attended by the world leaders, think-tanks, and the

heads of governments and international financial institutions. This will be the 27th meeting organized by the United Nations regarding the problems of climate change and the need for sustainable solutions.

Following the recent floods in Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively voiced for immediate action on the challenges of climate change, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State and Government, Samarkand, and the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York.

The prime minister's proposal for global cooperation in addressing the challenge of climate change had received endorsement by the SCO member countries. The SCO summit was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 15-16.

The unusual monsoon downpour pattern had affected one-third of Pakistan, inundating large swaths of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, besides affecting few other districts of the Southern Punjab.

PM Shehbaz, soon after the heavy rainfall spells in Sindh and Balochistan that led to devastating floods, galvanized the federal and provincial governments and all the relevant institutions and constituted 'National Flood Relief

and Response Center' so that with collective efforts, the dire situation could be tackled and advance the national agenda by accelerating the rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations.

Soon after the natural calamity, the prime minister started visiting the flood-affected areas on daily basis to ensure that all the required measures were in place. As emergency measures, payment of cash amount and provision of food, tents, blankets and other basic required items, were ensured.

Upon Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's appeal, the Islamic countries, global leaders and the humanitarian organizations promptly supplied the humanitarian assistance.

The time-tested friendly countries, including China, Turkey and the brotherly Arab countries also started supplying relief assistance without any delay to express solidarity with Pakistan.

The visit of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to Pakistan also proved significant in the pending challenge of rehabilitation of 33 million flood affected people. Guterres personally visited the flood-affected areas to oversee the scale of damages and assess the country's post-flood requirements.

After reviewing the situation, the UN Flood Flash Appeal of \$160 million was scaled up to \$816 million.

Planning

Federal Minister for interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan chairing a meeting to finalize strategy on PTI long March held in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

PIA, Roosevelt Hotel not being sold: Saad

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Monday said that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) was not being sold and offered to anyone.

Addressing a press conference at Allama Iqbal International Airport, here, he said those spreading such rumors should refrain from doing so and added that Roosevelt Hotel in New York was also not being sold.

Saad Rafique said that Islamabad and Karachi airports were being made like that of international model, adding that the airports would be outsourced to ensure best facilities there.

He said that all over the world airports were upgraded on same pattern, adding that the airports would be in ownership of the government, but international practices would be followed for bringing investment and to ensure facilities.

The Aviation Minister said that recommendations were being sent to federal cabinet so that certain part of Roosevelt Hotel could be reopened. He said if it would be delayed then the case of this country's expensive property would go to landmark commission, adding that if it would be declared as landmark in that case it would lose its value.

Khawaja Saad Rafique said that in future under a joint venture a high rise building would be constructed and the country would fully benefit from it. As per initial proposal work on its 300 to 400 rooms would be started, he added.

Regarding PIA, he said that this year the revenue target of Pakistan International Airline was Rs 138 billion. He said the PIA during current year would earn between Rs 155 to 160 billion. He further said that PIA management and its entire staff were making all out efforts to overcome problems which PIA was facing. APP

Removing taboos

President urges public's role for awareness of breast cancer

Dr. Arif Alvi expresses serious concerns over high prevalence of breast cancer in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif and Begum Samina Alvi on Monday while expressing serious concerns over high prevalence of breast cancer in Pakistan, said that the media and the society could help overcome the disease by promoting self-diagnosis and removing the allied taboos.

Addressing the launching ceremony of awareness campaign on breast cancer, the president said being a developing country, Pakistan could not afford the treatment of diseases, so it was inevitable to put in all required efforts on prevention.

He said in order to do away with the taboos linked with the disease like breast cancer, it was essential to hold discussions on the subject in seminars as well as through frequent messaging on mobile phones, television and social media.

He told the gathering comprising of the ministers, diplomats, health practitioners, and hundreds of women from different walks of life, that the four-year long efforts by the first lady and other partners were making an impact as the number of women approaching the doctors at an early stage of breast cancer was increasing which would ultimately reduce the



President confers Hilal-e-Pakistan upon MWL SG

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday conferred Hilal-e-Pakistan on Secretary General of the Muslim World League Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa in recognition of his services to Pakistan in different fields at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The award was conferred in recognition of his services in strengthening the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia; for being an instrument for the award of scholarships to Pakistani students in educational institutions and higher learning in Saudi Arabia; for pursuing and safeguarding the rights of Pakistani expatriates in Saudi Arabia; for promoting peace and harmony by holding conferences, seminars and dialogues within the Muslim societies and also with rest of the world with the objective to create harmony and unity in the Islamic world, and showcasing a peaceful harmonious and tolerant picture of Muslims in the world.

mortality ratio. President Alvi repeatedly advised the women to hold their self-examination and consult the doctor if they feel any lump in or around the breast. He said that early diagnosis of breast cancer and proper treatment could help increase the chances of survival among women, adding that chances of cure at early stages were as high as 98%. He said that lessons from the effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the anti-polio campaign needed to be replicated to overcome other diseases.

He said the country could utilize the available workforce in form of the lady

health workers for prevention of different diseases including breast cancer as they played due role in the fight against polio as well as the COVID-19.

The president urged mainstream as well as social media to specify sometime for public messaging on breast cancer in their talk shows, dramas and other programs, besides highlighting the role of breast cancer survivors to guide the people on prevention. He also appreciated the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and telecom companies for spreading awareness about breast cancer to millions of people in Pakistan through the caller tunes.

For 'forging case records'

Sana to approach court against ACE Punjab

ACE Punjab not providing records of case to police along with warrant, Interior Ministry says

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said Monday that he has decided to approach the court against the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab for "forging" the records of a four-year-old case.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry's spokesperson said ACE — by becoming an instrument of PTI Chair-

man Imran Khan's fitna (rabble-rousing) — deliberately concealed facts of a four-year-old case to obtain a warrant against Sanaullah by deceiving and misleading the court.

The spokesperson added that as against the law, ACE Punjab is not providing the records of the case to Islamabad Police along with the warrant.

"This is a nefarious conspiracy against the

federal government in a bid to benefit the rabble-rouser," the spokesperson said, adding that the ministry has decided to take action against officials responsible for falsifying the records and misleading the court. "All the prima facie evidence of forgery and fraud has been obtained related to the case," the spokesperson said. "The federal interior ministry respects the court in every way and abides by its orders."

UN Disarmament Fellows briefed on Pakistan's arms control program

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A group of UN Disarmament Fellows comprising of officers from 24 countries, currently on a visit to Pakistan from 8-10 October as part of their international study tour under the auspices of UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the visit, they received a briefing on Pakistan's perspective on Arms Control, Disarmament, and nuclear Non-Proliferation as well as the imperative of unhindered access to dual-use technologies for peaceful socio-economic applications, a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Monday said.

The group of UN Disarmament Fellow comprised of officers from 24

countries including Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iran, Libya, Montenegro, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Togo, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

During the October 8-10 tour, the Fellows will also be visiting Pakistan Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security (PCENS), Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH), National Institute of Health (NIH), Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Defence Science & Technology Organization (DESTO) and Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) to witness the appli-

cation of nuclear and space technologies in the area of public health, industry, agriculture, food security, power generation etc.

At PCENS and PNRA, Fellows will receive briefings on Pakistan nuclear safety & security architecture, regulatory mechanisms and safeguards introduced by the Government of Pakistan in line with global standards which have been internationally recognized and acknowledged by the IAEA.

The Fellows will also be visiting different laboratories, globally acknowledged reference libraries and state-of-the-art facilities at DESTO and NIH. At SUPARCO, the participants will get acquainted with Pakistan's space programme and its utility for the socio-economic development of the country.

Maryam Nawaz criticizes Imran

For seeking JIT to probe audio leaks

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Monday while reacting to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's announcement to approach a court seeking a judicial investigation over the audio leaks saga said that now he would not get a JIT of his choice.

Taking to Twitter, Maryam penned that "your [Imran Khan] words have no value because as Prime Minister you termed the audio leaks of oppo-

ponents right and used to say that this is the job of agencies."

She further stated that "You [Imran Khan] said our agencies are the outstanding agencies in the world they should know about what I am doing." Maryam added that Imran Khan's real pain was that he would not get the JIT of his choice.

"What is against your opponents is halal and what is against you is haram? There is temptation, evil and conspiracy in everything you say. Shame on you!", she took a jibe at the PTI chairman.

Prudent polices put rupee on upward trajectory

ISLAMABAD: Notwithstanding the flood damages, the prudent economic policies introduced by the incumbent finance minister are bearing fruit as rupee is continuously gaining strength against dollar for past over-two weeks, making it best-performing currency. Even on Monday, Pakistan rupee appreciated by Rs 1.96 against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs 217.96 against the exchange at Rs219.92 on last trading day. The rupee started maintaining winning streak since Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mohammad Ishaq Dar announced his return to Pakistan. Soon after his arrival, Dar declared that rupee was kept under-value and had committed to go after manipulators to restore the true value of country's currency, which he said was at below Rs.200. The strategy adopted by the finance minister went well with the currency market and lifted rupee from worst-performing in emerging markets in the third week of September 2022 to best-performing on last trading day of the previous week (October 7), in just around 18 days.

MQM-P's Tessori takes oath as Sindh Governor

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: MQM-Pakistan's Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori was sworn in as 34th Sindh Governor in a simple ceremony held at Governor house here on Monday.

Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M Shaikh administered the oath to the newly appointed Governor.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Durrani, ministers and other high level officials attended the ceremony.

The new Governor Kamran Tessori on the occasion said that he would take the issues of the province to the forums concerned for their resolution. He thanked for trusting him and said that he would try his best to live up to expectations. He also received felicitations after formally becoming the Governor of Sindh.

WFP scales up ops to complement govt flood response

ISLAMABAD: WFP continues ramping up its emergency operations for Pakistani families devastated by floods. Life-saving food and nutrition assistance and recovery and resilience-building support are being rolled out, with an aim to reach 2.7 million people who are facing emergency level food insecurity (IPC-4) and need urgent humanitarian aid. WFP is also increasing its logistical support to the Government. Nearly 8 million people are still reportedly displaced, 644,000 of them are in relief camps. The floodwaters have receded in some areas, but scores of communities still remain cut off, creating challenges for the delivery of aid. There has been an outbreak of waterborne diseases, with 4.4 million cases of cholera, dengue and malaria reported nationwide, turning the flood emergency into a health crisis. Some 600,000 pregnant women in flood-affected areas have no safe place to deliver babies, while 5 million children do not have immunization and nutrition care. Spokesman Report

EU-Pak Joint Commission

Pak-EU agree to cooperate addressing climate change related challenges

EU expresses solidarity with people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods ravaging country

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 12th European Union (EU)-Pakistan Joint Commission recently held in Islamabad to exchange views on all areas of cooperation between the EU and Pakistan.

The EU expressed solidarity with the people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods ravaging the country and informed about its contribution to addressing the most urgent needs of the affected population. Pakistan expressed appreciation for the EU's and its member states' support in mobilizing funds of EUR 123 million as well as in-kind assistance for relief efforts. Pakistan also emphasised the need for additional assistance for

the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. The two sides agreed to further cooperate to address climate change related challenges.

The Joint Commission was briefed about the outcomes of the Sub-Group meeting on Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights. Pakistan and the EU discussed civil and political rights, the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups and freedom of religion or belief, including concerns about anti-Muslim hatred. They discussed the role of civil society organisations, freedom of expression and opinion, media freedom and the fight against disinformation. Pakistan informed about steps to strengthen access to justice and reforms related to the application of the death penalty.



The EU welcomed Pakistan's legislation on the protection of women's and children's rights, the protection of transgender persons, as well as the protection of journalists. Both parties discussed legislative proposals, namely the anti-torture bill and the bill on enforced disappearances. They also discussed the electoral reforms process including recommenda-

tions made by the 2018 Electoral Observation Mission. Both sides reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and the UN Charter.

Both sides also presented the results of the Sub-Group meeting on Trade. They emphasised the importance of EU-Pakistan trade relations and noted that the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) resulted in an increase in bilateral trade to EUR 12.2 billion in 2021. They discussed ways to address issues hampering trade and investment. The EU stressed effective implementation of the 27 international conventions related to GSP+; Pakistan reiterated its firm commitment in this regard. They also discussed enhancing cooperation in agriculture, food security, and quality standards.

Nation celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with religious zeal, fervor

Day dawned with a 31-gun salute in federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals

KARACHI/LAHORE: Nation celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi Sallallahu-o-Alaihe Wa Aalehe Wassallum on Sunday with traditional zeal and fervour and renewing the pledge to transform their lives in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet Sallallahu-o-Alaihe Wa Aalehe Wassallum.

The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals. Special prayers were offered in mosques for upholding and flourishing of Islam and unity, solidarity, progress and welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

Streets, roads, as well as markets and government and private buildings were beautifully decorated and illuminated with lights, colours and banners bearing writings about the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi Sallallahu-o-Alaihe Wa Aalehe Wassallum.

State and religious organizations had organized a number of activities including processions, seminars, conferences and discussion programmes to mark the annual event.

Punjab government celebrated Ashra-e-Rehmatul-Lil-Aleem (PBUH) at the government level with

religious devotion, respect, zeal and fervour and holding different ceremonies. On the directions of Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, official buildings have been decorated across Punjab. In a statement, the Chief Minister said that the love and devotion with the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the fundamental part of the faith of every Muslim.

In Karachi, the main procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) was taken out from Memon Mosque, which after passing through the traditional route will culminate at Nishtar Park Karachi where the

main Mehfil-e-Milad was held.

Small processions are also taken out from different parts of the city that will be culminated at their designated spots.

In Mirpur Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) processions and rallies were taken out from various parts of the city and other parts of the district. All the processions later joined the main Milad procession taken out from Markazi Jamia Mosque Maulana Abdul Hakeem at the central Allama Iqbal Road. A large number of people from all spheres of life joined the procession.



SWABI: Former NA Speaker Asad Qaiser addressing inauguration ceremony of Fish Hatchery Project at Swabi.

IG FC visits Central Police Office



Spokesman Report

QUETTA: IG FC (North) Major General Chaudhry Amir Ajmal visited the Central Police Office to review the security arrangements for the 12th of Rabi Awwal procession. On this occasion, the Inspector General of Police Balochistan and IGFC were given a detailed briefing about the command and control center by senior police officers regarding the security arrangements for Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH).

IGP Balochistan and IGFC monitored the various routes of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) procession at the (D3C) Data Command and Control Center live. Expressed satisfaction that the procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) was progressing towards its conclusion in a peaceful manner. Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said that on the occasion of Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH), all possible measures have been taken under a comprehensive strategy for the security of special events and processions in all the districts of the province.

Security arrangements have been made in all districts under the personal supervision of RPOs and DPOs for the security of processions and gatherings across the province with the coordination of local peace committees and religious scholars. A briefing has also been given. He further said that the best security arrangements have been made regarding the Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH).

Federal Minister inaugurates flats for labourers

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday inaugurated the flats constructed for labourers in Nawa Kali area of Quetta.

Advisor to CM Balochistan Goharam Khan Bugti, Secretary Labour, Secretary Workers Welfare Board, federal and provincial officers and representatives of the labor organizations were also present.

Addressing at the opening ceremony, the federal minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development said that on the special directives of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari newly constructed flats will be handed over to the laborers in the next two months.

"I am happy to inaugurate four hundred and eight houses for the laborers of Balochistan." If the workers of a country are prosperous, then no one can stop its development."

"In the next phase, the federal minister noted that labor colonies will also be inaugurated in Rawalpindi, Taxila and Mardan cities.

Sajid Hussain Turi recalled that a project of four hundred houses for Balochistan initiated by the PPP in the previous government has been completed today. He further government is committed to provide best facilities to the families of the laborers living in the labor colonies. To send skilled workers abroad, the government will open technical training centers in different cities of Balochistan."

Stressing the need for protecting the rights of the workers, he maintained that no stone will be left unturned to ensure the rights of the working class are protected as per law and constitution of the country.

Pak-Qatar General Takaful, Mentor Health ink MoU

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGTL) and Mentor Health held a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony with an aim to transform the healthcare and wellness experience of masses through digitally integrated health services.

Saqib Zeeshan (Deputy CEO, PQGTL) and Mr. Yusuf Ansari (GM Corporate Business Solutions & ADC, Mentor Health) signed the agreement along with senior officials of both companies.

While expressing his views at the

signing ceremony, Mr. Saqib Zeeshan said, "We are delighted to partner with Mentor Health with a mutual aim of transforming the existing healthcare and wellness landscape which has immense room for innovation. I believe that these kind of partnerships will be instrumental to not only bring the positive change but help transform the way health solutions are obtained which eventually offers a simplified customer journey, help save lot of time, boost accuracy and more efficiency."

Mr. Yusuf Ansari while sharing his views stated that, "Mentor Health works in the Health tech space has revealed that the specific

Human Centered Design methods are extremely effective in uncovering the unmet needs of our client's customers. When we balance these needs against our client's business ambitions and constraints, we have found that several emerging technology and product categories are capable of delivering very promising new engagement models that will enable insurers to dramatically recast their relationships with their clients to the advantage of both parties. I am sure, this partnership will work on many innovative models and the real goal of both organizations is to add value in customers' lives."

Barrister Sultan asks diaspora in US to highlight Kashmir issue

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhary has stressed upon the Kashmir diaspora in United States (US) to play their effective role for highlighting the plights of their brethren in illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) through different activities at their host country.

According to a statement issued by his office here Monday, the president was addressing a public meeting of Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora in Houston.

He reiterated the pledge on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir staying elsewhere in the world that the people will continue their struggle till the achievement



ment of right to self determination provided in the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

The meeting was presided over by Irfan Hassan Chaudhary and was also addressed by Ismahil Shah, Raja Shehbaz, Sardar Rasheed, Chaudhary Ejaz and others.

Barrister Sultan claimed that he presented the opinions

of Kashmiris during meetings with US officials, UN representatives and OIC members and highlighted the issue on different forums during his stay in US.

He further claimed that his presentations had helped these leaders to understand different aspects of the long-standing Kashmir issue and now the Indians had gone on defensive position.

He said human rights abuses in IIOJK were at peak now a days and life of innocent people in the valley had been shortened but Indians must remember that she can't suppress the commitment of people for the right to self-determination through use of gun and atrocities.

He made it clear that the struggle of people of IIOJK would continue despite all odds till the culmination on liberation of their territory from unjust Indian occupation. He appealed Kashmiri people living in US to stand up at this critical juncture of freedom struggle and play their role to raise the plight of people at different international forums in US.

International Space Week concludes at AIMS School System

Senator Kamran Murtaza says such events are necessary to promote and encourage students



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International Space Week was held under the auspices of the AIMS School System.

Senator Kamran Murtaza was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. He said that such events are necessary to promote and encourage students and it is very important for the future of the students. He said that the institution is giving due importance to modern education without sacrificing religious education.

Students are being imparted quality education in the fields of science and technology which is very encouraging, he added.

The aim of the AIMS School System is not business but transforming students into good human beings. The administration of the AIMS School System informed that the week was



observed in connection with Space Day in which all the disciplines including social sciences, science, arts and

crafts, and home economics participated.

Competitions for recycling, baking,



writing, recitation of the Quran, screening of documentaries, model making, and arts were held which

were participated by many students with zeal.

The administration of the school

said that such activities have a very positive impact on the students and help them become a better person.

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:46 am
Zohr	11:55 am
Asr	4:00 pm
Maghrib	5:41 pm
Isha	7:03 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 116
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044

69 more infected with dengue virus

RAWALPINDI: As many as 69 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3,174.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Monday said among the new cases, 28 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, 17 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, 13 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, seven from Chaklala cantonment, four from Potohar rural, three from Taxila Cantonment, and one of each from Taxila rural, Kalar Syeda and Gujjar Khan.

Dr Sajjad added that 239 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 117 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 79 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and 43 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH).

Speakers highlight importance of CPEC for regional connectivity

CLAS, NIMA hold conference on Pakistan's Maritime Security & Blue Economy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Law & Security (CLAS), in collaboration with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), held a one day conference on Pakistan's Maritime Security & Blue Economy at TMUC Forum, Islamabad says a press release.

The speakers at the conference focused on providing concrete recommendations concerning the way forward for Pakistan regarding the full potential of its maritime boundary and realizing the goal of economic development through its seas.

Dr Musadik Malik, Minister of State

(Petroleum Division) was the Chief Guest. The panelists included Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dr Huma Baqai, Cdre. (Retd.) Baber Bilal Haider SI(M), Dr Nazir Hussain, V/Adm Ahmad Tasnim HI(M) SI(M) SS(M) SB(M) SJ(M), Cdre. (Retd.) Zafar Mahmood Tippu, Dr Shaheen Akhtar, Dr Masood Khattak.

Opening remarks at the conference were delivered by Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman Advisory Board, CLAS and Chief Executive TMUC Pakistan.

Executive Director CLAS Mr Rehman Azhar moderated the conference. Baber Bilal Haider SI(M) emphasized the significance of CPEC for developing a Blue Economy and Regional Con-

nectivity. He stressed that the 110million cargo being transported through our waters has affected maritime tourism and resulted in dirty beaches. Focusing on CPEC and the Gwadar port, he reiterated that unless all the powerplants would be fully operational, only then can Pakistan claim to progress.

Dr Huma Baqai joined virtually to discuss the role of the Government in pursuing Pakistan's Maritime interests. She started by stating that Pakistan needs to realize its Maritime potential, and it also needs maritime security and protection. She further touched base on governance issues regarding the coastal area and disapproved of the declining



shipping capacity and development of maritime industrial zones.

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal spoke about the wake of emerging Indo-Pacific Alliances such as QUAD and believed that the world is changing. Pakistan needs to form a coherent National Security Plan for its Maritime affairs, and Pakistan needs to form Counter Alliances to pursue its Maritime interests.

Dr Nazir Hussain discussed the prospects of Pakistan's Maritime Regional

Collaboration. He asserted that Pakistan did not have enough data to move forward with regional collaboration. However, policy papers being developed may have potential.

V/Adm Ahmad Tasnim HI(M) SI(M) SS(M) SB(M) SJ(M) was of the view that Blue Economy cannot be detached from the main economy, Maritime laws about shipping, ports, coastal zones, and explorations need to be developed and conducted.

Celebrations

ISLAMABAD: Muslims gather to attend a religious celebrations for Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the birth anniversary of Muslims' beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Centaurus Mall

Chief Commissioner assures to expedite structure stability report

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA assured that he would expedite the post-fire structure stability report of the Centaurus Mall and move master to finalize its matters.

He also allowed the Centaurus management to arrange the cleaning of the mall besides allowing owners to collect their possessions from the mall. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) that called on him led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan former President ICCI and CEO Centaurus Mall, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI and Ch. Naseer Ahmed senior member ICCI were in the delegation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI and Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan former President ICCI and CEO Centaurus briefed Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman, Chief Commissioner ICT and Chairman CDA about the fire incident in the mall and thanked him for monitoring the rescue and firefighting operations in his presence.

They also thanked Lt. Gen. Sahir Shamshad Mirza Corps Commander 10 Corps Rawalpindi, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Rescue 1122 and Fire Brigade for their active role in bringing the fire under control due to which the Centaurus Mall was saved from serious damages. They assured that ICCI and the Centaurus Mall Management would fully cooperate with the ICT Administration in completing the technical report and restoring the mall back to its normal operations.

12 ربیع الاول



اللہ کے رسول ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:

”یہ ایک بڑی خیانت ہے کہ تم اپنے بھائی سے ایسی بات بیان کرو، جس حوالے سے وہ تجھے سچا سمجھتا ہے، حالانکہ تم اس سے جھوٹ بول رہے ہو۔“

سنن ابی داؤد، حدیث: 4971

عید میلاد النبی
صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم

Eid Milad Un Nabi Mubarak



اللہ کے رسول ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:

”منافق کی 3 نشانیاں ہیں: جب وہ بات کرے تو جھوٹ بولے۔ جب وعدہ کرے تو وعدہ خلافی کرے۔ اور جب اس کے پاس امانت رکھوائی جائے تو اس میں خیانت کرے۔“

صحیح بخاری : 33



اللہ کے رسول ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:

”تباہی و بربادی ہے اس شخص کے لیے جو ایسی بات کہتا ہے کہ لوگ سن کر ہنسیں حالانکہ وہ بات جھوٹی ہوتی ہے تو ایسے شخص کے لیے تباہی ہی تباہی ہے۔“

سنن ترمذی، حدیث: 2315



اللہ کے رسول ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:

”یقیناً جھوٹ برائی کی رہنمائی کرتا ہے اور برائی جہنم میں لے جاتی ہے اور آدمی جھوٹ بولتا رہتا ہے، تا آن کہ اللہ کے یہاں کذاب (بہت زیادہ جھوٹ بولنے والا) لکھا جاتا ہے۔“

صحیح بخاری، حدیث : 6094

آئیں حضور پاک ﷺ کی تعلیمات پر عمل کر کے اپنی زندگی اور معاشرے کو سچ اور اخلاقیات کا گہوارہ بنائیں۔

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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.

Perhaps even more significant is Brazil, where reactionary populism threatens to become normalized under President Jair Bolsonaro. It is no coincidence that Steve Bannon, Trump's former chief strategist, sees Brazil's election as an inflection point for the international system. In his words, the "second most important election in the world." Bannon-style tactics have prevailed in many countries in recent years, poisoning the public discourse on issues such as immigration, reproductive rights and vaccines.

There are multiple reasons why climate action is an especially appealing target for aspiring and incumbent authoritarians, but none has anything to do with the climate itself. The first reason is the perceived cost. Even though decarbonizing and building more resilience into the economy will ultimately be much cheaper than covering the costs of a runaway climate

crisis, such outlays will forever be exposed to political opportunists' bad-faith attacks.

Moreover, populists will smear policies geared toward international accords like the 2015 Paris climate agreement as an abdication of sovereignty. It is no surprise to see Brexit architect Nigel Farage now agitating for a referendum on the UK's stated commitment to achieve net-zero emissions.

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 activity.

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,

Pakistan stands with Kashmiris

The Indian government is severely frustrated that Pakistan is supporting the rights of Kashmiri people on every world forum and condemning the human rights violations of India troops on a regular basis. India is trying to hoodwink the world by claiming that everything is peaceful in IIOJ&K. On the other hand, Pakistan continues to unveil the nefarious face of India in front of the world. The world community has come to the conclusion that peace and stability in the South Asian region cannot be attained until the Kashmir issue is resolved. It is due to the efficient working of the incumbent Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his efforts to improve relations with the world leading countries. Current government is working for the betterment of the economy and the country.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto was once asked by an international media outlet about his views regarding Russian aggression over Ukraine, he counter questioned the role of international community in not speaking on human rights violations in IIOJ&K. Unfortunately, international community is not nudging India over its human rights violations in IIOJ&K for its commercial and business ties with India. The US and some other international powers have some geo-strategic interests with India due to their opposition to China. They want to prop up India against China. We must keep highlighting the plight of Kashmiris at every international forum, so that they get their inalienable right to self-determination.

The unabated series of atrocities against the Kashmiri people and unresolved status of IIOJ&K is the unfinished issue of the partition of the sub-continent. India conspired to malign Pakistan at all the world forums but could not achieve its objective. On the other hand, Pakistan is enjoying the support of all important countries of the world. The Hindutva ideology is on rise in India, under which minorities are facing the worst kind of atrocities by the fascist Indian government and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir is not an exception. It is high time that the world community puts pressure on India to stop its human rights abuses against Kashmiris and come to negotiating table to resolve this long standing dispute with Pakistan. Pakistan has always expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Pakistan will keep on raising its voice against the atrocities of Indian army and its government in the region, until their right of self-determination and freedom is achieved. Pakistan has been highlighting the Kashmir issue in front of the world and made it a matter of international interest. Pakistan and India can work together in diverse fields and can grow gradually through it. We have to work for the settlement of the Kashmir issue to achieve peace and stability in the region.

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."

Biden is less visible and is limiting his appearances to offering support for a very few candidates. The reason for this is that Biden has been making many gaffes, giving the impression to many that he may not be in sound mental and physical health. Biden is also not very popular. Therefore, most Democratic candidates will not want to associate themselves with him.

Trump will use language that could amount to charging the Democrats and Biden with treason. Nevertheless, Biden will refer to Trump as someone who violated the US Constitution by keeping sensitive national security documents in his private residence. This will insinuate that Trump must face justice and be put on trial.

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 elections 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 infrastruc-

ture 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.

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



A century's worth of growth for China's transportation

Jay Ian Birbeck

The Ever Alot, the largest container ship ever built, sailed out of a Shanghai shipyard earlier this summer. The behemoth, constructed using only Chinese patents, is nearly as long as the Eiffel Tower and can transport 24,000 containers. Aside from these accomplishments, the Ever Alot was noteworthy for another reason: It completed China's nearly decade long streak of record-breaking feats in the transportation sector.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China has pumped remarkable amounts of investment into its transportation network. In the past decade, China has completed the world's biggest airport in Beijing, opened the world's first autonomous high-speed railway (HSR) — which also includes the deepest and largest underground HSR station — and opened the planet's longest sea crossing stretching 55 kilometers across the Pearl River estuary.

The HSR network is a good place to start as it exemplifies this debate. The untiring expansion of China's HSR network, growing over 30,644 kilometers since 2012, is one of the country's most successful large-scale infrastructure initiatives. Thanks to innovative manufacturing techniques, the network is now the world's busiest and longest after just over a decade of development.

Above ground, a somewhat more straightforward kind of transportation has transformed China's metropolises. Shared bikes of every color line the streets, providing an affordable, environmentally friendly and congestion-easing option for getting around cities. Short-term bike sharing is a relatively new industry, but this has not stopped its rapid adoption in China. The two largest operators, Meituan Bike and Alibaba-backed Hellobike, did not even exist before 2015, yet their shared bikes have become an iconic characteristic of urban China.

Bike sharing has several advantages, including health benefits, reduced fuel use and financial savings

for users. Aiding the urban transformation, new energy vehicles (NEVs) are changing private vehicle ownership, public transportation and ride-hailing services to make them more sustainable. Several cities, such as Shenzhen, now operate taxi and bus fleets composed entirely of NEVs. In fact, above all the other transportation developments, China's growing dominance in the NEV industry may have the most significance in the years to come.

Ten years ago, the prospects for China's NEV industry were gloomy, with just seven of 25 Chinese cities fulfilling a goal of having 1,000 NEVs and hybrids on the road by 2012. China has since risen to the top of the global NEV sector and now leads industry research and manufactures the majority of the world's automotive batteries. NEVs are expected to become the dominant mode of transportation in the coming decades, so China's first-mover advantage in the industry is significant.

From cycling to electric cars, China's transportation system has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. The nation finishes the decade with the world's largest HSR network, longest highway network, most shared bikes, longest metro system and most extensive stock of NEVs.

It's no exaggeration to say that the country has crammed a century's worth of development and investment into a decade.

Meanwhile, the rate of change is showing no signs of slowing. Before 2035, China is looking to build a 100-kilometer sea tunnel across the Bohai Strait, guarantee one-day domestic deliveries and create an almost 2,000-kilometer ultra-high-speed maglev line linking Guangzhou to Beijing in three hours. Whatever achievements China makes in the coming years, they will be due to the formidable foundation it has laid over the last decade.

Jay Ian Birbeck is a freelance writer based in Guangzhou. He received an MSc in Digital Humanities from UCL. Courtesy: China.org.cn

