



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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کلوا کرے اور اللہ سے کوئی نیر مانگے
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انگلیوں کو درمیان انگلی اور چوٹی انگلی کے بیچ
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RAWALPINDI

Make mental health for all a global priority: UN chief

The United Nations is committed to work with partners to promote mental well-being, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, pointing out that nearly 1 billion people live with a mental health condition across the globe. The UN chief said mental health remains one of the most neglected aspects of healthcare.



Govt ensuring effective steps for polio eradication: Patel

Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Tuesday said that the government was ensuring effective measures under a coordinated strategy for polio eradication from the country. The minister said that the government of Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is determined to eliminate the polio virus from the country.

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By polls in 11 constituencies on Oct 16: ECP



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday announced that by-elections in eight National and three provincial assembly constituencies would be held as per schedule on October 16. A meeting of the commission chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja rejected the request of federal and provincial governments to postpone the October 16 by-polls.

However, the commission decided to postpone by elections on National Assembly, NA 45, District Kurram due to worsened law and order situation there. The polling date of by-elections in Kurram would be announced later.

The meeting also decided to go ahead with holding of the second phase of local government elections in all districts of Karachi on Oct 23, as per schedule.

Election Commission Secretary Omar Hamid Khan briefed that the Commission had completed all arrangements for holding second phase of LG elections all districts of Karachi Division. The Secretary told the meeting that the commission was ready to conduct the elections, however, the feedback of the provincial governments, law enforcement agencies and other security agencies regarding their services in these elections was required for ensuring by polls in peaceful atmosphere, providing enabling environment to voters to exercise their right to franchise on the polling day.

Consultation

Islamabad: Senior leader of PML-Q Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Federal Ministers for Interior, National Food Security, Law, and Board of Investment are also present.



Photo: PID

Response to energy crisis

PM forms ministerial body on energy conservation roadmap

Shehbaz Sharif calls for launching appropriate public awareness drive about energy conservation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed to constitute a high-powered committee to formulate long, medium and short-term strategies on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures Implementation Roadmap proposed by the Power Division.

The committee, to be headed by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, will consist of members including Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Minister for Planning Ahsan

Iqbal, Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar, Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Climate Change

Cheaper electricity can be produced through Thar Coal Project

Sherry Rehman and Minister for Board of Investment Ch. Salik Hussain.

The prime minister, while chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, directed the Power Division to give a detailed briefing next week regarding the power theft and line losses as well as the strategy

to check it.

He also called for launching an appropriate public awareness campaign about energy conservation, a press release issued by the PM Media Wing here said.

The Prime Minister while referring to his October 10 visit to Thar said that cheaper electricity can be produced through Thar Coal Project. He said that unnecessary delay on the project in past was not less than a national tragedy, but now these projects were among the government's priorities.

The Prime Minister further said that the project will help reduce the country's US\$ 24 billion energy import bill. He also appreciated all the stakeholders involved in the project and said in that regard an important review meeting will be

held next week.

The federal cabinet, on the recommendation of Interior Ministry included Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Rwanda, Belarus and Slovakia in business visa list for the promotion of bilateral trade relations with these countries.

On the recommendation of Interior Ministry, the federal cabinet approved the family visa extension period from one to two years. It also approved the issuance of 30 days non-extendable family visit category single entry visa on Travel / Asylum / Temporary documents verified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The federal cabinet approved the addition of following in Pakistan Online Visa System (POVS): -

Imran, others booked in foreign funding case

FIA lodges FIR against 11 persons

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Corporate Banking Circle on Tuesday lodged a case against 11 persons, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in connection with the foreign funding case.

According to the first information report (FIR), the accused, including Imran Khan, Sardar Azhar Tariq, Saifullah Niazi, Syed Younas, Amir Kiyani, Tariq Sheikh, and Tariq Shafi had violated the Foreign Exchange Act.

The accused were beneficiaries of the party's account in a private bank account, whose manager had also been nominated in the case, the FIR said. It further stated that a bank account was created in the name of Naya Pakistan, and the bank manager allowed to



operate that illegal account, while \$2.1 million were deposited by the Abraaj Group of Companies in it.

The PTI submitted Arif Naqvi's affidavit to the Election Commission of Pakistan, which was a false one as the Abraaj Group also deposited money in the party's account, it added. Agencies

PM to participate in CICA summit in Kazakhstan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will participate in the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) being held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 12-13 October.

The prime minister will be accompanied by members of the cabinet and senior officials, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will address the plenary meeting of CICA on 13 October.

He will elaborate upon the significance of CICA as a unique forum for promoting interaction, understanding and collaboration amongst countries across Asia to address common challenges. He will also highlight Paki-

stan's perspective on regional and global issues.

On the sidelines of the summit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with the leaders of various CICA Member States aimed at fostering greater cooperation, particularly in the fields of trade, investment and the Prime Minister's participation in the CICA Summit attests to the importance attached by Pakistan to promoting connectivity and economic cooperation in Asia, in keeping with the objectives enshrined in the CICA Charter, the spokesperson further added.

CICA is an intergovernmental process comprising 27 countries from all across Asia. Established in 1992, it focuses on promoting peace, security and socio-economic development in the Asian continent. Pakistan is one of its founding members.

IMF sounds alarms over rising inflation in Pakistan

Global tightening in financing conditions could trigger widespread emerging market debt distress

KARACHI: With climate-induced disasters, pandemic after-shocks, and a war in Europe, global lender International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the world economy to slow considerably over the next 18 months. In Pakistan, there will be more inflation and unemployment.

This was disclosed as IMF released its "World Economic Outlook 2022: Countering the Cost-of-living Crisis" report on Tuesday. The report conceded that globally, inflation was the highest in decades as most regions opted for financial belt-tightening measures to stop the haemorrhage.

"The global economy's future health rests critically on the successful calibration of monetary policy," the report said. It said that global growth is forecast to slow from 6% in the fiscal year 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023. The global lender said that this was the weakest growth profile forecasted since 2001, except for the global financial crisis



and the acute phase of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The report further forecasted that global inflation would rise from 4.7% in FY 2021 to 8.8% in FY 2022, but then decline to 6.5% in 2023 and to 4.1% by 2024.

"More energy and food price shocks might cause inflation to persist for longer," it warned, adding, "Global tightening in financing conditions could trigger widespread emerging market debt distress."

The report said that front-loaded and aggressive monetary tightening would be critical to avoid inflation

de-anchoring as a result of households and businesses basing their wage and price expectations on their recent inflation experience.

For Pakistan, the IMF report suggested that over the next 18 odd months, it will see growth slow from 6% in the outgoing fiscal year 2022 to 3.5% in the ongoing fiscal year 2023. But will rebound to 5% by FY 2027.

During this time, inflation will increase from 12.1% to 19.9%. Unemployment is also slated to increase from 6.2% to 6.3%. However, the economic contraction will see its current account deficit shrink from 4.6% of GDP to around 2.5%. APP

IK's blame game aimed at protecting his thefts: Marriyum

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says PTI chairman Imran Khan's blame game is aimed at protecting his thefts.

Addressing media in Islamabad on Tuesday, she said Imran Khan's blames of foreign intervention through cypher are contradictory to his own views and various other statements.

The Minister said Imran Khan used the office of Prime Minister for his personal gains and compromised country's prestige. She said people of the country are aware of Imran Khan's fake personality and they will not allow him to ruin country's economy again.

The Minister said President Dr. Arif Alvi has a liar, who got caught doing illegal foreign funding worth billions of rupees and propagated the conspiracy of foreign intervention through cypher.

COAS, British envoy discuss regional security situation

British HC appreciates Pakistan's efforts for regional stability

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Doctor Christian Turner called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

According to ISPR, during the meeting, matters of mutual interest and regional security situation including bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed.

The COAS said that Pakistan values UK's balanced role in regional affairs and we look forward to enhance mutually beneficial relationship based on common interests.

The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims.

The dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and also pledged to play his rule enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Muslim



World League & President of the Organization of Muslim Qamar Javed Bajwa here at GHQ on Tuesday.

Pakistan values UK's balanced role in regional affairs and we look forward to enhance mutually beneficial relationship based on common interests: Gen Bajwa

Scholars, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Sheikh Doctor Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral security cooperation and regional peace and stability came under

discussion, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Secretary General said Pakistan had a significant place in the Muslim world and it was playing a vital role for peace and stability in the region.

The COAS said the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were based on bonds of brotherhood and mutual trust. "Both nations will continue to play a part for peace and stability & betterment of Ummah", he added.

Defence Partnership

Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan and Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, Additional Secretary Defence with Korean Vice Minister, Shin Boem-Chul during MoU signing ceremony held in Seoul on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Expats sent \$2.4b remittances in Sept: SBP

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday said the overseas Pakistani workers sent home total remittances of \$ 2.4 billion during the month of September. "In terms of growth, during this month (September 2022) the remittances decreased by 10.5 percent on month-on-month basis and by 12.3 percent on year-on-year basis," an SBP press release said.

With cumulative inflow of \$ 7.7 billion during July-September 2022, the remittances decreased by 6.3 percent as compared to the same period last year, it added.

The SBP said the remittances inflow last month were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$616.6 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$474.3 million), the United Kingdom (\$307.8 million) and the United States (\$268.1 million).

Exposing India

Pakistan rejects Indian PM's remarks

India must also be held responsible for its nefarious scheme of altering demography of IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday while categorically rejecting Indian Prime Minister's remarks about Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) during a public rally in Gujarat, said that his farcical contention that he had, somehow, "resolved the Kashmir issue", was not only false and misleading but also reflected how oblivious the Indian leadership had become of the ground realities in IIOJK.

"Instead of making delusional statements about having resolved the dispute unilaterally, the Indian leadership must deliver on their commitments to the Kashmiris and to the world and ensure that the people of Kashmir are accorded their inalienable right to self-determination," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said.

Pakistan has consistently called upon the international community to assume its role and responsibility with regards

to IIOJK and the ongoing Indian atrocities in the occupied territory.

"The only solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute lies in ensuring that the Kashmiris are allowed to exercise their right of self-determination through the democratic method of holding a UN-mandated free and impartial plebiscite as espoused in the relevant UNSC resolutions and as per the wishes of the Kashmiri people," the spokesperson said.

India must also be held responsible for its nefarious scheme of altering the demography of IIOJK, as well as for its brutal repression of the innocent Kashmiris.

"Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute, the resolution of which has been on the agenda of the United Nation since 1948. Despite clear UN resolutions that prescribe a free and impartial plebiscite for the final disposition of the dispute, India has not only illegally occupied the territory but

is also guilty of egregious human rights violations employing over 900,000 brutal occupation force," it was added.

The fact remained that the people of IIOJK continued to brave India's reprehensible occupation which it sought to perpetuate through malicious demographic changes and strong-arm tactics.

"The craftily staged visits of the Indian leadership to the occupied territory and choreographed launches of so-called development projects in a bid to create a façade of 'normalcy' will neither dampen the spirit of the Kashmiris struggling to break free from the illegal Indian occupation nor would it deceive the world into believing India's deception," it was added.

Pakistan reiterated its call on human rights and humanitarian organizations to condemn India's state-terrorism in IIOJK and demand an immediate reversal of the Indian government's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

Talks with IMF, WB

Finance Minister leaves for US

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday left for the United States (US) to hold talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB).

According to details, the finance minister will hold talk with the international lenders for review of micro-economic framework for 2022-23 amid devastating floods in the country. Pakistani official has said that a relaxation of the budget deficit and current account deficit targets will be requested. Talks on freezing the Petroleum Development Levy (PDL) and Fuel Price Adjustment (FPA) are also expected.

A day earlier, the newly appointed finance minister on Sunday said that Pakistan would deliver on commitments made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ensure the successful completion of the second program during his tenure.



Pakistan's central bank has also kept its key policy rate unchanged at 15% on Monday a day after Moody's cut Pakistan's sovereign credit rating by one notch to Caa1 from B3, citing increased government liquidity and external vulnerability risks.

This was the central bank's first policy decision since floods this summer killed more than 1,700 and caused an estimated \$30 billion in damage. GDP growth could fall to around 2% in the 2023 financial year compared to previous forecast of 3%-4% before the floods, the central bank statement said. Agencies

Thar-coal power generation to jump 1,320MW in Dec: Dastgir

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan on Tuesday said that total electricity generation from local Thar coal would jump to 1,320 MW with addition of 330 MW by ThalNova Power Thar Ltd's Plant in December.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the other day, formally inaugurated 330 MW HUBCO Thar Coal Power Plant which increased the electricity generation to 990 MW from local Thar coal.

He said the people had started getting dividends of projects launched by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2014. As many as 660 MW electricity had already been supplied to the National grid since 2019 through local Thar coal, he added.

The minister said that another 1,320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Power Project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would start generation before the next summer which would help double electricity generation to 2640 MW.

He said Thar coal reserves was a blessing for the entire country, adding that as per initial estimate, the reserves stood 175 billion metric tons. The Thar coal reserves spread an area of over 100 square kilometers and had been divided into 13 blocks, he said.

The minister said currently out of total 13 blocks, only two blocks were opened. Presently, three power plants with accumulative capacity of 990 MW had been operationalized on local Thar coal, he added. APP

12 Pak Army Maj. Generals promoted to Lt. General's rank

RAWALPINDI: Twelve Major Generals of Pakistan Army have been promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant General. According to ISPR, those promoted include Major General Inam Haider Malik, Major General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, Major General Nauman Zakria, Major General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Major General Ayman Bilal Safdar, Major General Ahsan Gulrez, Major General Syed Aamer Raza, Major General Shahid Imtiaz, Major General Muhammad Munir Afsar, Major General Babar Iftikhar, Major General Yousaf Jamal and Major General Kashif Nazir. Staff Reporter

Time is near for announcement of long march call: Imran

PTI chairman seeks commission comprising 'credible judges' to probe cypher issue

NANKANA SAHIB: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he was grateful to the incumbent government for raising the cypher issue, and a commission comprising credible judges should be formed to probe into the cypher issue.

Addressing a rally at Nankana Sahib, the former PM while reacting to the current wave of inflation in the country said that prices of electricity, diesel, and petrol have doubled in

recent times, adding that PTI tried to build an exemplary education system and administrative but his government was ousted through foreign conspiracy. He added that he did not trust the government's commission over the cypher issue because they were part of the conspiracy.

"I am grateful to the government for raising the cypher issue, and a commission consisting of credible judges should be formed to investigate the cypher matter," Imran said.

The former PM went on to say

that "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.

"In our country, the law does not have much clout to apprehend powerful dacoits, and the following recent NAB amendments, no one can touch these thieves because the incumbent rulers made these amendments to get out of the cases," the PTI chairman said. Agencies

Korea's support for Pakistan's flood relief efforts over \$2.5m

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of the Republic of Korea has pledged additional support, which is in response to the revised funding appeal launched by the United Nations and Pakistan in Geneva on 4th October with all UN member states and humanitarian organizations.

The Korean Government in the initial flood appeal of August had already pledged three hundred thousand dollars, bringing the total



support by Korean Government to 2 million dollars.

On top of the Korean Government's assistance, the Korean Private Sector Companies operating in Pakistan have also contributed upwards of half million dollars so far. Also on 5th October, a ceremony was held at the Korean Embassy in Islamabad where

private sector companies and the Embassy donated 8.9 million rupees directly to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund.

Bringing the cumulative contributions from the Korean Government and the Private Sector Companies to 2.5 million dollars with more donations expected to ensue soon.

USG lauds Pakistan's role in peacekeeping ops

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Under-Secretary-General (USG) for UN Department of Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, called on Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

Underscoring Pakistan's unique role and contribution as one of the top troop contributing countries over decades, the Minister of State reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for UN peacekeeping including our commitment to promote gender perspective in peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

They exchanged views on further enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations through advancing political processes, ensuring safety and security of peacekeepers, and provision of adequate resources corresponding to the mandates.

The Minister of State noted that the important work carried out by the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was a symbol of the UN's commitment to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and recognition of the need for its peaceful resolution.

The USG appreciated Pakistan's leading role in UN peacekeeping and paid tribute to Pakistani peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving under the UN flag.

President stresses educating public on oral hygiene

Dr Alvi lauds the professionalism of the country's doctors and dentists

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said the best way to address health challenges in Pakistan including dental ailments was to promote the importance of prevention over the curative approach of medical treatment.

Addressing here at the convocation ceremony of Foundation University College of Dentistry, he said the adoption of preventive practices against diseases would significantly help reduce the number of patients. President Alvi said dental diseases in the country could be largely overcome by educating people about oral hygiene through regular brushing.

He mentioned that proper oral healthcare also contributed to the body's natural defence mechanism, thus cutting down the chances of several other diseases.

He stressed the importance of especially educating children about dental healthcare at school to help them prioritize their own health.

In this regard, he said, community involvement was important to spread the message and urged the doctors to demonstrate good communication and empathy while treating their patients. Dr Alvi lauded the professionalism of the country's doctors and dentists for contributing towards improving the health of the general public.

The president congratulated the young dentists, their parents and teachers on the landmark achievement and expressed satisfaction about a large number of women graduates.

However, he pointed out that a significant number of women doctors left their professions after marriage, thus inflicting a big loss of good human resources



to the country.

Dr Alvi called for introducing a 'feasible

solution by the institutions such as encouraging part-time jobs for doctors to

help them continue with their profession besides raising their families.

President AJK emphasizes on USA's pro-active role to resolve Kashmir dispute

Says UN should play its much-needed role in stopping human rights abuses in IIOJK

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has expressed the optimism that the American people especially the Biden administration would play their pivotal role to seek early solution of the Kashmir dispute to bring an immediate end to the ongoing bloodshed and violence in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

While addressing a reception given in his honour by Chaudhry Shehbaz here in Boston, the president said, "Since I have presented the Kashmiris' position before the world forum (United Nations) as well as the US state department and I hope that the UN particularly the United States of America will play its much-needed role in resolving the Kashmir issue and stopping the ongoing human rights abuses in Occupied Kashmir".

The AJK President said that the



US was in a better position to resolve the Kashmir issue. "We expect the US government as well as the American people will play their role to help resolve the lingering dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people". He said that the Kashmiri people in the Indian occu-

piated territory were currently going through a difficult situation.

"The worsening political and human rights situation in Kashmir merits urgent attention of the international community", he added. Referring to the USA's track record on human rights, Barrister Chaudhry said, "America

is a diverse and multicultural society where people of every colour, race and school of thought live together peacefully".

The Americans, he said, are open-minded and good-natured and do not harbour malice against anyone. "They (Americans) have an excellent track record on human rights that is the reason a large number of Kashmiris are working here and enjoy equal opportunities to advance as the American people", the president said.

On this occasion, Boston Mayor Liza Hunt and Boston Police Chief Thomas Oates warmly welcomed President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry upon his arrival at the reception ceremony. In their addresses the duo said that Barrister Chaudhry's visit will be instrumental for American people to understand the Kashmir issue and will also strengthen the ties between peoples of both the regions.

Malnutrition amongst children biggest health concern: Dr. Hina Anees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The right nutrition at the right time is essential for our children's development, health, and overall mental growth.

This prepares them to grow and learn during their schooling and contribute to their society, while also preparing their immune systems for diseases. As per Unicef, the malnutrition situation is quite severe in Pakistan, with stunting becoming prevalent in the country. It does not only pertain to the amount of food consumed but also the quality of diet, children are exposed to. Inadequate forms of nutrition are one of the major reasons for underdeveloped children in our society. This a problem to be taken seriously in the coming years.

Speaking to Nutritionist Hina Anees on this situation, she stated:



"The effects of low-quality diet are very evident in the current generation. The lack of healthy and reliable food sources specifically adds to health issues in Pakistan. Children at school-going age require intra-day nutrition to meet their development goals.

This can be easily achieved and enhanced via the introduction of small amounts of Flavored milk during their lunch breaks. Malnutrition amongst children will be Pakistan's biggest health concern and should be

the number one priority for parents. encourage milk consumption in children, flavored milk can be considered a healthy source of calcium and vitamin A, and D during the day, provided it's in the right quantity"

Milk is considered as a staple source of food in children as it is enriched in calcium and vitamins and acts as a catalyst to improve muscle protein synthesis. Some people also regard milk as the 'new sports drink' as it restores energy and revitalizes you for what's coming ahead of you. However, children usually dislike the bland and bitter taste of it and run away from it. Flavored milk can cater to this problem and draw children towards it. Moreover, tetra-packaged sources are much safer for kids right now as the milk available on the shops may have been contaminated with germs and bacteria from the flooding.

Atlas Copco extends support to provide medical assistance in affected areas



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Atlas Copco, world's leading provider of productivity solutions, has teamed up with "Transparent Hands" to provide medical assistance in the flood affected areas, to play its part in rebuilding efforts as a good corporate citizen of Pakistan. It will be providing the preventive healthcare assistance and clean drinking water to the families present in the relief camps.

First medical assistance camp of the campaign was put up in Thatta Sindh, where around 600 patients were facilitated in a day, by the expert doctors, and were provided with check-ups, first aid, medicines, Hepatitis B & C Screenings, and Tests for Typhoid, Malaria, Uric Acid, and Cholesterol.

Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Sohail Shahzad, General Manager, Atlas Copco Pakistan said, "In this moment of national tragedy and calamity, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected. Floods have multiple effects on the life and livelihood of people, the contaminated drinking water is causing all kinds of health issues. Together with "Transparent Hands", we are conducting medical camps in multiple remote areas where a team of trained doctors not only treats the patients but also provides them with free medicines and clean drinking water."

The flood relief camp team is of 18 members, comprised of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, patient registrars, and support staff. In the coming days the medical assistance will also be extended to effected areas of Mirpur Khas & Dadu districts.

He further added, "We at Atlas Copco, along with the support of our global offices, and not-for-profit organization "Water for All", have always stood up everywhere in the world to support the communities and become a helping hand during natural calamities or challenges."

"Water for All" is the community engagement initiative of Atlas Copco, managed through the dedicated employee volunteer workforce. The initiative funded projects are designed to provide access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. Since its start in 1984, the initiative has reached millions of people across the world, and "Water for All" chapters are present in over 50 countries now.

He further added, "We at Atlas Copco, along with the support of our global offices, and not-for-profit organization "Water for All", have always stood up everywhere in the world to support the communities and become a helping hand during natural calamities or challenges."

CM pays tribute to martyred SI

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvaiz Elahi on Tuesday paid tributes to the martyred Sub Inspector Sarwar Akram who was shot dead by dacoits in a village near Pakpattan.

In a press statement, the CM noted that SI Sarwar Akram fought the accused with bravery and sacrificed his life in the line of duty.

He made the Punjab police proud and set an example of courage, the CM said and added the Punjab government would take full care of the heirs of SI Sarwar Akram. He directed that injured officials be provided with the best treatment facilities.

PTI will clean sweep 16th October by-polls: Asad Qaiser

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is strong hold of PTI and Chairman PTI Imran Khan will clean sweep upcoming bye-polls.

He said that KPK people will participate in Azadi long march in thousands. Former NA Speaker expressed these views while doing door to door bye election campaign at Na-31 Peshawar.

Former NA Speaker said that PDM is planning to run away from bye-polls as people verdicts is loud and clear. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa people verdict is in favor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on. He further said that due to inflation, people are in miserable conditions and are forced to do suicides.

Khalid Ameer visits schools in Gujrat



Spokesman Report

GUJRAT: Director Education Punjab Workers Welfare Fund Khalid Ameer along with Mazhar Baloch (Assistant Director Sports) visited Worker's Welfare Schools of Gujrat Division.

He visited Class Rooms, Science labs, Computer Lab and appreciated the working of Principal along with the Teaching and Non teaching staff of the School. He also planted a plant in the school lawn regarding the Clean Green Pakistan Campaign.

He also attended the Certificates distribution function as the Chief Guest which was arranged by the Principal of Workers Welfare Higher Secondary School Boys Gujrat for the Position Holders of SSC Exams. He also distributed Certificates amongst teaching staff on their performance.

The worthy Director specially appreciated the position holders and the active participation of Principal Mian Safdar Ali and the staff for the bright future of the students. He conveyed his gratitude to the Principal, as well staff upon their excellent performance. During his interaction with students he was more than satisfied with their response.

Overall, it was a highly appreciable visit and a great milestone for Workers Welfare Higher Secondary School Boys Gujrat.

Damages survey enters final phase at Kohistan Lower

KOHISTAN: Following the directives of the provincial government in Kohistan Lower district, the house damage survey is in the final stages of completion. To register the genuine beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner has constituted two assessment teams headed by the Officer-in-Charge who was supervised by Assistant Commissioner Patan Hafeezullah.

The survey of the remote areas of Union Council Ranulia has been completed by staying in the area for 4 days and 3 nights. The team started the survey from Doga and completed the survey of Dogi in Dumikhel Pass and Maria after completion of the last village the team.

The next morning they completed Dara Shabikhel which was started from Chidrai and finally completed the assigned target by surveying the affected houses of Berkley via Bela Manikhel.

Meanwhile, the team hiked continuously from 7 am to 7 pm. The entire team performed this difficult task with utmost zeal, sincerity and integrity. A letter was also sent to the police to take action under the NDMA Act against a village councilor and 3 others who tried to take advantage of the survey through fraud and misrepresentation.

The Assistant Commissioner appreciated the services of all the team members for completing the survey of the area in a peaceful and highly professional manner. AC has thanked the people of the area for their cooperation and hospitality of the survey team.

Sixth edition of Pakistan Industrial Expo 2022 from Oct 15

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Sixth edition of Pakistan Industrial Expo 2022 is going to be held from October 15th to 17th 2022 at the Lahore Expo Center, co-hosted by the University of Sargodha and Everest International Expo with special emphasis this year linking the industry in Sargodha with international players.

Over one hundred and twenty top industrial Chinese manufacturers will participate

in this event showcasing mainly CNC Machinery, Construction Machinery, Renewable Energy, Building materials, Agricultural Machinery, Hardware, Bearings, chemicals, Auto & Parts and so on.

Pakistan Industrial Expo 2022 is a unique exhibition showcasing Chinese products. The exhibition will use both "Online & Offline" methods. The products will be physically present at the booths set up at the expo site while B2B meetings will be arranged through

ZOOM platform and assistant at every booth. In this way, the event would go on with a minimized impact of COVID-19. All of the Chinese products have already been transported to Lahore.

After the exhibition, all the products would shift to a permanent display centre located in Johar Town, Lahore. It is open to all businessmen and related manufacturers who can have an online meeting immediately upon request. Yousef Fa, General Manag-

er of Everest International Expo said: "We attempted online-offline mode of the event in 2020, and it worked remarkably. After many successful stories, now we can easily manage and establish a high-quality B2B platform to boost mutual economic and trade communications."

In this way, Pakistan Industrial Expo has become one of the very few exhibitions which continuously held even during the hardest time of COVID-19.

Usman Chachar, a genius and efficient CS AJK

Basit Khan

Historical accounts and empirical evidence support the claim that bureaucratic effectiveness and the development are strongly correlated. And narrative evidence by historians and political scientists fuels the idea that establishing an effective bureaucracy has been vital to the development of modern nation and states.

The Chief Secretary has a key role in the AJK's development and establishing good governance and strengthening the political and ideological relationship between the AJK and Pakistan. The people of Azad Kashmir, have not only ideological but also religious and emotional ties with Pakistan and this is the reason why their expectations regarding Pakistan have always been so high. Azad Jammu Kashmir is a sensitive area where it is difficult for lent officers to win hearts and minds of people. The role of Chief Secretary in AJK has been more dependable, the responsibilities are increased when there are governments of different ideologies in the federation and Azad Kashmir.

Mohammad Usman Chachar was appointed as Chief Secretary in AJK in May 2022 who played a key role in solving the unresolved issues



between the federal government and the Azad government since his appointment. He is utilizing his full potential and capabilities to strengthen the ideological and intellectual links between the people of two regions.

He has proved by his behavior that whoever the government should be, the officer goes with the state and the actions and sympathies of the government officer are with the state. Due to his excellent administrative skills, the developmental process in the state is paced up and merit & governance are progressing rapidly in the territory. When the AJK cabinet decided not to present the 2022-23 budget in the event of cuts by Islamabad on the region's budgetary grants in past June, the present chief secretary played vital role in straightening out the issues.

Muhammad Usman Chachar is a very capable

officer and efficient bureaucrat with good reputation. He belongs to Pakistan Administrative Services and has extensive experience in administrative matters. He is a professional officer with extra ordinary skills. He is also a MBBS doctor, MBA and Law graduate. The CS has the ability to look at big picture with holistic view to address any organizational or systemic issue.

Good governance is the key to resolve problems being faced by the common man, The Chief Secretary has played a significant role in terms of good governance, including bringing the selection board for the appointment of the secretary to the government. For a quality and rapid service delivery there was dire need to have a proper system within the departments so that the issues could be addressed effectively in a befitting manner. Stressing the need for a well-coordinated system, he said while talking to media persons in the state capital "Once you have a system in place, you get things done properly". The Chief Secretary is trying his best to contribute to make the system stronger. This is the reason that the masses in the Azad State are praising his initiatives.

The Chief Secretary is

vigorously working on the long-standing issues of AJK, especially to create new employment opportunities and increasing the income of the state. Chief Secretary's efforts on local body elections, upcoming census of Azad Kashmir, health, development of infrastructure and backing-up of information technology are commendable. The Chief Secretary has asked all the departments for the details of their daily duties as well as their plan for the next year which is immense step towards the bright future. The massive potential in the fields of information, hydel, minerals and tourism could be greatly helpful in stabilizing the state's economy. The Chief Secretary's focused and committed to take advantage of this potential.

The unemployment has spiked up to 14 percent and the government is right now the biggest employer in AJK. Tourism is a major contributor to employment opportunities particularly for women, youth and indigenous people and can lead to the reduction of poverty in this region also. The Govt of AJK is taking measures to promote tourism in Azad Kashmir. In this connection the CS has also visited the Neelum and Leepa Valley in recent days to review tourist attractions.

Nepali envoy for enhancing trade ties with Pakistan

Chairman of PAEI Khurshid Barlas met with the Nepalese Ambassador along with his delegation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Tapas Adhikari, was met by Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industries Khurshid Barlas along with a delegation including Executive Member Muhammad Aminur Rehman, Fahad Barlas Canonier Diplomatic Affairs and Mohsin Khalid.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on tourism and economic issues between Pakistan and Nepal. The Nepali Ambassador emphasized that trade relations between Pakistan and Nepal should be increased. There are vast opportunities for the promotion of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Nepal in various fields, which need to be utilized. Emphasized that PIA Special Operations should

be resumed to remove the traffic jams and help the economy flourish. During the conversation, the Nepali Ambassador was invited by Khurshid Barlas, Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industries, to participate in the second Pakistan International Property Exhibition to be held in November.

The Nepalese ambassador assured him that he would definitely attend as the guest of honour. And the stalls set up in the exhibition will also be inspected. Nepalese Ambassador Tapas Adhikari assured Khurshid Barlas Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industries that he would definitely ensure his participation in the opening and closing ceremonies of the exhibition to further promote fraternal, friendly and investment between the two countries can go.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:17 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:06 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

7th Int'l Applied Business Research Conference at IIUI

The conference is organized by Faculty of Management Sciences

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 7th International Applied Business Research Conference shall start today at Faisal Masjid campus of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). The conference is organized by Faculty of Management Sciences. In the confer-

ence, policy makers, industrial experts and research scholars will participate to share thoughts and experiences on the themes of finance, technology management, entrepreneurship, management and marketing in the light of digital transformation and other contemporary advancements and needs of the field. The opening session of the conference will be

attended by IIUI Rector and IIUI President also. Earlier, a pre-conference workshop on "qualitative research and data analysis using Nvivo" was held at IIUI that was attended by Dr. Rab Nawaz Lodhi, Associate Professor, University of Punjab and it was attended by a large number of scholars, faculty and students.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro and his wife takes keen interest in paintings during "Art-Aid 2022 Auction and Exhibition" in an aid to the flood affectees of Pakistan at a Local Hotel, in Federal Capital..



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Chairman JKSM expresses grief over demise of Altaf Shah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of late Syed Ali Geelani's son-in-law and prominent pro-freedom leader of ongoing liberation movement of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir IIOJ&K Ahmad Shah who breathed his last on Tuesday in New Delhi under Indian government custody.

In his statement expressing his grief Bhat termed Shah's death as custodial killing.

Bhat paid heartfelt tributes to the departed leader Shah alias Fantosh, saying he was imprisoned in Delhi's Tihar Jail for the last five years and during this period, despite being ill, no medical facility was provided to him.

Describing this incident as sad for humanity, Bhat said that earlier Baba-e-Hurriyat Syed Ali Geelani was denied medical treatment and he died under house arrest. Moreover, prominent leader of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat late Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai was denied medical treatment and also martyred in custody in Kot Bhalwal jail Jammu.

Attique expresses regret over Centaurus Mall fire incident

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Quaid Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the fire that happened in Centaurus Mall, a prominent investment building in Islamabad.

Quaid Muslim Conference said that all Kashmiris sympathize with Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and Sardar group. On this occasion, the action of the federal government to seal the three towers based on the fire in one tower is very shameful and condemnable. Due to these measures, overseas Kashmiri investors in particular and expatriates in general are concerned.

There have been serious fire incidents in Pakistan including the Shaheed Millat Secretariat and the Parliament House, on which no action has been taken on the investigation reports and no one has been blamed and punished, he added.

The trial against the first youngest Kashmiri president of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, is a shameful act. The retaliatory actions



against Prime Minister Tanveer Ilyas on the basis of this Centaurus Mall accident are highly condemnable. The Sardar Group is a prominent pillar of the Kashmiri expatriate business community. They have long-standing partnerships with several royal families and major business groups in the Middle East.

And then on such an occasion, while the American ambassador visited Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas unusually a few days ago in his native region. Such actions did not go down well in the diplomatic circles and business groups, including the royal families of the Middle East, including the United

Court accepts Rana Sanaullah's plea against arrest warrant

RAWALPINDI: A local court has accepted Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's plea against the issuance of arrest warrant by the anti-corruption establishment (ACE) Punjab.

According to media reports, after accepting Rana Sanaullah's petition, the local court summoned the investigation officer (IO) along with the relevant records on October 13. The hearing was adjourned.

The lawyers of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) challenged the issuance of Sanaullah's arrest warrant in the court of the senior civil judge Ghulam Akbar.

Earlier in the day, the court of senior civil judge Rawalpindi on Tuesday returned Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's plea against his arrest warrant after raising an objection.

On Monday, the spokesperson of the interior ministry said Monday that Rana Sanaullah will approach the court against the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab after the issuance of his non-bailable arrest warrant.

The interior ministry's spokesperson said in a statement that ACE Punjab committed fraud in the records of a case that was registered four years ago.

ACE Punjab acquired an arrest warrant against the interior minister after hiding the facts, whereas, the department was not providing particulars to the Islamabad police with the arrest warrant, it added.

Abhi partners with Daftarkhwan to empower co-working ecosystem

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: ABHI joins hands with Daftarkhwan, one of the biggest co-working spaces in Pakistan, to provide financial wellness, exclusively to its more than 200 resident companies with over 2500 members.

Daftarkhwan currently houses 2500+ professionals across 7 locations in 3 main cities across Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi. They are home to leading companies like Uber, Trella, Jugnu, Sadapay, and Tintash to name a few. Daftarkhwan provides founders and professionals with modern office spaces in premium locations, equipped with state-of-the-art amenities

suited to every business need. With the current sky-high inflation, prices have gone up across the board. Day by day it's getting harder for individuals and businesses to operate with limited working capital, late credit payments, or salary delays. This is where ABHI steps in to provide relief whether it be a salaried employee or a business owner. ABHI offers a complete solution to promote financial wellness to companies within Daftarkhwan through their 4 main products - earned wage access, payroll financing, payroll processing, and invoice factoring.

On this occasion, Omair Ansari, CEO of ABHI mentioned, "ABHI



is proud to partner with Pakistan's largest co-working space - Daftarkhwan, to financially empower its 200+ member companies. The strategic partnership of Daftarkhwan and ABHI will prove to be a success and eventually unlock multiple opportunities to reach the goal of making Pakistan financially empowered."

Saad Idrees, CEO, and co-founder of Daftarkhwan remarks, "Daftarkhwan has always focused on helping founders grow and scale their businesses. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the lives of our members.

With many companies and employees across the nation feeling the effects of the economic turmoil, we are very excited about this strategic partnership with ABHI that allows our members to attain and maintain financial wellness."

ABHI is looking forward to collaborating with multiple partners to boost access to financial wellness in the country.

Health Corner

Eye-opening discovery about brain's ability to recover vision

ISLAMABAD: A discovery about how some visually impaired adults could start to see offers a new vision of the brain's possibilities.

The finding that the adult brain has the potential to partially recover from inherited blindness comes from a collaboration between researchers in the University of California, Irvine School of Biological Sciences and the School of Medicine. Their paper appears in Current Biology.

The team was examining treatment for Leber congenital amaurosis, known as LCA. The term refers to a group of inherited retinal diseases distinguished by severe visual impairment at birth. The condition, which stems from mutations in any of over two dozen genes, causes degeneration or dysfunction in the retina's photoreceptors.

Administering chemical compounds that target the retina, called synthetic retinoids, can restore a notable amount of vision in children with LCA. The UCI team wanted to find out if the treatment could make a difference for adults who have the condition.

"Frankly, we were blown away by how much the treatment rescued brain circuits involved in vision," said Sunil Gandhi, professor of neurobiology and behavior and the corresponding author. Gandhi is a fellow of UCI's Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory and a member of the Center for Translational Vision Research.

"Seeing involves more than intact and functioning retinae. It starts in the eye, which sends signals throughout the brain. It's in the central circuits of the brain where visual perception actually arises." Until now, scientists believed that the brain must receive those signals in childhood so that central circuits could wire themselves correctly.

Working with rodent models of LCA, the collaborators were surprised by what they found. "The central visual pathway signaling was significantly restored in adults, especially the circuits that deal with information coming from both eyes," Gandhi said. "Immediately after the treatment, the signals coming from the opposite-side eye, which is the dominant pathway in the mouse, activated two times more neurons in the brain.

What was even more mind-blowing was that the signals coming from the same-side eye pathway activated five-fold more neurons in the brain after the treatment and this impressive effect was long-lasting. The restoration of visual function at the level of the brain was much greater than expected from the improvements we saw at the level of the retinae. The fact that this treatment works so well in the central visual pathway in adulthood supports a new concept, which is that there is latent potential for vision that is just waiting to be triggered."

The finding opens exciting research possibilities. "Whenever you have a discovery that breaks with your expectations about the possibility for the brain to adapt and rewire, it teaches you a broader concept," Gandhi said. "This new paradigm could aid in the development of retinoid therapies to more completely rescue the central visual pathway of adults with this condition." Courtesy Science Daily

PANAH organizes free medical camp



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) organized a Mehfil-e-Milad on 12 Rabiul Awal in Chakwal.

A free medical camp was arranged on the occasion in which doctors checked patients and provided free medicine. Panah is raising awareness on heart and related diseases from 40 years. Along with giving awareness, Panah is providing CPR trainings and arranging free medical camps in all over Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion President PANAH, Maj. Gen. (R) Masud ur Rehman Kayani, said that PANAH has organized this medical camp on the eve of Eid Milad un Nabi. If we

act upon the teachings of the prophet of Islam, we will have a success in this life and in life after this.

Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman, Secretary General and Director Operations PANAH said that in order to save our country man from heart and related diseases and save our youth from health harms of tobacco and sweet beverages, PANAH is working with policy makers to eliminate the causes of heart and related diseases.

This medical camp was organized to pay tribute to our beloved Holy Prophet (SAWW) whose teachings are beneficial in every aspect of our life. A large number of patients were provided free medical check up and free medicine in the camp.



The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Lahore arranged a free diabetes screening and awareness camp at 19,kamran block Mustafat town metro stop Wahdat road Lahore. Dr. Hussnain (Administrator TDC LHR) and Dr. Hamid Aziz (Consultant Diabetologists) briefed participants about diabetes management.

Mehfil-e-Milad held at IMCG



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls, I-8/3, Islamabad organized Mehfil-e-Milad here in connection with the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awal.

Principal of the college Professor Sadia Ibrar said that the entire life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) is a beacon and worthy of emulation as His personality is characterized by attributes of sympathy, generosity, and bravery.

"Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) forgiving nature and hospitality brought about a social and spiritual revolution which is an excellent example for all his followers."

Students and Naat Khawan presented Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (PBUH) and Darood-o-Salam. They also spoke on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH), highlighted the significance of the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awal and its importance for Muslims, and prayed for the country's progress, peace and prosperity.

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Unprecedented Floods Left Devastation and Human Suffering Behind

Syeda Alina Saeed

This year's flood in Pakistan has affected 33mln people and has caused an estimated USD 30 billion in damages to infrastructure and economic activity. 1,700 people lost their lives and some 13,000 were injured. It is the biggest climate disaster even among the developed countries. "Compared to the floods of 2010, this is a completely different challenge," notes Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Chairman of Disaster Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. After 3 months of non-stop rains, southern districts, including Jafarabad, Nasirabad, Dera Murad Jamali, Dadu, Larkana and areas west of Indus River have been covered by a sea of water, while flash floods wiped out infrastructure in the northern areas. The entire province of Balochistan was cut off from the rest of the country. "Food supply, houses, livelihoods are all gone; people have nothing left," explains Ahsan Iqbal. "Damages to the eco system and infrastructure are immense." Government estimates suggest that more than 800,000 houses were destroyed and another 1.3 million houses

got damaged.

Equally importantly, villagers lost all the grain supplies which are typically stored between the seasons and used it for seed for the next planting season. Without external support, these farmers would not be able to plant their next crop, earn their livelihoods and produce enough grains to feed their communities long-term. Approximately 1.1 million heads of livestock, and vast amounts of animal feed and pastures have perished as well, further reducing the ability of rural communities to generate food and income.

The human cost of this calamity is immense. There are thousands of displaced mothers who are malnourished or need immediate hospitalization to give birth; they have no hospitals or medical facilities. The areas hit by the floods were already suffering from malnourishment, and the floods have made the situation that much worse. "We are worried for the health of mothers, infants and children," says Ahsan Iqbal. "In collaboration with UNICEF and other international development organizations, we are working to address this huge challenge."

Hyper-malnutrition threatens to have disastrous consequences for the future of the country. Lack of nutritious food will compro-

mise of physical and mental capacities of children, affecting their ability to contribute to the national economy for the years to come.

"The most painful part is that during our last tenure in the government, we have developed a massive 10-year national flood protection program in collaboration with Dutch consultants and a local company Nespak in 2016-2017, which was built on the learnings from the floods of 2010," says Ahsan Iqbal. Valued at PKR 140 billion, this project was designed to develop resilience against riverine floods. Even though the project was approved by the Council of Common Interest in 2017, due to the change in the government in 2018, the project stood at a standstill for the past five years. "There was no funding nor work done on this project. If this project was implemented, most likely, it would have reduced the flood damage," explains Ahsan Iqbal.

At the same time, the country has developed more robust capacities to manage such large-scale disasters in the past ten years. The national disaster management and advance warning systems have proven their invaluable role by sounding early warning, which has enabled local governments to forewarn the communities.

This has enabled communities to move from the affected areas or take preparatory measures before the worst of the floods came. As a result, loss of life was lower than in 2010 (1,636 lives this year vs. 2,000 lives in 2010), even though this year's floods were much larger in scale.

Ever since the floods hit the country, the government, along with the armed forces, civil society and the international community, have been working to provide rescue and relief to the affected communities. To employ a whole-of-country approach, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has established a national flood coordination system hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). All federal agencies, armed forces and provincial governments have their representatives in this system and meet on a daily basis to receive status updates and to coordinate work.

As the floods begin to recede, recovery and reconstruction efforts are being launched. "I'd like to compliment the Pakistani society and the humanitarian organizations who have extended helping hand to the displaced people. The government could not have taken care of all the affected communities without their support," says Ahsan Iqbal.

At the same time, it is important to remember that the road to recovery will be long and hard. Both the domestic and international recourses have been stretched to their limits by a long series of calamities, and despite the enormous amount of goodwill, the amount of funding required for the reconstruction of the affected areas may not be available.

The next phase is rehabilitation and reconstruction. People are returning to the areas where water has receded, and they will need help to restore their homes and livelihoods. Federal and provincial government, as well as the armed forces are currently conducting a joint assessment in the damaged areas, to evaluate the losses of livestock and crops and the extent of damage to housing. On the basis of this survey, the government will launch a compensation program, to make the affected areas self-sufficient again.

"Let's all put our effort," says Ahsan Iqbal. "If we all work for Pakistan, it will rebound very soon and will again be on the path to recovery."

The author Syeda Alina Saeed works as Communication Specialist with Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives.

HR Abuses: India's false claims on IIOJ&K

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.

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.

Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute, the resolution of which has been on the agenda of the United Nations since 1948. World is well aware of the fact that Kashmir dispute is a nuclear flashpoint between Pakistan and India. According to the UN resolutions, the Kashmir issue must be resolved as per aspirations of Kashmiri people. The present Indian Prime Minister is known as Butcher of Gujarat and he was not allowed to enter the United States for a long time due to the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat. The recent statement of Narendra Modi is the testament of the unilateral and unconstitutional act of the Indian government of abrogating the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the world community must take notice of it. Many Indian intellectuals have criticized Modi's policies.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto during their recent visits to New York held interaction with the international leaders and informed them of the human rights violations in IIOJ&K. The world considers the Kashmir conflict as an international dispute. Sooner or later, India will have to sit on the negotiation table and the Kashmir issue will be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions. Pakistan should continue highlighting the Kashmir issue on all international forums. The European Union must raise its voice in the support of Kashmiris as it is the main bone of contention between the two nuclear powers. Kashmir Committees being constituted in the European parliaments indicate that European nations are interested in resolution of Kashmir issue as per UN resolutions.



Free school meals should be given to all students worldwide

Ranvir S. Nayar

During the forced and prolonged school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the biggest concerns of educationists and nutritionists around the world was the impact of the billions of school meals students were forced to miss.

As early as January 2021, barely a year after schools first shut their doors, a report by UNICEF and the World Food Programme said that as many as 39 billion school meals had been missed by school-children around the world, notably in low and middle-income countries. The report also highlighted that 370 million children, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, had missed up to 40 percent of their school meals, a key source of nutrition for many, if not most, of them.

The first nationwide free school meal program was launched in Brazil as early as 1954. Initially, it was a targeted intervention, meant to address the issue of undernourishment and poor education among beneficiary families. Over the decades, the program was expanded when it was noticed that serving up balanced and nutritious hot meals in schools addressed not just issues of undernourishment and malnutrition, but also led to a significant rise in students' academic performance.

In Yemen, the problem is even bigger, as more than 2.2 million children under the age of five face malnutrition and more than 22 million people overall, including millions of school-age children, are faced with severe food insecurity. As a result, the

World Food Program has mounted a \$1.97 billion program to stave off mass starvation.

Unfortunately, the pandemic-induced two-year-long closure of schools had a severe impact on children's health and education. A World Bank study found that the share of 10-year-olds in low and middle-income countries who are unable to read a simple story has risen from a pre-COVID-19 level of 57 percent to more than 70 percent. Another recent study, conducted in Malawi, found that seven months of school closures led to a loss of more than two years of foundational learning, with children forgetting concepts mastered before lockdown.

Underlining the importance of school meals, another study found that more than 179 million school-age children in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia were living with hunger in 2021, an increase of 35 million from 2020. In Africa, almost 25 percent of school-age children were suffering from undernutrition.

Governments' efforts to restore school meals programs have also had to face the challenge of extremely high food inflation, thanks mainly to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but also due to high inflation across the entire economy. This has left many governments and schools struggling to keep the programs alive in their original form.

But it is crucial for governments and educationists all over the world to realize that now is not the time to tighten the belts on school meals; instead, the moment is right to enhance the budgets allocated to these programs. The World Food Programme says that most countries seriously underinvest in this area, despite the

positive outcomes of investment and the extremely negative impact of not funding such programs adequately.

It adds that failing to invest in a well-nourished, healthy and educated population undermines growth and economic development. Take, for example, low-income countries in Africa. They account for 25 out of the 30 countries with the lowest ranking in the World Bank Human Capital Index. These nations face losses of economic potential ranging from 50 percent to 70 percent in the long term. The World Food Programme says that Africa's gross domestic product would be 2.5 times higher than today if it attained the benchmarks for health and education — the two basic objectives of providing free school meals.

According to some studies, while governments in low and lower-middle income countries invest about \$210 billion annually in providing basic education, such as schools and teachers, they invest only about \$1.4 billion to \$5.5 billion in ensuring the children have the health and nutrition to allow them to learn.

With a number of proven immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term benefits of giving nutritious meals to school-children, it is time that governments the world over expanded their schemes to cover rich and poor alike. Not only would they stand to gain in terms of the school system producing better-skilled, more productive and healthier workers, but they would also cut their healthcare costs by reducing malnutrition and obesity.

Ranvir S. Nayar is managing editor of Media India Group. Courtesy: Arab News

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.

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 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.

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

Missiles hit Ukrainian city, alarms elsewhere keep up fear

NATO members tighten security, G7 warns Belarus over Ukraine

KYIV: A new round of missile attacks struck the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia Tuesday, as the death toll from the previous day's widespread Russian missile barrage across Ukraine rose to 19.

Missiles struck a school, a medical facility and residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia, city council secretary Anatoliy Kurtev said. The State Emergency Service said 12 S-300 missiles slammed into public facilities, setting off a large fire in the area. One person was killed.

The S-300 was originally designed as a long-range surface-to-air missile. Russia has increasingly resorted to using repurposed versions of the weapon to strike targets on the ground.

The morning's air raid warnings extended throughout the country, sending some residents back into shelters after months of relative calm in the capital and many other cities. That earlier lull had led many Ukrainians to ignore the regular sirens, but Monday's attacks gave them new urgency.

Beside the usual sirens, residents



in the capital, Kyiv, were jolted early Tuesday by a new type of loud alarm that blared automatically from mobile phones. The caustic-sounding alert was accompanied by a text warning of the possibility of missile strikes.

The state emergency service said 19 people died and 105 people were wounded in Monday's missile strikes that targeted critical infrastructure facilities in Kyiv and 12 other regions.

More than 300 cities and towns were without power, from the Ukrainian capital all the way to Lviv on the border with Poland. Many of the attacks occurred far from the war's front lines.

With Ukrainian forces growing increasingly bold following a series of battlefield successes, a cornered Kremlin is ratcheting up Cold War-era rhetoric and fanning concerns it could broaden the war and suck in more

combatants.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergei Ryabkov, warned Tuesday that Western military assistance to Kyiv including training Ukrainian soldiers in NATO countries and feeding Ukraine real-time satellite data to target Russian forces has "increasingly drawn Western nations into the conflict on the part of the Kyiv regime."

Ryabkov said in remarks carried by the state RIA-Novosti news agency that "Russia will be forced to take relevant countermeasures, including asymmetrical ones." He said that although Russia isn't "interested in a direct clash" with the U.S. and NATO, "we hope that Washington and other Western capitals are aware of the danger of an uncontrollable escalation."

Ryabkov's warning follows Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's announcement that he and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have agreed to create a joint "regional grouping of troops" to thwart what Lukashenko claimed is a potential Ukrainian assault on Belarus.

28 dead as Julia drenches Central America with rainfall

GUATEMALA CITY: Former Hurricane Julia has dissipated, but is still drenching Guatemala and El Salvador with torrential rains Monday after it reemerged in the Pacific following a pounding of Nicaragua.

At least 28 people were reported dead as a direct or indirect result of the storm. Guatemala's disaster prevention agency said five people died after a hillside collapsed on their house in Alta Verapaz province, burying them. And in Huehuetenango province, near Mexico, nine people died, including a soldier killed while performing rescue work.

Authorities in El Salvador said five Salvadoran army soldiers died after a wall collapsed at a house where they sought refuge in the town of Comasagua, where hundreds of police and soldiers have been conduct-



ing anti-gang raids. Another soldier was injured.

Two other people died in the eastern El Salvador town of Guataniagua after heavy rains caused a wall of their home to collapse. Another man in El Salvador died when he was swept away by a current, and another died when a tree fell on him.

Rivers overflowed their banks and El Salvador declared a state of emergency and opened 80 storm

shelters. In neighboring Honduras, a 22-year-old woman died when she was swept away by currents, and three people died when their boat swamped or capsized in northern Honduras. A man in Nicaragua was killed by a falling tree.

Julia hit Nicaragua's central Caribbean coast early Sunday as a hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph) and

survived the passage over the country's mountainous terrain, entering the Pacific late in the day as a tropical storm.

By Monday, Julia had moved inland over Guatemala and its winds were down to 30 mph (45 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Julia was centered about 80 miles (125 kilometers) west-northwest of Guatemala City, and was moving west-northwest at 15 mph (24 kph).

The center said floods and mudslides were possible across Central America and southern Mexico through Tuesday, with the storm expected to bring as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain in isolated areas.

In Guatemala, two people were listed as missing and two were hospitalized, and about 1,300 people had to leave their homes because of flooding and rising streams.

Palestinian, 12, dies of gunshot wound from Israel army raid

RAMALLAH: A 12-year-old Palestinian boy died Monday after being shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers during a September army raid in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Mahmoud Samoudi was shot in the abdomen on Sept. 28 during an army raid in Jenin, a refugee camp and stronghold of armed Palestinians.

On Monday, the ministry mistakenly reported the boy was wounded during the weekend, but the Israeli military said the incident happened in September and the ministry has since corrected its initial reporting.

The Israeli army said it was "aware of an allegation regarding injuries to a minor who participated in the violent riots and hurled stones at the security forces." It said the circumstances surrounding the event are being examined.

Israel has been carrying out nightly arrest raids across the West Bank since a spate of attacks against Israelis in the spring killed 19 people. The army said it had traced some of the perpetrators of those attacks back to Jenin.

UN mulls quick foreign troop deployment to ease Haiti crisis

SAN JUAN: The United Nations Security Council evaluated options including the immediate activation of foreign troops to help free Haiti from the grip of gangs that has caused a scarcity of fuel, water and other basic supplies.

Such a force would "remove the threat posed by armed gangs and provide immediate protection to critical infrastructure and services," as well as secure the "free movement of water, fuel, food and medical supplies from main ports and airports to communities and health care facilities," according to a letter U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres submitted to the council on Sunday.

The letter, which was seen by The Associated Press and has not been made public, said one or several member states would deploy the force to help Haiti's National Police. It also states the secretary-general may deploy "additional U.N. capacities to support a ceasefire or humanitarian arrangements."

The letter was submitted after Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry and 18 high-ranking officials requested from international partners "the immediate deployment of a specialized armed force, in sufficient quantity," to stop the "criminal actions" of armed gangs across the country.

The request comes nearly a month after one of Haiti's most powerful gangs seized control of a key fuel terminal in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where some 10 million gallons of diesel and gasoline and more than 800,000 gallons of kerosene are stored.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators also have barricaded streets in Port-au-Prince and other major cities in recent weeks, preventing the flow of goods and traffic as part of an ongoing protest against a spike in the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

Gas stations and schools are closed, while banks and grocery stores are operating on a limited schedule. Regis Wilguens, a 52-year-old businessman, said he doesn't believe the anticipated arrival of foreign troops would change anything.

Angela Merkel receives UN refugee award



GENEVA: Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the 2022 Nansen Refugee Award for her role in aiding people fleeing the war in Syria.

Merkel received the award, named after the Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat, and humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen, in Geneva at a ceremony, along with regional prize winners on Monday.

Speaking at the event, the former chancellor thanked the numerous people across the country who volunteered to help welcome and organize the refugees' arrival.

Praising Türkiye's role in hosting 3.8 million Syrian refugees, Merkel underlined that the country had taken on a heavier burden than Germany in the refugee crisis.

Under Merkel, Germany received more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016 — the height of the conflict in Syria and amid deadly violence in other places, according to the UN.

Bharatiya Kisan Union hints at another major anti-govt movement

NEW DELHI: The leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union in India, Rakesh Tiket, has said that the farmers are ready for another big movement as the promises made by the Modi government during the farmers' agitation have not been fulfilled.

Rakesh Tiket, while organizing a Kisan Sansad in a college in Nangal, Bajnour, Uttar Pradesh, said that the farmers should be ready for another big movement, because the promises made to the farmers by the Modi government have not been fulfilled. On this occasion he asked the farmers to unite and be ready for movement if they want to protect their lives and land. He further said that the Modi government has also not fulfilled its election promise of providing free electricity to the farmers.

Rakesh Tiket said the Uttar Pradesh government has banned the use of tractor-trolleys for traveling, which is condemnable because this decision of the government is dictatorial. He claimed the purpose of this decision is to stop the farmers from reaching the sit-in sites. The Bharatiya Kisan Union will oppose any such ban, he said, adding the situation in the country is becoming strange under Modi's rule.

Chinese, German presidents discuss bilateral ties

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Tuesday exchanged congratulations over the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Xi pointed out that over the past 50 years, China and Germany have adhered to the spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit and win-win results, continuously promoted bilateral relations, made positive contributions to global peace and development, and written a chapter of walking hand in hand and helping each other succeed.

Xi said that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Germany relations, and stands ready to work with Steinmeier to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to build on past achievements and forge ahead into the future, and push the China-Germany all-round strategic partnership to a new level for the benefits of the two countries and their people.

APHC leader Altaf Ahmad Shah embraces martyrdom in Indian jail

NEW DELHI: Illegally detained senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Altaf Ahmad Shah, has embraced martyrdom in Indian jail.

Altaf Ahmad Shah, who was son-in-law of the icon of Kashmir freedom movement martyred Syed Ali Gilani, had been languishing in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail after his arrest in 2017. He breathed his last on late Monday night at AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), New Delhi, just days after he was diagnosed with late stage renal cancer that had spread to other parts of his body.

Altaf Ahmad Shah, 66, was arrested by the Indian police along with other APHC leaders, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal and Peer Saifullah in a false case registered against them.

Altaf Shah was suffering from multiple ailments and his health had deteriorated as the Indian authorities denied



him basic facilities including medical care in the jail. On September 30, his daughter Ruwa Shah in a tweet stated that he had been diagnosed with renal cancer, which had spread to his vital organs. She had requested the Indian authorities including Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Home Minister, Amit Shah, on the behalf of her entire

family to consider his bail application on health grounds so that they could get him treated. However, the brutal Modi regime didn't set him free.

Altaf Ahmad Shah was an important member of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), a constituent of APHC, and worked closely with the martyred Syed Ali Gilani, who also embraced martyrdom at his resi-

dence on September 01, last year, while remaining under house arrest for over a decade.

The APHC in a statement had urged the Indian government to release Altaf Shah on bail on humanitarian grounds and let his family take care of him. It had maintained that the illegally detained Kashmiri political prisoners including Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in different prisons across India since 2017 and even before have developed serious health problems due non-provision of medical care and hygienic food.

Altaf Ahmad Shah is not the first Kashmiri political prisoner who had died during illegal detention. Earlier, Syed Ali Gilani, 92, embraced martyrdom under house detention in Srinagar on September 01, last year. He remained under house arrest for over a decade. Senior APHC leader, Muhammad Ashraf Schrai, 77, who was a close associate of Syed Ali Gilani, died on May 5 last year in a Jammu jail.

S. Korea says it has ability to intercept North's missiles

SEOUL: South Korea's military said Tuesday it's capable of detecting and intercepting the variety of missiles North Korea launched in a barrage of recent simulated nuclear attacks on its rivals, though it maintains the North's advancing nuclear program poses a grave security threat.

North Korea said Monday its two weeks of firing drills involved nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, warplanes and other assets to practice possible strikes on South Korean and U.S. targets. North Korea said the drills were meant as a warning to Seoul and Washington for staging "dangerous" joint naval exercises involving a U.S. aircraft carrier.

The North Korean launches, part of its record-breaking run of

weapons tests this year, were seen as an attempt by leader Kim Jong Un to acquire a more intimidating arsenal to pressure its rivals to accept his country as a legitimate nuclear state and lift economic sanctions on the North.

Moon Hong Sik, acting spokesperson at the South Korean Defense Ministry, described North Korean nuclear threats as "very grave and serious." But he told reporters that the South Korean missile defense system is capable of detecting and intercepting the weapons systems that North Korea said it mobilized in its drills.

Moon said South Korea is still pushing to introduce spy satellites, various surveillance drones and additional sea-based reconnaissance assets to better monitor

North Korea.

Despite Moon's comments, some observers have said a portion of the North's newly developed weapons — such as a highly maneuverable KN-23 missile modeled on Russia's Iskander missile and a development hypersonic missile — may overcome South Korean and U.S. defenses. They also say if North Korea launches multiple missiles from different sites simultaneously, it would be more difficult for the allies to spot liftoffs in advance and shoot them down.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol reiterated his vow to strengthen South Korea's defense in partnership with the United States and Japan. He said the recent weapons demonstrations showed that the North's nuclear

threat is "getting serious every day."

"North Korea has been consistently developing and advancing nuclear weapons capabilities and is now threatening not only (South Korea) but the entire world, but I think there is nothing North Korea could gain through nuclear bombs," Yoon told reporters at his office in Seoul.

He tried to reassure the public, calling for South Koreans to "not worry too much and do your best with economic activities and livelihoods."

Outside concerns about North Korea's nuclear program have grown since the North last month adopted a law authorizing the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in certain situations. South Korea's military has since warned North



Korea that it would self-destruct if it uses its bombs.

In August, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of Kim Jong Un, ridiculed what she called the U.S. and South Korean militaries' misidentification of the exact site for the North's two previous missile

tests. "If the data and flight trajectory (of the missiles) are known, (South Korea) will be so bewildered and afraid," she said.

North Korea said the weapons used in its drills include a new type of intermediate ballistic missile that traveled about 4,500 kilometers

(2,800 miles), a distance sufficient to reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and beyond.

Some experts say the new missile may aim to target a faraway site like Alaska or Hawaii.

Another missile that North Korea said was launched from a silo under an inland reservoir was likely a new version of its KN-23, whose highly maneuverable and lower-trajectory flight provides it with greater chances of evading defense systems.

North Korea's first missile firing under a reservoir was believed to be aimed at diversifying its launch sites to curtail enemy missile defenses. In recent years, North Korea has also been pushing to build bigger submarines to acquire a nuclear retaliatory attack capability.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,155.48	42,211.64
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,410.83	42,053.81
Index Value	Change
7,990,821,725	-56.16
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	11 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,885.23	-74.08
Percentage	Time
-1.06%	11 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
29,507.16	+304.28
Percentage	Time
+1.04%	11 Oct, 12:29 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,401.25	-714.86
Percentage	Time
-2.64%	11 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	139.02	140.27
Bahrain Dinar	587.48	591.98
Canadian Dollar	160.71	162.06
China Yuan	30.91	31.16
Danish Krone	28.78	29.13
Euro	212	214
Hong Kong Dollar	28.14	28.49
Indian Rupee	2.65	2.73
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.15
Kuwaiti Dinar	711.28	716.28
Malaysian Ringgit	47.24	47.69
New Zealand \$	123.18	124.38
Norwegians Krone	20.5	20.8
Omani Riyal	573.65	578.15
Qatari Riyal	60.37	60.87
Saudi Riyal	57.8	58.4
Singapore Dollar	153.33	154.63
Swedish Korona	19.58	19.88
Swiss Franc	220.79	222.54
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	60	60.6
UK Pound Sterling	242	244.5
US Dollar	216.5	218.5

Business Community calls for avoiding any measures to seal Capital

President ICCI says placement of containers at entry points of Islamabad has created lot of concerns in traders

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the placement of containers at the entry points of Islamabad has created lot of concerns in the business community and stressed that the government should avoid taking any measures to seal the Capital due to any situation as it would destroy businesses and further weaken the economy.

He said that the business community has already spent the last two years in problems because the Covid-19 pandemic had destroyed business activities due to which it was difficult for them to meet their daily expenses. Now the high inflation has created new difficulties for people including the business community as businesses are shrinking due to reduced purchasing power of consumers. He said that in these difficult conditions, placement of contain-



ers at the entry points of the city is spreading panic among the business community and the citizens.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the containers have also reduced the attendance of workers in the industrial areas. He

was afraid that sealing of the city due to any political march or sit-in will not only make the citizens prisoners at home, it will also disrupt the supply system, bring production activities to a standstill, create shortage of daily food items for people and lead to economic killing of the business community.

ICCI President said that the closure of the city will also create problems for the patients as it will be difficult to get them to the hospital in case of emergency and there will also be shortage of medicines. He said that in such a situation, it will not be possible for students to reach the educational institutions due to which their education will suffer. He demanded that the government should avoid taking any steps to seal the city and allow business activities to run smoothly. He also appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shabbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah to take notice of this situation and sealing of the Capital should be avoided at all costs.

GITEX Global 2022

MMBL CFDO highlights power of Fintech

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL)'s Chief Finance and Digital Officer (CFDO), Sardar Mohammad Abubakr shared his expertise on Fintech Surge: ESG & Fintech - Society, Inclusion & the Environment at the GITEX GLOBAL 2022, held in the 2nd week of October at Dubai World Trade Centre. GITEX GLOBAL, the world's largest tech show, unifies the world's most influential ecosystems advancing business, economy, society, and culture through the sheer power of innovation.

MMBL is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

During his address, Sardar Abubakr stressed the need to recognize the huge strides Pakistan has made in digitalization. Dedicated to harnessing the power of technology, MMBL is at the forefront of digi-

tal innovation, making digital and financial solutions more inclusive, efficient, and affordable for everyone, especially women and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)- two highly influential segments for increased economic development. The Bank's ever-growing partnerships portfolio is a testament to the expansion we are doing for maximizing the outreach of our financial services.

This year, Gitex Global is hosting more than 4,500 companies, thousands of exhibitors, and 100,000+ attendees from 170 countries, in addition to over 1000 industry leaders and subject experts from diverse fields as speakers. Building a bridge between technology and finance, Fintech Surge featured 100+ globally leading financial industry experts, entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, and regulators.

With over 40 million registered users, including 15+ million monthly active mobile wallets, MMBL remains committed to expanding access to financial services and bridging the financial gaps that persist in Pakistan. Abubakr underlined that the non-financial factors including environment, social, and governance are crucial to the sustainability of the fintech industry, therefore, these should be



considered to initiate long-term growth with reduced risks. He also emphasized the need for businesses to ensure compliance with social and environmental requirements to anchor themselves well in the societies they function in.

Quoting the example of his organization, Sardar Abubakr shared: "MMBL commits all efforts with sustainability and customer-centricity at the forefront. The Bank strives to catalyze positive social change through the financial inclusion of marginalized segments, especially women and the rural populations, not only through microcredit but also through specialized training and provision of access to customized digital and financial product offerings. We are deploying the power of digital—a great enabler & equalizer, to empower the masses holistically."

SECP extends date of applicability of IFRS 9 for NBFCs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has extended the effective date for applicability of IFRS-9 for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) including Non-Bank Microfinance Companies (NBMFCs) and Modarabas till June 30, 2024.

This extension has been granted in the wake of economic hardships and capacity issues being faced by the respective sectors in the post-COVID times as well as for providing level playing field to the NBFCs/Modarabas in line with the extension granted by the State Bank of Pakistan for Banks and Development Finance Institutions till January 1, 2024.

International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) replaced International Accounting Standard 39 with

IFRS 9 effective from January 1, 2018. The new standard can have substantial market impact and requires, in particular, the application of new impairment requirement i.e. Expected Credit Loss (ECL) which requires all NBFCs to establish provisions for expected future credit losses.

Under the IFRS 9 ECL approach, NBFCs need to consider current conditions and reasonable and supportable forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort when estimating expected credit losses. Currently, only 17 out of 42 members of NBFI & Modaraba Association of Pakistan and only two NBMFCs have adopted the Standard.

SECP is actively engaged in the encouraging early adoption of the IFRS-9 Standard and has clearly stated that no further extensions shall be granted in the future.

BOK partners with BookMe.Plk



Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: The Bank of Khyber is proud to have partnered with BookMe. With this partnership BOK Customer will have instant access to several ticketing and leisure services such as airlines, hotels, buses, movies, events and more. The Bank of Khyber is proud to be bringing accessibility to its customers and enabling their experience.

Bookme.pk is one of the most widely used applications for booking tickets and has been voted the best travel and ticketing platform in Pakistan. Apart from bus and air tickets, their platform allows users to book movie tickets, hotels, event passes, tours, and vacation packages. They have eliminated the need for queue maintenance and brought the facility to book tickets through your devices.

Daraz Pakistan hosts Seller Summit 2022

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Daraz, the country's leading e-commerce platform, hosted their Seller Summit 2022 in Karachi on October 08, 2022. These annual events are organised with the objective of connecting directly with sellers of their platform, educate them about recent changes made in policies and guidelines to benefit them and assist in providing consumers with a more fulfilling experience.

Prior to Karachi, a summit was also held in Lahore and the events collectively saw participation of over 1500 sellers. The attending sellers were also briefed about the upcoming 11.11 sale through key insights, shopper behaviour and trends to help them unlock growth during this grand e-commerce event. This was the first seller summit to be held in-person post-pandemic as the previous two were conducted virtually. Daraz also plans on hosting meetups in Faisalabad and Peshawar in coming days, to continue engaging with their seller community. A meetup in Islamabad was organised last week.

While addressing the sellers, it was shared that this year has seen a 38% increase in sales, 37% increase in orders and 36,000+ monthly active sellers. It was



also revealed that a budget of PKR 700 million+ has been set aside for rewarding new sellers in order to incentivize them for maintaining quality performance. As a platform, Daraz connects over 20 million users monthly to more than 200,000 sellers has invested over \$100 million in the last three years to build an e-commerce ecosystem and the infrastructure to support this growth for years to come in the country. This year, there has been special focus on growing Daraz's seller base in smaller cities, which has shown great results such as 329 sellers in Daska, 180 sellers in Hayatabad, 467 sellers in Mian Channu and 385 sellers in Swat. Currently, it is the fourth largest

platform in Pakistan after Google, Facebook and TikTok.

"Our seller community is the backbone of Daraz, which is why we ensure that we continue engaging with them regularly and introducing initiatives that support their growth. Training sellers about best practices to follow for customer excellence and sharing our own learnings would not only benefit individuals but the overall e-commerce ecosystem in the country. In the last three years, the average income of our sellers has increased by 70%. Our vision for our sellers is to create not just businesses, but legacies that they can pass on to their future generations," said Ehsan Saya, Managing Director, Daraz Pakistan.

Jazz partners with OPay

To become the first mobile operator to launch e-pins on POS Machines

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's largest digital operator and the largest internet and broadband service provider, has partnered with OPay, a fast growing mobile payment Fintech company, to offer e-pin facility on point-of-sale (POS) machines through e-pins. Jazz is the first local digital operator to provide an e-pin service, in addition to scratch cards, offering customers a contemporary approach to top-up their mobile credit.

Deploying Jazz e-pins on OPay's current active footprint of 10,000 POSM enables consumers with a secure and user-friendly method to process top-up payments at frequently visited outlets such as petrol stations, pharmacies, and shopping stores. E-pins can be purchased from OPay's POS-merchants and will be

printed on the bill invoice to verify transaction. The goal of this strategic partnership is to increase e-pins to digitize channels across Pakistan, enhancing the customers experience. OPay has plans to widely expand its POS network and that would help a long way for the partnership to grow.

"This partnership further augments accessibility and convenience for our customers to purchase Jazz services through OPay's secure and reliable platform. We will continue to forge partnerships to maintain optimum customer experience," said Asif Aziz, Chief Commercial Officer, Jazz.

"After remarkable success in Africa, OPay, in conjunction with Jazz, is eager to make an impact in Pakistan by bringing a superior and innovative digital experience to accelerate the financial well-being of all Pakistani customers.

GITEX GLOBAL 2022 opens

Huawei welcomes visitors to explore future of digital universe

Huawei marks its largest-ever presence at GITEX GLOBAL 2022 with a focus on digital-led sustainable development

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Huawei welcomed high-level customer visits on Day 1 of GITEX GLOBAL 2022, where they explored the company's wide range of innovations on 5G, paving the way to 5.5G, cloud-native 2.0 architectures, AI, digital power, cybersecurity, and industry applications, designed to meet the needs of various verticals including government, utilities, oil and gas, transportation and finance. These solutions and technological advances create new economic value by addressing national digital transformation goals and enabling a green and intelligent

society toward the net-zero target. Under the theme of "Unleash Digital", Huawei marks its largest-ever participation at GITEX this year, demonstrating its commitment to the regional and global technology ecosystem. As the Diamond Sponsor of the event, Huawei renews support to the region's leading ICT showcase. Steven Yi, Huawei Middle East and Africa President, said, "We welcome visitors to our stand to experience our world-leading end-to-end solutions that address diverse ICT needs of our public and private sector customers. As competition heats up, we recognize customers' challenges as they

pursue their business transformation goals. Our technologies and expertise in various domains ease the digital transformation journeys of our customers, allowing them to unleash innovation and business growth."

Huawei believes the biggest value it can bring to advance the green agenda is to use continuous technology innovation to help all industries enhance ICT infrastructure energy efficiency and achieve low-carbon development. Huawei's vision is to integrate digital and power electronics technologies, develop green power, and enable energy digitalization for a better, greener future.

In Cloud, Huawei is showcasing its Everything-as-a-Service model that envisions a future where all infrastructure and applications will be cloud-based. At the booth, guests can also explore how cloud native 2.0 architectures can be incorporated into industry solutions in government and enterprises, boosting the cloud ecosystem in the Middle East through more open collaborations and leading to innovation and digitalization.

In cybersecurity, Huawei reiterates the importance of a security-by-design principle that considers security not as an added-on feature but a fundamental part of

the product blueprint, a common challenge that all stakeholders - including governments, industry and standards organizations, enterprises, technology suppliers, and consumers - have a shared responsibility to confront.

As a global ICT leader, Huawei will continue supporting economic growth, creating employment opportunities and enabling the digital transformation of industries across the Middle East and the world. Huawei will support local and regional industry ecosystems and SMEs while developing digital talents in all our markets. The company is committed to continuing to create shared value

and driving sustainable development for the ICT ecosystem.

Huawei is hosting a series of conferences throughout the week that add new value to partners and customers. The annual Huawei Innovation Day returns for the second year, now covering the entire Middle East and Africa. It will take place on October 11th in Al Multaqua Ballroom at the DWTC in collaboration with the Arab ICT Organization (AICTO) under the theme of "Collaboration to Unleash Innovation for Sustainable Digital Future". The sessions will cover themes such as Green ICT for the sustainable future of sectors and industries

and the ICT talent ecosystem, nurturing future digital leaders and empowering women in ICT in the MEA region.

The Huawei Middle East and Africa Carrier Enterprise Business Summit will take place on Day 2 of GITEX Global at the Al Multaqua Ballroom under the theme 'Unleash Digital Services, Grow Enterprise Business.' During the conference, Huawei will share its strategy for supporting carrier partners invite carriers and Managed Service partners (MSP) to showcase their business achievements and help them make breakthroughs in enterprise business.

Shaheen Afridi to join national squad for T20 World Cup on Saturday

Says I am super excited at the prospects of rejoining the national side

Spokesman Report

CHRISTCHURCH: Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi will join the national squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Australia 2022 in Brisbane as per schedule on Saturday, 15 October, after undergoing his rehabilitation programme under the supervision of the PCB Medical Advisory Committee* at the Crystal Palace Football Club.

Consequently, Shaheen is now available for selection for the 17 and 19 October warm-up matches against England and Afghanistan, respectively during which his match fitness will be assessed by the team management.

Shaheen Shah Afridi: "I am super excited at the prospects of rejoining the national side for the T20 World Cup and playing my part in our Australia campaign. It has been a difficult period for me to be miles away from the game and the team I love the most, and not



be part of some grueling and exciting matches.

"I have been bowling six to eight overs trouble-free for the past 10 days with full

run-up and pace. While I have enjoyed bowling and batting in the nets, nothing can replace the feel of the match environment and I can't wait to be in that

setting.

"It has been a rigorous and challenging rehabilitation programme, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. To be honest, I am feeling fitter than ever before and can't wait to wear the playing kit and fire a few thunderbolts.

"I want to thank the PCB Medical Advisory Committee as well as the Crystal Palace F.C. for allowing me to use their outstanding facilities and looking after me so well during the rehabilitation programme."

Meanwhile, opener Fakhar Zaman, who is one of the three traveling reserves for the T20 World Cup, will also travel to Brisbane with Shaheen and National High Performance Centre coach Umar Rashid. Fakhar will complete his rehabilitation under the supervision of PCB's Chief Medical Officer and team doctor Dr Najeebullah Soomro, following which decision on his participation, if required, will be made.

PGF Trials for Nomura Cup conclude

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The four days PGF Trials to select a four member (including one reserve) national golf team for participation in the Nomura Cup Asia Pacific Amateur Golf Championship scheduled for November in Philippines concluded at the grand Sir Nick Faldo designed Rumanza Golf Course in Multan.

And interestingly the concluding moments were full of twists and turns which culminated in sixteen year old school boy Saad Habib Malik of Rumanza Golf Club appearing lustrous and radiant through a combative performance that can be graded as exceptionally outstanding.

All through the final 18 holes on Monday, Saad Habib exhibited high caliber golfing expertise and his command and control can be gauged from the fact that he had regulation pars on the concluding five holes (from 13th to 17th hole) and on the finishing 18th hole he hit a marvelous bunker shot to



score an exquisite par. His score of gross 73 on the final day was a fascinating effort and backed by previous three rounds scores of 74, 74 and 71 gives him a meritorious aggregate of 292, four over par for four days plus a masterful first position in the PGF National Selection Trials leaving his father Col Habib beaming and his club management honored and in high esteem.

In the final standings Syed Saim Shazli of Karachi got selected with four rounds scores of 69, 77, 73 and 74 and an aggregate of 293 and he lost the top position

to Saad Habib by a margin of one stroke. The double bogie on the concluding 18th hole turned out to be a spoiler.

Another young one who made it to the national team is Damil Ataulah of Lahore Garrison who played the four days trials rounds with ample grace and resoluteness. His four rounds scores were 73, 74, 77 and 73 and the four rounds aggregate added up to 297. An applaudable performance that cheers up his devoted parents who spend a lot of time with him. Five aspirants ended up at a score of 301 and they are all formid-

ble players loaded with skills and talent. They are Qasim Ali Khan (Gymkhana), Husain Hamid (Royal Palm), Osama Nadeem (Ibex), Salman Jehangir (Gymkhana) and Rao Hassan (Rawalpindi). Out of these five Qasim Ali Khan gets selected as the reserve player as he had better scores in the last two rounds.

The final national team is Saad Habib, Syed Saim Shazli, Damil Ataulah and Qasim Ali Khan (reserve).

As for the race for selection amongst senior amateurs, the trials were held over three rounds and noticeable was the fortitude and grittiness between the competing seniors. In the end Raja Asif Mehdi achieved the top slot while Tariq Mehmood was second, Omar Javed Zia came third and Maj Shoaibuddin, fourth. These four senior champions will now represent Pakistan in the Asia Pacific Senior Amateur Golf Championship. Undoubtedly Raja Asif Mehdi played superbly and also remarkable were Tariq Mehmood, Omar Javed Zia and Maj Shoaib.

Livingstone, Foakes offered England Men's Central Contract

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board announced the Central Contract offers for the men's international team for a period of 12 months, effective from 1 October, on Tuesday.

The 2022-23 contract offers have been drawn up taking into account the likelihood of players featuring across formats for England in the next 12 months, while also giving precedence to their performances in the previous year. 30 players have been offered Central Contracts overall, including 18 England Annual Central Contracts, six England Increment Contracts, and six England Pace Bowling Development Contracts.

Lancashire batter Liam Livingstone and Surrey wicket-keeper Ben Foakes are two



new players who have been offered England's Annual Central contract, whereas Harry Brook, Matthew Potts and Reece Topley have been offered England Increment Contracts, which are also their first Central Contracts.

Brydon Carse, Matthew Fisher and Jamie Overton have also been offered Pace Bowling Development Contracts for the first time to support their development.

They join Saqib Mahmood, Craig Overton and Olly Stone in this contract list.

"I feel we have rewarded those players who have made a significant impact over the previous 12 months and those we expect to be part of England's plans over the next period," said Rob Key, Managing Director of England Men's Cricket.

The international game continues to evolve, and we

must be mindful that we have to lead the way in player performance across the sport. The aim is to develop world-class players in all three formats as we strive to become the best team in the world.

"I would like to congratulate all the players offered agreements for the coming year. They will all play a pivotal role in England's efforts over the next 12 months," Key added.

England Annual Central Contracts: Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ben Foakes, Jack Leach, Liam Livingstone, Ollie Pope, Adil Rashid, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Punjab Games from October 25-27 in Lahore

LAHORE: Punjab Olympic Association is organizing the 73rd Punjab Games here from October 24 to 27 at different venues.

The four day event is being organised with the collaboration of Sports board, said a spokesman of Punjab Olympic Association while talking to APP on Tuesday.

He said in order to foster brotherhood and unity invitations have also been sent to Balochistan Olympic Association, Khyber Pakhtoonkhaw Olympic Association, Sindh Olympic Association & Gilgit Baltistan for participation of their athletes in individual Games.

Following events will be contested, Archery, athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, boxing, Cycling, football, gymnastics, handball, hockey, judo, Judo, karate, kickboxing, tennis, Pentathlon, roller sports, rugby, squash, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

Hectic schedule part and parcel of life: Son



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min says players must remember they are living their dreams by playing in the Premier League, even if the demanding schedule is taking its toll.

Domestic leagues and UEFA have been trying to cram in fixtures before the World Cup starts on Nov 20. Spurs are due to play 10 matches before the tournament begins in Qatar, starting with Wednesday's Champions League game against Eintracht Frankfurt.

Son, 30, said travelling for matches and spending time away from home can be difficult but it was part of life as a professional player. "When you think about, when you were a kid what was your dream? Probably everyone is going to say playing in the Premier League," Son told the London Evening Standard.

"So we're living the dream and we can never forget these moments. I know there are tired moments and it's mentally and physically really difficult.

"But we were born to do this, we love to do this and we should enjoy it. And obviously the more you enjoy it, the more happiness will be here. I know it's tough moments but we should bring more happiness and it will be more enjoyable."

Griezmann signs permanent deal with Atletico

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann on Monday welcomed the confirmation that his loan from Barcelona had become a permanent move as he signed a contract with Atletico Madrid until 2026.

The striker has been back at the Metropolitan since arriving on loan in August 2021 after a difficult spell at Camp Nou, following his 120 million euro (116.5 million dollar) move from Atletico in 2019.

"I'm very happy because it's what I wanted since I returned," Griezmann said in a video published by Atletico on their social networks. "To stay at Atletico, enjoy being at the club, with the coach, my teammates, the stadium, the fans, I did everything possible to stay

here.

"When I saw there was the chance to stay for many years, I spoke with the club. I knew what they wanted from me, I didn't think much. I didn't care what I had to do. The one thing I wanted was to stay here." Reports in Spain say the 31-year-old agreed to reduce the salary he was earning at Barcelona in order to make his stay permanent.

"I will give everything for my club, the trust of the coach, the fans, Atletico," continued Griezmann. "I'll give everything for the badge. I could miss chances, or passes, but I will give everything until the last second, as much as I can. I want that to be seen and felt. The fans make the effort of having their season

ticket, of coming, of supporting us from the stands. This is my homage to the fans."

The 2018 World Cup winner was a key figure in coach Diego Simeone's plans last season but has largely been reduced to substitute appearances in the current campaign as Atletico tried to escape paying a reported 40 million euro purchase fee if he played over a certain number of games.

With the World Cup approaching and Griezmann keen to feature more, Atletico and Barcelona negotiated a new deal, with Barcelona president Joan Laporta confirming the fee during the club's members assembly on Sunday. "It is for 20 million euros plus four more in variables," said Laporta.

"There is another clause in the deal to sell the player, which is that if Atletico decide to sell him in the future they will have to pay us the difference that remains, up to the value of the 40 million which was agreed before."

Atletico did not disclose the value of the new agreement. Griezmann has played 303 times for the club, scoring 144 goals, across his two stints in the capital.

He netted 35 goals in 102 appearances for Barcelona, winning the Copa del Rey there in 2021. His arrival at Barcelona was due to happen in 2018 but he infamously decided to stay at Atletico for another season, making his choice on a television documentary called "La



Decision". In club football, his biggest success has come at Atletico, winning the Europa League in 2018, as well as the UEFA Super Cup in the same year.

AAA Associates organize 4th Intra-Village Cricket Tournament



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: AAA Associates, in its continuous endeavour to promote sports activities for the general masses, sponsored the 4th Intra-Village Cricket Tournament at UC Sahang, Gujjar Khan. The sponsorship of the event was part of the ever-increasing efforts of AAA Associates to espouse sports at the grassroots level.

A total of 50 teams participated in the tournament. The final was played between Pomi Shah Eleven Latifal and Al Noor club Kharali. Al Noor club Kharali won the first prize trophy of Rs. 300,000 and was awarded a shield. The event concluded with a colourful award ceremony and numerous other players were given trophies in different categories. The tournament's chief guests were Raja Babar Qaramat and Israr Ul Haq. Assistant Director Sales AAA Associates Imtenan Kiani handed over the trophy to the winning team. The competition drew a large number of locals, who enthusiastically enjoyed the cricket matches.

Chairman AAA Associates Shaikh Fawad Bashir reaffirmed his commitment to sports patronage. He emphasized the significance of grassroots sports in society. He congratulated all of the competing teams and expressed his gratitude for their participation in the event.

MD AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani also stressed the importance of sports for emotional development of our youth. He said, "Sports is a way of bringing communities together and inculcating harmony and unity among them. AAA Associates is committed to the welfare of society and will continue to back sporting tournaments in order to bring out the sporting prowess of our youth."

AAA Associate, a renowned conglomerate of twin cities, has been active in supporting various sports activities, organizing cricket, football, and other sports tournaments that play a vital role in encouraging local talent and promoting a healthy environment in the community.

Allen powers New Zealand to T20 victory over Pakistan

CHRISTCHURCH: Finn Allen showed his form ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup by top-scoring for New Zealand with a disciplined batting display in their nine-wicket romp over Pakistan in Christchurch on Tuesday in the tri-series.

Allen blasted six sixes in a tally of 62 off 42 balls as the Black Caps chased down 130-7 with ease at Hagley Oval as New Zealand claimed their second win of the series.

The hosts' victory leaves both Pakistan and New Zealand on two wins and a defeat each, with the Black Caps next facing Bangladesh on Wednesday, also in Christchurch.

The three nations are using the week-long tournament to fine tune for the T20 World Cup in Australia later this month.

The Black Caps avenged Saturday's defeat to Pakistan with an improved bowling performance before Allen and Devon Conway quickly found their stride in an opening partnership of 117 to set up victory. After Allen was stumped by Mohammad Rizwan, Black Caps captain Kane Williamson replaced him at the crease to eventually claim the winning single as New Zealand won with 23 balls to spare.

Having guided New Zealand to victory over Bangladesh last Sunday with an unbeaten 70, Conway was again impressive at the crease, grabbing five fours in his unbeaten tally of 49 off 46 balls.

Pakistan were allowed to settle with neither bat nor ball. New Zealand bowler Michael Bracewell again claimed the man-of-the-match award by taking the key wickets of the prolific opening pair of Rizwan (16) and captain Babar Azam (21), in fine figures of two for 11 from his four overs.

Iftikhar Ahmed top-scored with 27, including three fours. Tim Southee removed Iftikhar and Mohammad Nawaz with the first two deliveries of the final over, but Mohammad Wasim survived the hat-trick ball.

Clubs to receive over \$200 mn World Cup compensation

LAUSANNE: FIFA will distribute 209 million dollars (215 million euros) to clubs that release their internationals for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the same amount as four years ago in Russia, football's world governing body announced on Tuesday.

Each club will receive "approximately 10,000 dollars" for each one of the days the relevant player remains with his national team during the tournament, including the preparation period. This compensation will be paid to "all clubs" for which the footballer has played in the two years before the World Cup.

FIFA originally set up the system ahead of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, in agreement with the powerful European Clubs Association (ECA), whose members provide most of the participants in international competitions.

During the 2018 World Cup, 416 clubs from 63 national federations shared the same amount.